

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLLIER COUNTY, General Fund**  
**Board of Directors Meeting** October 28, 2015  
Iberia Bank, 2150 Goodlette Frank Road, Naples, Florida

Attending were: Robin Birnhak, Judy Burns, Susan Calkins, Ann Campbell, Joyce Fletcher, Patricia Forkan, Paul Kardon, Robin Larkin, John Levy, Becky Newell, Charlotte Nycklemoe, Arlene Shapiro.

Not present: Crystal Kinzel, Shelley Perry.

Guests: Mary Lou Boll, Sandy Parker

The meeting was called to order by Charlotte at 9:30 am. A quorum was declared.

Arlene Shapiro informed the board that the cost for our storage unit has increased from \$85 to \$93/month and in is looking for input from the board on options to reduce this cost, ~20% of our annual budget.

Action: Becky Newell will define what ‘hard copies’ the IRS requires us to keep and will report this at the December board meeting. The board will determine space needs and action at that time.

The Consent Agenda was approved.

Joyce Fletcher requested adding to the agenda: Update on the Community Foundation of Collier County funding process.

Old Business

Observer Corp: Sandy Parker asked Ray Kalich to chair this activity but he has not yet committed.

Action: Sandy will update the board next month.

Member Brochure: Becky Newell and Sandy Parker reported. Sandy recommended the brochure remain the same (same quotes/same people) and that Jan Eustis (Membership Chair) should take on this responsibility with Lydia Galton (previous Membership Chair) as a mentor. The board concurred.

Action: Charlotte will take this advice and follow-up with Jan.

New Business

C4QPE: Mary Lou Boll was asked to present a request from the Coalition for Quality Public Education (C4QPE) that the LWVCC endorse/support their coalition which is a stated 501(c)3 organization. Several LWVCC members have attended some of the coalition’s meetings. Robin Birnhak said she is reluctant to recommend the LWV endorse them. Their stated goals seem solid but their means to achieve them may be in conflict with League policy and procedures. Ann Campbell, Joyce Fletcher, and John Levy also expressed concerns about supporting them—the public perception sees the Collier County School Board as two opposing sides and the LWV, being non-partisan, should not align itself with one side. The Board discussed possibly working with them on a Candidate Forum. That was determined not to be appropriate as well. Paul Kardon said that it would appear that we support that coalition if we co-sponsor an event with them. The board agreed.

Action: The Board decided NOT to join/endorse the C4QPE. Charlotte will send a note to Beth Povlow to inform her of the Board’s decision.

Collier County School Board election discussion continued. John Levy and Susan Calkins believe the LWV should be involved in this election. The difficulty, John suggested, is that 67% of the electorate votes before there is the possibility of a Candidate Forum. Becky supports the concern about the LWV not 'speaking out' and that she cannot because she is Governance Chair (for 2 years). Patty Forkan pointed out that public perception is the LWV is very liberal and has already taken a position on the School Board election. Mary Lou Boll said the LWV should take a role and inform the public. Joyce Fletcher (Voter Service chair) said we cannot do forums until late June/early July because the filing date for candidates is the end of June. Robin Birnhak said the LWV needs a strategy in addition to a candidate forum. Mary Lou Boll suggested a town hall meeting.

Action: The Education Committee will meet and come back to the Board with a plan.

Arlene Shapiro asked, as board members, what may we do/may not do to support different organizations. Sandy Parker offered to do as many League 101 meetings as needed to help inform members. There still seems to be uncertainty about Board involvement in certain organizations and endorsements.

Action:

Legislative Summit Bus Trip: Charlotte reported that Claire Lang has done extensive research on best transportation options to travel to the State Legislative Summit in Tallahassee: Friday, Feb 18 – Sunday Feb 20, 2016. Questions were asked: how many do we need to provide the prices she's quoting (\$110/person)? Dates? Are the legislators in session on the weekend?

Action: Charlotte will confirm dates and give Claire 'go-ahead' and pursue Bus Trip.

December Holiday Party (12/14/15): After discussion, the consensus of the Board was that there would be no program/speaker but instead we would have a Holiday Luncheon.

Health Committee: Charlotte requested the LWV monitor the Medicaid Expansion issue and form a separate committee (outside the Social Policy committee) to focus on Healthcare Expansion. Martha Ryan, LWV member, is very interested in pursuing this. Paul Kardon would also be interested.

Action: The board supports this idea. Charlotte will organize and report back to board.

Paul Kardon suggested that it should be a responsibility for each board member to bring in new members. We have 13 new members this year. The board discussed and generally supported this notion—each board member should bring in at least one new member every year.

Update on CFCC: Charlotte, John Levy and Vi Steffan met with Mary George. Mary said the Foundation would be happy to submit proposals from the LWV to the Foundation to fund requests. Ann Campbell added that the CFCC donor groups may also provide funding if the Foundation cannot (due to date or qualifying issues). John Levy suggested we submit a proposal to CFCC to fund Know Your County Government.

Action:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

Submitted by Robin Larkin, Secretary