

League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities 54th Annual Meeting

June 4, 2022

Called to order at 10:05am by President Joan LeSage. Introductions were given by all. Joan asked for Adoption of Rules of Convention and Adoption of Order of Business, both passed unanimously. Sherrie Brand and Roslyn Fanello were appointed as the Annual Meeting Minutes Committee.

ATTENDEES: A quorum was met with 25 members in attendance.

Joan Le Sage, Grace Peng, Susan Grebe, Margaret Thelen, Mary Dillon, Jeanne Hamilton, Yvette Reiner, Jennifer Angliozzo, Sherrie Brand, Amy Hanrahan, Ruth Hart, Harriet Chase, Carol Patterson, Chris Davis, Ann Kuhns, Marc Teitelbaum, Roslyn Fanello, Peggy Bartlett, Debra Estroff, Margie Hoyt, Janet Page, Teri Neustaedter, Karen Cull, Arnette Travis and Marian Drahnak. Rules of convention and budget adopted and approved. The National Convention was discussed and virtual attendance is expensive (\$300), so the number of our attendees is restricted.

Order of Business adopted. Joan discussed the new technology now being implemented. Congratulations to the LWVBC inspiring leaders of the committees that have **provided excellent meetings and learning experiences**. Joan emphasized the benefit of having Zoom available to the league and our successful meeting with Supervisor Holly Mitchell.

Discussions about advocacy, following the money in elections, immigration issues and mental health were lively. These topics will be explored further in the near future.

President's Annual Report *by Joan Le Sage*

We had high hopes that this would be a year where we could "return to normal". Instead, we found we needed to continue to respond quickly to changes.

Last June we held our first in-person Board meeting in over a year- it was outside at Valley Park and very fun to see everyone. It was our turn to host the Tri-League September meeting and we planned for an in-person event, but it did not happen because of the Omicron covid variant. Our ZOOM meeting with Redondo Beach Councilman Chris Horvath was well attended and very informative. Other in-person events included the Voters Services table at the Hometown Fair in October, which was staffed by many enthusiastic League volunteers. The camaraderie was a highlight for me. Our Winter Lunch and National Position Review Meeting was held at Penny Markey's lovely home: very informative with lively discussion!

ZOOM Highlights from this year include sending 4 representatives to the LWV-CA Bi-Annual convention and four representatives to the County Convention. We had several LWVBC Membership Zoom Meetings with speakers including Dr. Donna Benton on the CA Master Plan on Aging, and Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly Mitchell introducing herself to us as our new representative on the LA County Board, a result of the redistricting that occurred based on the new 2020 census information.

Happily, our last major membership event was in May and in person. The topic was James Madison and the Federal Negative. RBUHS history teacher Michael Henges led the discussion on the negotiations leading up to the drafting of the US Constitution. In 2019 our League sponsored Michael to attend a Harvard course and learn this Socratic methodology of teaching American history. Part of the program was to give a presentation to the community. I think everyone who attended left energized.

We definitely have moved forward on the tech side! We terminated our relationship with the League's MYLO web site, and have an exciting new website designed and maintained by Chris Davis, who has also started using Mailchimp for mailings.

We have held Board meetings, social Mixers and book club meetings almost every month. Our committee chairs will all give reports but the committees have been extremely active regularly adding guest speakers to their individual meetings. They have reached out to the surrounding communities and succeeded in providing an amazing amount of information and education to our members and the community. I am inspired by their energy and dedication. With that quick summary I will turn over to our fantastic Committee Chairs.

Treasurer's Annual Report by *Susan Grebe*

Financially this has been an even year. Our Non-Event totaled \$4,080.00 which exceeded the amount budgeted of \$3000.00. Our member contributions that came in with the dues plus a special fundraiser with South Bay Cares amounted to \$2,315.32, which exceeds the budget amount by \$1500.00. Our dues revenues for the fiscal period of 7/1/21– 6/30/22 were \$7290, exceeding the budgeted \$6500.00. Our total income as of 4/30/2022 is \$12,995.23, which is lower than the budgeted \$15,162. Our Money Market has slowly grown to \$12,168.03 and our Vanguard investments are currently at \$2,300.29.

On the expense side, our budget allowed for \$15,612.00 in expenditures, but total expenses as of 4/30/2022 are \$9,099.34 with a projected expenses of one final PMP to the State for \$896.00 and \$3000.00 in expenses budgeted for the National LWV Convention later this month, bringing our projected expenses to approximately \$12,995.00. Barring unforeseen events, we will be ending the year with a bank balance of approximately \$14,000.00. The treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Voter Services by *Jeanne Hamilton*

The Voter Services Committee provided voter registration opportunities to students age 16 and up at 3 high schools this spring. On April 19, we registered 27 students at Mira Costa High School and left applications with 5 more who needed information from home to complete their applications.

