

**League of Women Voters – Dare  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Kill Devil Hills Library Meeting Room  
Wednesday, October 16, 2019**

**Call to Order and Announcements**

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 by co-president Fran Kapinos. Board members present were Nancy Birindelli, James Cofield, Lorelei DiBernardo, Marty Hamend, Glenda Keel, Judy Lotus, Craig Merrill, Susan Merrill, Marion Midgett, Teuta Towler, Andrea Schollaert, and Sunny Shea.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the Sept. 17, 2019 board meeting were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report**

Nancy reported: Checking Account Balance as of 10/15/19-- \$8,953.45  
CEF- \$3,144.44

Donation request letters have been sent to organizations that have contributed to the printing costs of our Citizen's Guide in the past as well as new organizations for this year. Nancy also shared that a Past President of the North Carolina State League of Women Voters, Mary Kleuz, made a contribution through the Outer Banks Community Foundation to the Dare County Disaster Relief Fund.

**Committee Reports**

**Social Media/Facebook/Web Page - Teuta Towler**

Teuta reported that she is assessing the Pay Pal membership forms to assure all payments are recorded. She also reported that the LWV Newsletter is emailed to 95 addresses and that 65 were opened in September. Those who have unsubscribed will be removed from the list and she is working to correct addresses for those that bounce back. **We were reminded that October 27<sup>th</sup> is the date by which newsletter articles should be submitted to John.** The LWV Dare website had over 4000 hits prior to the candidate forums. The dates and locations of early voting will be added to the web page. The videos of all candidate forums are available through our web page. She also asked that, in the future, the video recordings be re-sized so the file can easily fit on U Tube. It was suggested that updates to gerrymandering and information on the Voter ID policy be added to the website. Craig agreed to assume responsibility for that task.

Teuta is willing to hold a workshop on "How to Keep Your Computers Clean". It was suggested that it be open to the public as an evening event in January, tentatively on Jan. 28 at KDH Town Hall.

**Voter Services – Lorelei DiBernardo and Sunny Shea**

74% of all candidates for our local municipal elections have submitted their data to VOTE 411. New Vote 411 signs have been printed and are ready for distribution. Please let Lorelei know if you would like one. She has submitted a grant request to the NC State LWV for payment for the printing of the signs. In a debriefing of all candidate forums, it was noted that the Kitty Hawk reception for the 2 incumbents was poorly attended. It was also noted that Southern Shores had the largest crowd (approximately 140 community members). This may have been a result of the announcement of the event that was included in the Southern Shores Newsletter and an email sent to Southern Shores Civic Association members. This prompted a discussion of how we might find better ways to disseminate information about league sponsored events. Lorelei and Sunny will assess the positive aspects of the

the candidate forums and seek information on suggested changes to improve effectiveness. They are considering sending a survey to League members who volunteered at each forum and a standardized set of questions to be answered by each candidate as a way to receive feedback from the candidates on their perceived strengths and weaknesses. The board also discussed the possibility of having screeners at each forum develop questions specific to each locality that might be included in the set of questions put forth to each candidate.

### **Publicity – Marty Hamend**

Marty will prepare an article for local media sources that highlights the success of the 2019 Municipal Candidate Forums and Vote 411 as a useful voter guide. Publicity will include pictures for the candidate forums.

### **Citizen's Guide - Carol Butscher and Nancy Birindelli**

Carol is considering whether it might be best to print the Spanish version of the Citizen's Guide every other year.

### **Membership – Susan Merrill**

We currently have 67 members. Susan will contact those from 2017 – 2018 who have not yet renewed.

### **Hot Topic Lunches – Fran for Mary Jane Slesinski**

The topics and speakers are in place for November 1st and January 10<sup>th</sup> as follows:

Gail Sonnesso “Elder Care Issues”, Roosters, 11:30

Michael Lewis “Hotline Update”, Roosters, 11:30

### **Board of Elections – James Cofield**

Dare County entered into an agreement to stick with the current ADA voting machine until the state of North Carolina requires a change. Curbside voting is also an option for individuals with a disability. It was noted that in past years, caregivers who have driven the disabled person were also provided the option of voting from the car. The current policy now requires the caregiver to enter the facility to cast her/his vote. Some board members asked James to include this on the agenda of the next BOE meeting to encourage a discussion of the difficulties that may arise when the disabled voter is left alone in the car. Directly after the meeting, James provided us with the following information. The current policy is a State Board of Elections regulation and the answer as to why this change was made seems to include the following:

curbside voting is intended to serve someone with a genuine disability

an election official is there to assist the person

it is assumed no additional help is needed

someone without a disability should not have an advantage over others

this procedure is intended to protect voter confidentiality

James raised the issue of voters being purged from the the list of registered voters. The BOE will push for the publication of names of those to be removed before it happens to put people on notice. In North Carolina, your name will be dropped if you miss 2 federal elections.

### **Redistricting – Craig Merrill**

The NC State League of Women Voters is holding a leadership meeting to discuss how local leagues

work with the state league on the issue of redistricting. Anyone interested in attending the meeting may contact Fran Kapinos or Judy Lotus. Craig and Judy are planning to attend.

### **ERA – Judy Lotus**

Judy is encouraging voters to support candidates who favor the passage of the ERA in both North Carolina and Virginia.

### **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Report – James Cofield**

The committee met last week. Plans for the centennial celebration are moving forward. Judy Lotus will chair the gala committee for the event scheduled for February 16 at DWCC. More details to follow. Details of the program designed to honor women in our community are being developed. The LWV sponsored film series will be held on the second floor of the Dare County Arts Council Building. The league speaker for our centennial series, Lin Logan, is exploring the possibility of making presentations in the local high school and Marion Midget suggested an essay writing contest. Susan Merrill will send a letter to our current members asking that we each suggest the names of women and men we believe may be interested in joining the organization. Types of media exposure are being discussed. And finally, Lin is working on a piece that reflects the history of the organization, ending with our current activities.

### **Old Business**

A discussion of the position of the NC State LWV will be presented to local chapters after IRS final review of proposed changes. It is important to note that the mission of the League of Women Voters will not change.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20 at 10:15. We will meet in the KDH Town Hall Meeting Room.

Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> is the Holiday Lunch and Silent Auction Fund Raiser.

The meeting adjourned at 12:28.

Andrea Schollaert  
Recording Secretary