

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLLIER COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, GENERAL FUND
U.S. TRUST, 765 SEAGATE DRIVE, NAPLES FL
9:30 AM, FEB. 26, 2014

Attending: Mary Lou **Boll**, Susan Calkins, Ann Campbell, Joyce Fletcher, Lydia Galton, Carol Golightly, John Levy, Tom McCann, Becky Newell, Charlotte Nycklemoe, Vi Steffan, and Nancy Wolfe. Off Board: Judy Burns, and Sandy Parker. Excused: Paul Kardon, and Shelley Perry.

The meeting was called to order by President Newell. A quorum was declared. The consent agenda was adopted.

An addition to the agenda was requested by Parker to inform the Board that Gina Edwards will speak at the Gov. Committee Meeting in March about her public records lawsuit against County Clerk of Courts Dwight Brock

Newell was congratulated on her selection as a 2014 Woman of Initiative by the Women's Initiative Network of the Community Foundation of Collier County.

Program Changes For 2014-15:

Committee chairs have begun working on their proposed programs for the coming year. Newell will also send out email reminders to the chairs regarding those proposed changes.

During the brief discussion, Environmental Affairs Chairman Calkins noted that the recent Opportunity Naples survey did not address environment issues. Parker noted the LEAGUE 101 was well attended.

New Business:

VOUCHERS: Education Committee Chairman Boll called attention to a bill in committee in the state legislature that would allow commercial firms to fund vouchers to non-public schools from sales taxes they collect. LWVF has a position against such legislation which would deplete funds for public schools. Therefore, LWVF would be the entity to take action. Newell and Robin Birnak will investigate the possibility of local action in concert with LWVF should the bill come to floor.

STATE COUNCIL and LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR: President Newell is unable to attend this year. Parker and Susan Calkins will attend only the seminar. Kathy Ryan will attend both events. In order to encourage others to attend Council a motion was made by Fletcher: **ALLOCATE \$250 PER PERSON FOR TWO PEOPLE TO ATTEND COUNCIL.** Levy seconded the motion. The motion was passed. That amount will pay for a significant part but not all of the expenses.

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS from committee chairmen for the next year need to be forwarded by the March board meeting to Newell for inclusion in the annual meeting packet.

GOVERNANCE/NOMINATING: Steffan listed the slate of nominees for the 2014-2015 LWVCC board. Nycklemoe volunteered to fill the remaining slot, one on the Governance/Nominating Committee. When a newly constituted board takes office, it appoints one more member for that committee. The slate will be in the Voter. The nominees are 2nd Vice Pres. Ann Campbell; Directors; Paul Kardon, Arlene Shapiro, Pat Forkan, and Shelley Perry; Membership, Lydia Galton; Treasurer, Carol Golightly; Nominating/Governance, Charlotte Nycklemoe.

OPPORTUNITY NAPLES: Galton explained the purpose of Opportunity Naples, a group focused on expanding economic development with strategies that are co-operative and measurable. She urged the board to participate. A motion was made: **THAT LWVCC PARTICIPATE AS A PARTNER DURING THE PLANNING PROCESS OF OPPORTUNITY NAPLES AND THAT THE BOARD STUDY THE EVENTUAL STRATEGIC PLAN BEFORE (MAKING A DECISION ABOUT) ACTING UPON IT.** The motion passed.

FORUM ON BALLOT AMENDMENTS: It was agreed to participate again in a forum with the Naples Daily News and Collier Citizens' Council before the general election.

STUDY AND ACTION PROJECT: Newell asked the board for permission to recruit volunteers to undertake research into LWVCC archives to ascertain what issues the group has studied in the past, when consensus was reached, and what actions were taken. She will also approach the membership for volunteers.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership Chair Galton asked for dates when board members would be available to attend a new member orientation. The event was scheduled for Tuesday, March 18 at 10:30 a.m. at Lydia Galton's home. Galton also indicated that she would like to plan another orientation in April.

Other Business:

Newell is waiting further developments on the issues of county advisory committees and Conservation Collier before submitting a letter to the editor or a guest commentary.

Newell and Burns are working on a standard procedure for monthly communications, including Facebook posts and targeted press releases. She hopes to bring this to the next board meeting.

Newell requested contacts at local colleges in order to make faculty and students aware of LWVCC programs. Galton has contacted Ann Berlam about reaching out to Edison College. Vi Steffan volunteered to contact Hodges University.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05

Respectfully submitted by
Nancy Wolfe, Secretary