On April 22, we went to Leuzinger High School. In spite of strong support from the activities director, no students completed applications, stating that they had already registered in class, were too young, or just didn't want to. On April 27, we went to Redondo Union High School and registered 27 students and left applications with 10 more who needed additional information. El Segundo High School declined to participate, stating that they are already doing this in government classes.

Unfortunately, I had no responses from DaVinci, Hawthorne or Inglewood. Thanks to Marc Teitelbaum, Renay Campbell-Labriola, Teri Neustaedter, Mary Dillon, Jennifer Agliozzo, Arnette Travis, Susan Grebe and Ruth Hart who participated with Jeanne Hamilton to register students.

The committee will discuss how to move forward on registering students in light of increased registration in classes, online and when getting a driver's license.

I was able to participate in a candidate forum training session offered by the LWV PVP in April. This training provided comprehensive information, including scripts and checklists.

Voter's Edge by *Mary Dillon*

The Voter's Edge committee includes: Marc Teitelbaum, Jennifer Agliozzo, Renay Campbell-Labriola, Donna Howland, and Mary Dillon.

The five team members worked on the primary election (June 7, 2022) beginning the middle of April. We contacted the candidates using email and phone calls multiple times to encourage them to complete their profiles on Voter's Edge. We all participated in the training. The goal of the state league is to get at least 50% of all candidates in all of the primary elections to participate. LA county was able to get 60% participation.

We elected to cover the elections in Long Beach and in Catalina and we were able to get 70% compliance. We will be working on the election in November as well.

Legislative Report by Dale Petrusis (presented by Jeanne Hamilton)

Every year, the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) encourages local League members to interview their state legislators or staff. Legislative interviews are a powerful tool — increasing League visibility, gathering information and raising awareness among California's state representatives about our interest in policies they are considering. Legislative interviews are an opportunity for legislators to share their priorities with local Leagues and develop an understanding of League positions and priorities. Local Leagues discover plans for state legislation that may impact their communities. Furthermore, the state League learns more about legislators and the interest of local Leagues, gaining information useful in planning statewide advocacy and education.

It's also a chance to emphasize that while the League never supports or opposes candidates or parties, we are a political organization and after thorough study and consensus we take positions on issues. Beach Cities interviewed Assemblyman Al Muratsuch and Ben Allen, Senator. The interviews highlighted redistricting, climate change, water, and equity; and California's children and youth mental health emergencies. We followed up the interviews with a report, which was shared in our Beach City newsletters, as well as sent to the California League.

LWV Housing & Homelessness Committee by Teri Neustaedter

Project: NEEDS, in Redondo Beach, continues to be our go-to service project recipient. We had successful food drives for Thanksgiving and in June, exceeding past results. We continue to be on the lookout for other possible groups and projects.

Several members participated in the February '22 Homeless Count, leading the efforts in Lawndale. They were thankful for our participation as covid rebounded, cold weather set in and volunteers were sparse. The coordinator would appreciate having another LWVBC group lead an area next year.

Opportunity: with a new leader and more volunteers new endeavors can be undertaken. Reviewing our local position on Housing would be one example. Finding, vetting and executing new service projects and groups would be another, including reaching across boundaries to bring others together for something like the Home Walk. We may also want a community homelessness education program for 2023.

Teri Neustaedter actively participated in many local groups on homelessness and has joined the LA County ILO board to focus on these topics at a county level. She is also co-chair of the LWVC task force on Housing and Homelessness, will do a presentation on Homelessness at our national convention in late June and works to analyze and monitor state bills that deal with Housing and Homelessness for LWVC Legislative Committee review.

Membership by *Arnette Travis*

Since June 2021, we added 12 new members. A new member orientation will be held in early fall.

Natural Resources by *Grace Peng*

Natural Resources is a broad portfolio that encompasses human interactions to the natural and built world. We hold monthly educational meetings through the Water and Infrastructure Group. All members and nonmembers are welcome to attend via Zoom.

For instance, we wrote a letter of support for the West Basin Desalination plant because it diversified our water sources, and would reduce our risk to droughts and earthquakes. West Basin did not opt to proceed, but may revisit Desal at a later date. We are currently evaluating the Climate Action Plans of cities and LA County in preparation for submitting public comment. Please contact me if you would like to attend WIG or help evaluate city plans, e.g., Housing Elements, Transportation Plans, Climate Action Plans.

