

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLLIER COUNTY, General Fund
Board of Directors Meeting -- December 16, 2015
Iberia Bank, 2150 Goodlette Frank Road, Naples, Florida

Attending: Robin Birnhak, Susan Calkins, Ann Campbell, Jan Eustis, Joyce Fletcher, Patricia Forkan, Crystal Kinzel, Robin Larkin, John Levy, Becky Newell, Charlotte Nycklemoe, Arlene Shapiro.

Not present: Judy Burns, Paul Kardon, Shelley Perry.

Guests: Sandy Parker

The meeting was called to order by Charlotte Nycklemoe at 9:30 am. A quorum was declared and the Consent Agenda was approved.

Unfinished Business:

Holiday Party Dec 14th: Charlotte gave report—there was a good turnout (52 people) and the program format worked well: Charlotte emceed, committee chairs gave reports, raffle items were awarded, and ‘tell your favorite joke’ was a success. The service at the Hilton was discussed—food was late being served (12:30 vs noon), vegetarian meals were even later being served, and room size was small which made visiting beforehand very difficult. Comments for next year to consider: (1) letting members know beforehand that it was a combination ‘general meeting’ with committee reports and a social event; (2) providing more time for people to visit at the table.

Development Committee: Robin Birnhak reported that their initial focus was to address immediate funding needs (A/V costs, Know Your County Government). When the committee began to look deeper into development issues, they recognized the need to think through both internal (number of members, member donations, legacy possibilities) and external development (funders, sponsors, grants) opportunities. We discussed the need for the LWV to identify and report actual expenses (expenses incurred by committees and paid by committee members/chairs). Also discussed the idea of identifying volunteer hours by project/committee. Robin disseminated a draft form for board member review. The form would be used by committee chairs and board members that have identified a project/event and are requesting funds to implement. The committee would like to have a ‘Bright Ideas’ meeting in January to brainstorm development possibilities. With all the meetings already set in January, the committee will look at February dates.

Action: Development Cttee will (1) draft a form for committee chairs to use to establish their annual budget (dollars and volunteer hours); (2) identify date in Feb for ‘Bright Ideas’ meeting.

LWVCC Meeting Venues:

Mooring Park and Livingston/Vanderbilt Venues: to be discussed in January

Grey Oaks, Kensington and Pelican Bay: costs prohibitive (food, room and/or A/V fees)

Country Club of Naples: costs reasonable (no room nor A/V fees) but they will close for renovation from April through November 2016.

We discussed the Hilton as a venue: issues experienced this year and defining relationship we'd like with the Hilton for next year.

Action: Charlotte will pursue this with the Hilton.

Legislative Summit Bus Trip: Payment for this trip must be made to the LWVCC General Fund. It is educational but also includes lobbying efforts.

New Business:

Non-Partisan Policy: Sandy reminded us that this LWVCC policy is a 'living document' that can be amended. It was last amended by the LWVCC Board January 2010. We discussed the importance of this policy and the ramifications for current board members with the 2016 elections. The School Board election was discussed and whether it is a partisan election. Robin B. believes the LWVCC should advocate/speak to our LWV position on Public Schools.

Joyce Fletcher made a motion and it was seconded that we amend the Non-Partisan Policy by:

1. Adding the words 'elected officials' in the Preamble for the second sentence to read: "The LWV is nonpartisan in that it does not support or oppose any elected officials, political party, or candidate; it is political in that it takes positions on selected governmental issues after member study and agreement."
2. Add 'Committee Chairs' to the section titled Board Members, page 2 of the policy. The amended language would read: "Board Members and Committee Chairs"

Discussion: We should give additional thought to the policy and suggested amendments and discuss at the next board meeting (January 27, 2016).

Joyce amended her motion (it was seconded and passed) that we vote at our January 27, 2016, board meeting on whether to change the Non-Partisan Policy.

Membership Survey: Charlotte expressed her desire to send an interest survey to our members.

Action: Charlotte will develop and send to Board members for review.

Membership: Jan Eustis reported that 76 members have responded/renewed their memberships; 51 have not responded nor renewed as yet. Constant Contact has sent 2 email blasts to date and one more will follow. Jan will make calls to people who have not renewed and to those who have 'unsubscribed.' Some may have unsubscribed by error. Jan will bring list of 'non-active' people to the January board meeting for board members to review. The board decided to maintain the current cost of the Name Badges at \$10.00. The New Member coffee is at Jan's home, January 14th, 9:00 – 11:00am.

Refining Session: Charlotte has scheduled a Board brainstorming session for February 11th. She is recommending we revisit the strategies we identified at our 2015 Board Retreat and the May 2015 brainstorming session.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

Submitted by Robin Larkin, Secretary