

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of the MID-HUDSON REGION

Board Annual Planning Meeting
80 Ringtop Road (Margaret Sellers)
July 2, 2014

Call to Order –Start time...4:30 (bad weather delayed arrivals)

Present: Dare Thompson, Jolanda Jansen, Dorothy Winrow, Margaret Sellers, Lee Ridgway, Shirley Kobran, Esther Stickley, Anne Needham, Soyal Smalls, Cindy Lanzetta.

None absent.

Motion: To allow secretary to sign Bank “business resolution of authority” card certifying that the information there on is correct.

Moved: Esther S., Second: Lee R., In Favor: 10, Opposed: none, Abstentions: none.
Motioned passed.

Observer Corps - Ulster County Legislature Items

Vic Melville gave a presentation on observer corps issues before the beginning of meeting since he had another commitment at 5:30pm and will also attend the Trail Advisory Committee meeting this evening at 7:00 pm.

- a. UCCRA issues: Board appointment process, negotiating contracts with haulers, contracts with Towns (supervisors are concerned). The UCCRA board is a separate authority, which can get in the way of making progress. Need to re look at flow control for recyclables, single stream, compostables, landfills (county legislator and LWV member Manna Jo Greene in favor of a local landfill to reduce travel), solid waste management plan will soon be ready for review, revisit regionalization.
- b. UCCC tuition increases and county contribution, NYS share, charge back to other counties (Dare pointed out that the LWV has no position on higher education, but we could propose the state LWV do a study.)
- c. Economic Development (discussion is coming up about economic policy late summer early fall) – Rail Trail litigation expense
- d. Should the league approach observer corps on an issues basis rather than legislative committees basis?
- e. Executive director of UCRRA Tim Rose has requested someone from our Materials Management Committee to attend UCCRA meetings.
- f. Minority Leader Ken Ronk – proposing changes to the Charter – Legislative Term length (change from 2 year to 4 year, with a limit), appointment of legislators to committees.

Minutes of June meeting posted (Soyal sent to Jim McGarry)

Treasurer's Report

Dorothy W. presented the Treasurer's Report. Bills were higher this past month. We are starting the year with \$23,888.66. Dorothy passed out a list of members who have paid their annual dues and those who have not. Those who have not paid will be contacted by members of the board. Shirley noticed a correction to be made in the report...starting balance date changed from 06/30/2014 to 06/01/2014.

Review of Nonpartisan Policy – Discussion on Questions Below

“The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. However, the LWVUS/EF Board values the many skills and types of experience that individual board members bring to the League, including those learned in public life through elective or appointive office. In fact, involvement in the public and political life of this country is something that the League of Women Voters recommends for all citizens and other members of the public.”

- The President (and co-President) shall not engage in any political activity.
- A Board member shall not hold any partisan elective office (but may hold a local non-partisan elective office).

? *What is a non-partisan elective office?*

– *Answer = School Board, Fire District*

- A Board member shall not serve in any official position in a political party.
- A Board members shall not chair or administer fundraising for a political campaign.
- A Board member shall not make campaign contributions for any federal races.
- A Board member shall not indicate his/her political affiliations or candidate preferences ... in any location that also prominently identifies him/her as a member of the LWVUS/EF Board.

? *Are these rules identical for local league board members?*

- *Answer = The local league has its own nonpartisan policy, which Dare then read aloud and is printed below. The above statement is for LWVUS.*

Review of what we do

1. Voter Service

- Jean McGarry and Jacki Moriarty are helping off-board
- Reminder that national voter registration day is Sept 23.
- Jim is taking a break from Vote411 and may not continue this year.
- A location for candidate forums has not been set yet, but State Senator Terry Gipson will participate. Dare reported that we have agreed to moderate an event with the Congressional candidates (Gibson seat) being organized by the Rondout Valley Business Assn (contact: Steven Kelley)
- Jean M. is very involved in the Citizenship Ceremonies.

2. Study/Action

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- Jolanda reported on Shared Services and how to expand to Ulster County
 - o Fire Districts
 - o Ambulance (EMT) Districts, insurance reimbursement for EMT services only when they are not part of the Fire District
 - o Joe Ruggiero was a great guest speaker at our last committee meeting on the above topic
 - o Committee pretty much runs itself (yay!)
 - o We will talk to Gerald (Jerry) Benjamin about looking at this issue more broadly
- Cindy reported on Materials Management – how can we take up Vic’s concerns?
 - o There has been work on materials management regionally. Update from Pat Pomeroy? Possible program?
 - o Grants for composting. Cornell Cooperative Extension – Dutchess.
- Margaret Sellers and Dare reported on the study on County Budgets. It has been very difficult to work on this. County Budgets has not been adopted as a continuing study.
- Dare clarified the League’s position on Education and answered questions raised
 - Our position is only on the Financing of Public Education
 - We have no position on the common core at the state or national level
 - We were victorious this spring in opposing state tax breaks for parents paying tuition for private schools
 - At “program planning” in February (a meeting about what issues our league and the state league should study) we might consider proposing a state study on other education issues.
- Jolanda reported on Rail Trail – How can we keep this non-partisan?
 - o Shared Hugh Reynolds’ article from June 28, 2014 – Vic Melville considered it inaccurate.
 - o Next step a meeting between Matt Gillis and Dare Thompson

Compass Exercise

The board discussed reactions to the “Compass exercise” on our various leadership styles and skills

Sharing

Board members shared what excited them most about their involvement in the league.

Calendar

For Women's Equity Day on Aug 26th 2014, two field trip ideas.
One to visit Seneca Falls and the other to visit the UN.
Possible bus trip, combine with AAUW.

Sept. 23rd 2014, is National Voter Registration Day.
The Mid-Hudson Library system would be open to hand out voter guides for a \$10 fee per county.
Would it be worth it to get part 1 **and** part 2 of voter guides?
Part 1 is available earlier and gives general information.
Part 2 has to wait until primaries have been completed.

Other possible programs for the year:

- 1) Higher Ed. "Should we have a state position?"
- 2) "Regional versus Local approach to materials management" : Pat Pomeroy and Manna Jo Greene

Next Board Meeting...August 5th at Shirley Kobran's House

Adjourn by 8:30 pm

Non-Partisan Statement for LWV-MHR – adopted 2010

The League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region may take action on governmental measures and policies, but it shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

Recognizing that the League experience uniquely equips members for public life and wishing to encourage members to utilize their knowledge and abilities, members are urged to participate fully in party activities (on an individual basis).

The president, the voters service director, and any other board member whose position is deemed sensitive by the board shall not run for or hold elective office. If a board member declares for an elective office, the member should resign from the board. Public notices released by the League announcing the resignation of a board member to run for such an office should be carefully worded to avoid the appearance of endorsing the resigning board member's candidacy.

Board members shall not undertake any action that will cause them to be identified publicly as supporting any candidate for office or any political party. The president, voter service director and holder of any other board position deemed sensitive shall not participate in any political campaign in any way. Other board members shall not chair or administer fundraising or political campaigns, chair campaign events, or work in a significant way in the campaign of a candidate.