

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARION AND POLK COUNTIES

BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 8, 2022

ZOOM, 3 – 5 PM

Present: Barbara Sellers-Young, Elsa Struble, Alice LaViolette, Amy Vandergrift, Cindy Burgess, Deanie Anderson, Tomika Dew, Jean Sherbeck; Special guest, Lisa Bentson, State Board DEI Membership Chair

Lisa introduced herself, followed by brief introductions from LWVMPC members.

1. The minutes from the July 7, 2022 Board meeting were approved.
2. Barbara commented on the Transformational process passed in June 2022 by delegates to the LWVUS Convention.

Membership is a big component of the changes.

Local leagues might be able to retain more of their dues.

Check out other major points previously explained.

Deanie and other members expressed some of their concerns. Barbara replied, “All we can do now is adjust to the bylaws that were passed in June.” Lisa Bentson said that she has heard a positive side regarding money issues, and that the goal is to enable people to donate money more easily.

3. Membership Plan. Amy’s plan and comments includes these items:

Our MPC website is very important – new members have joined as a result of reading it.

The Salem, Bush Park Art Show MPC table was a big success.

League’s reputation is based on universal suffrage.

How Do We Respond to New Members?

Please see the attached Membership Plan attached to these minutes

Note: Amy will try to get in touch with people from Grand Ronde. Barbara is planning to call or meet new members.

Deanie suggests repeating what we used to connect with the community – Speakers' Bureau, Vote Counters for organizations, Forums.

Cindy suggests recruiting students to help with interviewing candidates.

Deanie suggests inviting students to ask questions about ballot issues and also to help register voters on Sept. 20.

Tomika proposes interviewing people who are not renewing their memberships.

Amy suggests defining membership by reading the FOCUS; For single issue people, put them to work on their specific issue.

4. Young People's Tool Kit. Tomika and Carol K. will read.

5. Programming for next months:

Because several Board members will be away in September, the group decided to hold the fall membership meeting the first week of October, as an outdoor event in a park with a covered area. Amy will coordinate this.

Deanie? Will call Capital Manor to see about a possible Oct. 5 forum.

By October 19, ballot issues program will be ready to broadcast to members.

.Civil discourse will be the theme for this year's meetings.

September Board meeting will be by e-mail since several Board members will be away.

The Board approved our local league nominating Roz Shirack for a community award. Alice will take it from here.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

Submitted by Jean Sherbeck, Secretary

2022- LWVMPC Membership Plan

Our LWV would like to increase our membership and have members take an active role in the organization.

We realized that part of the membership process is to make new members feel welcome and to know how to plug into the organization's activities.

To get new members:

- Our web site has been important to bring in new members during the time of COVID. It is easy to navigate and find what information. All the recent new members have joined on-line.
- The current times with propoganda about voting fraud and state legislatures setting up measure to impede citizens' voting in the guise of preventing fraud have brought in new members who are concerned voter access and a fair process.
- As well as our on-line membership form, we need to have some paper forms to give to people at events who might be interested in joining. This is true as we begin to meet in person.
- Our LWV needs to be more visible in the community. Once Motor-Voter legislation was passed into law our traditional method of visibility as we registered voters was taken away. We need to find other avenues to reach out to people. One example is the Voter Education table we will have at the Salem Art Fair.
- Work to build non-traditional partners as well as those who also hold LWV positions of issues. This will take time.

Responding to a New member or perspective member in a timely manner is critical. That personal touch is important. We talked about how to set up programs once again to encourage new members and their participation in LWV activities.

Procedures to educate and inform a new member:

The membership chair and membership committee will call the new member within a week of getting the contact information for a new member.

The first call should include a welcome to the LWV, explanation of our local LWV and brief explanation of how it functions and how members are involved. as well as garnering information about why the person joined, a bit about their life, interests, and skill. This can be used to write a small bio for the next Focus newsletter. The Membership Chair will send digital copies of the most recent annual report and the LWV directory and a member survey

The Focus editor will mail out the latest copy of the Focus.

We meet to set up a Mentoring program pairing the new member with a seasoned member.

Mentoring a new member:

- Make a personal connection perhaps meet for coffee (do we want to give them something like a button
- Explain LWVMPC non-partisan stand but political active around voting rights and our positions.
- Offer and explain a one-page Get to know our LWVMPC
- Help them learn what is on the LWVMPC website and how they can use it
- Answer questions about LWV and how to get involved
- Call and extend an invitation to our meetings for at least 6 months after they joined.

Things that need to be done:

Produce a paper form to join our LWV that can be handed out at events or given to interested persons who don't use a computer much

Write up "LWV job description" with contact information.

It is important that during the election periods that LWVMPC provide information about membership and the need for support.

LWV members need to make personal calls to new members to see if they can participate in our VOTE programs. New members are reluctant to initiate calls even when give contact information.

LWV Speaker bureau: There are several areas that LWV can provide speakers and educate the public on elections, voting and issues. We need to include that we are a membership organization. Begin to reach out to new nontraditional LWV partners. Make a DEI list

Set up a mentor group.