

Minutes

League of Women Voters Toledo Lucas County
2016 Annual Meeting at Mancy's Italian Restaurant
May 26, 2016 5:20 PM

President Darcy Yates welcomed everyone, members and guests, to the Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters. She called the meeting to order at 5:20 PM, asking Secretary Nancy Hughes if there was a quorum. The Secretary confirmed that there was.

Darcy introduced our parliamentarian for the evening, Audrey Berning-Matell.

She then invited all Board members to introduce themselves by name and title and/or committee responsibility.

Darcy noted that everyone has a packet with the reports being read.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Meg Murphy pointed out the beginning and ending balances for the Operating Fund (\$8,884.68 on 5/1/2015 and \$5434.73 on 5/17/16) and the Education Fund (\$3,010.01 on 5/1/2015 and \$5,689.37 on 5/17/2016). A note states that \$2,398.00 will be withdrawn from the Ed Fund and deposited to the Operating Fund shortly, changing those balances. See attached report. The report will be filed for audit.

Nomination Committee Report: Chair Ann Fabiszak Payne read the committee's report (see attached) and noted that this year's slate comprises new Secretary Shelly Guerrero and returning Treasurer Meg Murphy, Chengi Wang to serve the remaining year of an unexpired two-year term, Audrey Berning-Matell, Marylyn Lucas and Mary Ann Player as Directors of the Board. Ann made a motion that the slate be approved, Pat Carmean seconded, and the Secretary cast the vote of unanimity. All the new members stood and were applauded and introduced themselves.

2016-2017 Local Program: Darcy Yates offered the program on behalf of Lucia Cooper (see attached) and moved that the program be accepted. Marylyn Lucas seconded, and the question was called and the motion passed.

2016-2017 Budget: Ann Fabiszak Payne gave the proposed Budget (see attached). She explained that the Ed Fund, a 501c3, is used for Voter Education, the TRY booklets and Voter Registration. The Operating Fund is used for advocacy and operating expenses. Ann moved that the budget be accepted, Barb Colvin seconded, and the motion passed.

We then moved on to the **Standing Committee reports** summarized below.

Membership: Co-Chair Barb Colvin gave the report, noting that we now have streamlined the membership renewal process, limiting it to three times a year. Our membership will be at 38 at the end of our 2015-2016 year. Barb also noted that we can do several things to increase our membership over the next year. See the attached report.

Naturalization: Vice-President and Chair Jonnie Taylor described an “interesting and exciting year” and described various ceremonies in which we participated, providing voter information to 463 new citizens. See the attached report.

State House Day: Gail Conrad read her report (see attached), describing the importance of judicial reform, a presentation on school funding, and a luncheon speaker from the NYU School of Law talking about gerrymandering. She and her husband then went to meet with their state senator, Randy Gardner. Please read the full and interesting report, which is attached.

Community Shares: League representative to Northwest Ohio Community Shares Marylyn Lucas gave a report on replacing Darcy Yates in that responsibility beginning in March of this year. She told us that NOCS is a major supporter of our Education Fund, and that we in turn support their Spring and Fall fundraiser events, including the June 23rd “Share Our Dreams” dinner event. See attached report.

Membership Leadership Development (MLD): Darcy gave the report (attached) describing the founding of MLD, which operates at the local, state and national level, giving us best practices for growing our league and increasing our impact, with the help of national and state coaches. Our state coach is Pat Simons from New Hudson, Ohio. Darcy mentioned that she also needs to roll off this committee and asked for volunteers.

Voter Services: Ann Payne gave the report that was prepared by Nancy Hughes, Eleanor Dombrowski and herself. Activities discussed included the National Voter Registration Day drive conducted over three weeks at Main Library. In addition, “TRY” (They Represent You) booklets were updated and given out in many locales, including 1200 to the library system. A planned project is to distribute an “electing the President” activity book to 4th, 5th and 6th graders in the Lucas County Public Schools. See the full report attached.

Advocates for a Clean Lake Erie: Ann Payne reported on this group that invited us to its initial meeting. Two members of our league have been attending and are active on The Research and Education and the Legislative and Policy Committee. Their Mission Statement reads, in part: “Our goal is a drinkable, fishable, swimmable Lake Erie, now and for future generations.” See the full report attached. Ann moved that we continue our involvement with the ACLE group. Pat Carmean seconded, and the motion passed.

Lake Erie Basin Committee: Kathy Chamberlain spoke. Talking about our having more than 400 migrating birds as an example of the amazing area in which we live, she talked of her long time membership in SAVE (Science Alliance for Valuing the Environment), begun by Lourdes. She talked about Sandy Bihn and many others working to help the environment through various groups. Sandy got the Echo award last year, and this year came back to give the award to Tree Toledo. Eleanor Dombrowski and Barb Colvin are members of our League and of Tree Toledo.

Toledo Lucas County Public Library 5-Yr Plan: Kathy Chamberlain talked about the community involvement that has been requested by the library to help them plan for the future. She has been involved in the process. In their Discussion Guide, under “A Vision for Toledo & Lucas County”, they note that many organizations have developed strategies and plans to enhance our area and that the Library “is committed to ensuring that our strategic plan connects to, supports, and builds on these initiatives.” Kathy talked about all the remodeling and new branches being built and innovations like 3D printers, all available for free. We are a community partner for them, and they ask for our endorsement when floating a new levy, and they may put one on the ballot this year. Their current levy expires in 2017.

Signature Event: Chair Audrey Berning-Matell described her plans for this major annual fundraiser, which she envisions as drawing 250-300 attendees. One of her ideas is to ask High School and College students to create displays on the theme of the Constitution which will be judged by Government and History teachers and professors and for which attendees will vote and for which prizes will be awarded. For our keynote speaker we should have a notable Supreme Court Judge such as Judge Ginsberg or other such dignitary. See the attached full report.

Looking ahead to nearer upcoming events, President Darcy Yates pointed out the Garage Sale on May 28, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Ann Payne’s home at 3655 Lainer, Toledo 43606. The National LWVUS Convention follows in Washington, D.C. on June 16-18. Share Our Dreams, Community Shares’ Spring fundraiser, follows on June 23 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at the Ward Pavilion at Wildwood Metropark.

Nancy Hughes moved that we adjourn the meeting and Pat Carmean seconded it. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hughes