Health and Wellness by *Harriet Chase*

The Health & Wellness Committee has been focusing on our aging population. We have been assisting the Westside Pacific Villages as they expand their pool of volunteers, especially in the cities of Inglewood and Hawthorne. The goal of WPV is to provide services and programs at a modest fee to enable seniors to remain in their homes and communities for as long as they want. (Goal 3 of CA's Master Plan for Aging) Most of their senior services are supplemental to the services the clients are receiving from other sources.

We had a community Zoom meeting to introduce the California Master Plan for Aging (MPA). Since then, we have been following the implementation of the Master Plan that includes Five Bold Goals for 2030.

Goal 1: Housing for all Ages and Stages

Goal 2 Health Reimagined

Goal 3: Inclusion & Equity, Not Isolation

Goal 4: Caregiving That Works

Goal 5: Affording Aging. The California Department of Aging (CDA) is responsible for the implementation. We have been networking with the CDA and other agencies that are working with the implementation process.

We also have been networking with cities in our League's area to become aware of, and involved in, the AARP Age-Friendly/Livable Communities Program. This program is embedded in the MPA. Livable communities have walkable streets, housing and transportation options, access to key services, and opportunities for residents at all life stages to participate in community activities.

We have invited speakers to our Zoom committee meetings to inform us on the issues and programs for seniors. They have included: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH), Program Manager from the city of Inglewood's HUD program (US Dept. Housing & Urban Development), speaker from El Segundo to explain how they are implementing their AARP Age Friendly/Livable Community program, and a speaker from West Hollywood to talk about how their Age-Friendly program that began in 2016 is working. We had a speaker from On the Move Riders Program who trains older adults in how to use public transportation.

Information is shared from the California League's Health Care Interest Group.

We attend the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (COG) Senior Services Working Group bi-monthly meetings where we learn about programs and activities in the South Bay and assist and expedite the flow of important information to the senior community in the areas that we serve.

Finally, at our June committee Zoom meeting the new Executive Director from the Village Movement California (VMC) will explain the Village Movement and talk about the many ways to start a village.

Mental Health by Mary Dillon

Debra and Mary met together in April 2021 and set up a meeting with folks from DMH. One suggestion we had was to update the Rainbow Book, a comprehensive catalog that DMH provided to caregivers that was discontinued. The catalog included a listing of mental health services and providers in Los Angeles County. This book was distributed to schools and mental health agencies and last distributed in 2016. DMH now uses a newly developed website in lieu of the Rainbow Book. DMH believes that they are doing well and didn't offer any suggestion on how we might be able to support them.

In 2004 voters in Calif. passed the "Millionaire's Tax" (Prop 63) to raise money to support mental health. There were many issues with the distribution and accounting resulting in many articles being published, asking for an accounting of the money. The state now has a website and has allocated the money to the counties in the state *without direction to earmark for mental health*. This was reported to us by an assistant to Al Maratsuchi. This was not a one-time tax and money keeps pouring into the state collected through this tax.

We investigated a new organization, The Suicide Prevention Task Force, and considered partnering with that organization. Upon further investigation this organization really needs input from mental health professionals to meet their goals, so not a good fit for us in LWVBC.

We invited Andrew from Al Maratsuchi's office to meet with us at our January meeting but due to Covid we were unable to connect with him. Andrew was interested in tracking the money but is no longer with Al Maratsuchi's office.

On Feb 11th, the committee met with Ali Seward, Director of Youth Service with Beach Cities Health District. Ali talked about the services that BCHD provided to the schools including Covid vaccinations and testing, substance abuse prevention, and mental health support. She also announced a new project that BCHD is working on, a Wellness Center for youth ages 12-25 with a \$2 million grant. They are one of five entities to receive this grant in the state. The new center will follow an international model and provide wellness services, substance counseling, and college and career counseling. BCHD will partner with other agencies in the area to provide the services, and include input from a Youth Advisory Board in its design. This is exciting news for our Beach Cities community.

In January we met and considered putting out a survey to the schools. We discussed options for questions.

There are many people and organizations looking at mental health issues in the county and the state. One project that might be useful would be to look into some of the existing organizations and link with them rather than reinventing the wheel. Another consideration is, does California need another organization looking at Mental Health?

We continue to look for a direction.

Book Club by *Deborah Estroff*

Our book club is regularly met by Zoom. Attendance seems quite steady with an occasional new attendee. We are looking to increase the participants and have emphasized reading the entire book isn't mandatory. For the upcoming year we changed our time to late afternoon to allow for more attendees.

