

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLLIER COUNTY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, GENERAL FUND
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OFFICE
9:30 AM, DECEMBER 4, 2013

Attending: Susan Calkins, Ann Campbell, Joyce, Fletcher, Lydia Galton, John Levy, Tom McCann, Paul Kardon, Becky Newell, Vi Steffan, and Nancy Wolfe. Off Board: Judy Burns, Pat Forkan, Tina Palmese, Sandy Parker. Excused: Carol Golightly and Shelley Perry.

The meeting was called to order by President Becky Newell. A quorum was declared.

Consent Agenda: Two items were added to the consent agenda, the Justice Committee report and the Book Club report. Campbell called attention to the board approval several years ago of a compact outline for reports. The consent agenda was adopted.

New Business:

Judy Burns, who will oversee social media, was introduced.

The second LWVCC banner has been repaired which will allow once again allow LWVCC to have a banner outside the meeting room as well as inside.

Campbell reminded members of the Social Policy meeting at 9 AM on December 11 for a tour of the new Brookdale Wellness Center.

Membership renewals have been received. Board member Paul Kardon stated that he had not received a renewal notice. Lydia Galton indicated that she would follow up to determine the reason. The membership committee needs one more member who is able to spend about an hour a month putting membership information into the national data base. A note in the Voter and an announcement at General meeting will be made to that effect. A coffee for new members is scheduled for December 9 at Lydia Galton's home.

Vi Steffan reprised the Board Retreat and the strategic planning formulated there, stating that good work was done but follow up is crucial. Time lines were set.

The board in implementing the plan will work on increasing LWVCC visibility and in bringing issues to the public. Newell suggested coverage of the recent Legislative Workshop because the issues addressed later in the day received no press. Guest commentary, letters to the editor, and coverage of events with pictures and commentary were suggested. Watch Dog City.com, Florida Weekly, and the Fort Myers News Press were suggested as possible outlets. The topics that LWVCC addressed at the Legislative Delegation Meeting (especially maintaining the independence of the Supervisors of Elections) will be the subject of the first effort. The strategic plan calls for four letters to the editor/commentary items in the coming season. Suggestions for items were state issues regarding absentee ballots and the changes in the county advisory committee structure.

Lunch with Leaders: The January 14 meeting will be at the Naples Daily News building with the new publisher, the editor and other staff members. The most recent lunch had full attendance. Recap of that event precipitated board discussion about challenging the speaker versus muting dissent in favor of keeping lines of communication open.

Other Business: There was discussion of the possibility of an email blast calling attention to the next Collier County Commission meeting and agenda (which will be addressing economic development) for LWVCC members who might like to attend. In further discussion of issues on which the LWVCC would have established positions economic development, the recent actions of the Florida Secretary of State vis a vis Supervisors of Elections, and the Commission's actions regarding advisory committees were mentioned as issues to submit on which to submit commentary. However, the need for gathering information first is paramount. Gina Downs and Judy Hushon were mentioned as resource people.

Campbell stated that the Henderson, North Carolina, newspaper has a regular column devoted to League commentary on local issues.

The next meeting on January 22, 2014 will be at the U.S. Trust Bank.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45.

Submitted by Nancy Wolfe, Secretary