Scholarship Committee by *Mary Dillon*

The scholarship committee this year spent time working on a scholarship application. We also looked at several schools to target and decided to focus on Centinela Valley High School District and chose Leuzinger High School. Mary worked with the scholarship counselor, Donna McCoy, at the school. We put the scholarship online and asked the students to send in their application to us electronically. Our deadline date was April 1st. This date also coincided with the school's spring break. We wound up with one application filed on that date and selected that candidate, Camille Takiguchi to receive our award. Her post high school plan is to become a nurse but before she started a program at an accredited college, she intended to attend a religious school that is not accredited. The committee decided to give her the scholarship but not release the money to her until next year (2023) when she will start her RN education. Mary attended the awards ceremony at Leuzinger High School on June 2, 2022. The committee and the board agreed to name this scholarship after Barbara Arlow and going forward that is what it will be called.

Communications by *Chris Davis*

The Communications Committee has spent the last year concentrating on improving communications and sharing information and events with our members. This included improvements to our web presence, our social media reach, and our newsletter, The Voter.

Newsletters: We published 4 newsletters in a digital format this year, in July, September, and November 2021 and in April 2022. These were sent by email to all of our members. The September Newsletter was also delivered in a printed format and mailed to all members.

Website: In September, we put up a redesigned website with attention to making it easier for readers to navigate. We have a calendar that is updated several times a week. Beach Cities events for members as well as other relevant events put on by other Leagues and outside agencies are listed. In November, we invited board members for a walkthrough of the website and incorporated suggestions for easier access and to make it more useful for visitors. Since January, we have added new pages to the website including: Criminal Justice, Health Care Reform, Mental Health and Senior Resources. We have added articles to our blog as well as a page for Action items listing actions that can be taken immediately such as signing petitions and contacting government officials.

Surveys: Last month, we sent out a survey to find out how members prefer to receive information from the chapter. We don't want to send out too many or too few email notifications every month; all information in emails is also kept updated on the website.

Email: We send Email Blast calendar updates twice a month, as well as reminders for events such as meetings, Webinars and other important LWV happenings.

Social Media/PR/Advertising – are also part of the Communications Committee's responsibility and Jennifer Agliozzo will give an update on our progress in those areas.

Social Media/PR/Advertising by Jennifer Aglio

In addition to our “regular” communications at this time, we are expanding our social media presence on Facebook and Instagram for our members to read. They include dates and information for upcoming events, such as candidate forums and Hometown Fair. We are also submitting calendar events, and considering ads in our local newspapers, (Beach Reporter, Easy Reader, PV Peninsula News, etc.), especially as we near the November elections. One of our goals is to publicize voting resources like Voter's Edge.

Nominating Committee by Roslyn Fanello

Officers and Directors Nominated for 2022-2024 OFFICERS

Term ends 2024

Officers: Co-Presidents Ann Kuhns and Teri Neustaedter; 1st Vice President Arnette Travis; 2nd VP Dale Petrulis; 3rdVP Grace Peng; Secretary Yvette Reiner; Treasurer Susan Grebe

Board of Directors -completing 2-year term- 2021-2023 Debra Estroff, Jeanne Hamilton, Harriet Chase, Jennifer Aglio, Ruth Hart

Directors for 2-year term- 2022-2024 Chris Davis, Mary Dillon, Margie Hoyt, Joan LeSage

Susan moved to accept the slate and it was approved unanimously.

Meeting was turned over to Ann and Teri.

A review of positions followed:

Teri discussed *housing* and informed the group that Pasadena league had modified their position to a more progressive approach. She recommended updating our position, including the need for an expanded Observer Corps for each of our cities. Joan moved for approval and it was unanimously agreed.

Finance was considered, it was decided that there was no need for revision/update.

Library was also considered. Penny was not in attendance, but this had been updated in January, so no need for further review.

There will be continued focus on local positions. The state league may propose Immigration as a national focus.

Penny and Debra are working with young girls (ages 13-19) who have an interest in League. They are looking to expand the group.

Priorities for next year:

Voters Services — midterm election year!

Need for advertising/publicity (issue of expense) – suggestion of article in LA Times, letters to the editor, community outreach

Criminal justice

Mental Health

Immigration

Healthcare

Discussion pursued with many state issues as well as tracking of issues and accountability

Reporting by each committee chairperson was invaluable and offered new opportunities for members to become involved in areas of interest. (See above) Voter registration and the value of Voters Edge was discussed. The coming November election will find the League involved with forums for candidates and ballot propositions

Heartfelt thank yous were expressed to Susan Grebe and Joan LeSage for their extraordinary knowledge, service, longevity and devotion to our Beach Cities League.

Official meeting was adjourned at 11:59am

A presentation by *Nancy Wilcox of the South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness* topped off our meeting with important information and photos of the small homes (Pallet Homes) that have been successfully erected in Redondo Beach and soon will be open in Torrance.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvette Reiner, Secretary