



League of Women Voters of Sacramento County
ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 25, 2017

The League of Women Voters of Sacramento County 2017 Annual Meeting came to order at 5:50 PM at the SEIU Building at 1808 14th Street. Nancy Compton and Paula Lee co-chaired the meeting; welcoming members and guests, and introducing the acting Secretary Bernadette Lynch, the Board Members, the Unit Chairs, the Off –Board Chairs, and the Past Presidents.

Nancy introduced and welcomed the guest speaker, Sister Libby Fernandez RSM, Executive Director of Sacramento Loaves and Fishes. Sr. Libby began her service to the poor of Sacramento as a volunteer at Loaves and Fishes after serving seven years in the US Air Force. With a desire to learn to fly jets, she had been appointed to the USAF Academy by Representative Robert Matsui. She remarked that this experience instilled in her a sense of commitment, esprit de corps, and leadership. She left the Air Force and earned her Masters in Social Work at CSU-Sacramento. In 1990, she joined the Sisters of Mercy. As a Mercy nun, she spent six years at Mercy Housing providing housing services to the very poor. She continued to volunteer at Loaves and Fishes and in 1999, was hired as a social worker at Maryhouse, a day center for women and children. She created and directed Loaves and Fishes' Genesis Mental Health, a program serving the homeless with psychiatric needs.

In 2006, she was asked to lead Loaves and Fishes, which today is a 5-acre campus with 85 employees, over 1000 volunteers, and twelve unique programs: Advocacy, Community Services, Dining Room, Friendship Park, Library, Wash House, Pet Kennels, Genesis Mental Health, Jail Visitation, Maryhouse, Mustard Seed School, and Sister Nora's Place.

Sr. Libby explained that she welcomes each guest to Loaves and Fishes. She believes that it is her most important duty to be present to the most vulnerable population of disabled, poor and homeless. She will be leaving Loaves and Fishes in just a few days to undertake a new mission. Continuing to serve those living on the street, she is developing a ministry aptly named Mercy Pedalers. The Mercy Community is giving Sr. Libby its full support. She will ride a bicycle in town interacting with homeless folks on the street. The Pedalers will provide water, coffee, referrals as appropriate, but most importantly they will build relationships. As a Mercy Pedaler, she will be cycling to bring mercy, care, love, and dignity to the homeless in the streets. Sr. Libby's address was inspiring.

Business Meeting

Credentials report: Suzi Bakker

Bylaws require a quorum of 10 percent (10%) of the membership.

Number of members: 188

Number required for quorum: 19
Number of voting members in attendance: 30
Number of guests: 3 (nonvoting)
A quorum was present

Rules of the Day

It was moved by Suzi Bakker and seconded by Suzanne Phinney to adopt the Rules of the Day, as printed on page 2, of the Call to Annual Meeting. The Rules of the Day were adopted.

Order of Business

It was moved by Barbara Hopkins and seconded by Trisha Uhrhammer that the Order of Business as printed on page 3 of the Call to the Annual Meeting be adopted. The Order of Business was adopted.

Appointment: Minute Readers

Alice Ginosar and Suzanne Phinney were appointed to approve the minutes.

Procedural Announcement

Paula Lee advised that index cards for "Directions to the Board" were being distributed. She asked that they be used to let the Board of Directors know what the Board could do to better serve the members and the community. She reminded members that the Board is a volunteer board with no staff, so she urged members to think about what role the members might play in implementing their suggestions. The new Board will review these suggestions. The cards were collected at the end of the meeting.

Co-presidents' Report:

Nancy Compton updated the members about the upcoming state convention that LWVSC is hosting. A great deal of work has been put into this endeavor. LWVSC will be hosting a Friday evening dinner, Paddlewheels and Pulitzer, on the Delta King (sold out). A raffle, benefitting the local league, will be held with the prize being an original cartoon by Jack Ohman, Sacramento Bee Editorial Cartoonist. He will be the guest speaker at the dinner.

Paula reported that a League focus this past year has been on local city governance. Paula has been the League's lead on this effort and has collaborated with Common Cause for the last two years. The voters approved a charter amendment to create an independent redistricting commission and the City council adopted a transparency ordinance and ethics code and a five member ethics commission. Work to implement needs to continue. Common Cause has a grant to create resources for cities to create such commissions. Common Cause will also create an ordinance generator, which will be available on their website. We can now be a model for other cities providing "how to" and specific language. The LWVSC will host a caucus on creating an independent redistricting commission for delegates at the state convention.

Treasurer's Report:

Suzi Bakker, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report as of May 24, 2017, including the final

report for the 2015-2015 fiscal year. She indicated she will email reports to all members. Suzi noted that there had been a \$500 refund from an insurance overcharge. She further noted that rent was reduced due to a monthly remittance of \$200 by the Americans Against Gun Violence for use of our mailing address. Spending on the Anne Rudin scholarships was increased in 2015-2016 because we had not awarded a scholarship in the previous year.

Suzi also advised that the League was a beneficiary of the Nina Byers estate in the amount of \$77,343. This money has not been included in the budget. A committee, open to all members, will be formed to determine guidelines and plans for the money.

Proposed Budget:

Suzi Bakker then introduced Nancy Findeisen, Chair Budget Committee. Nancy presented the proposed 2017-2018 budget of approximately \$20,000. She noted that the budget's proposed income of \$9000 from dues and \$5000 from donations. However, expenses are \$5000 more than income primarily due to the per member payments to the state and national Leagues. The Committee recommends using reserved funds to cover the deficit. She underscored the need to focus attention in the coming year on resource development, so as not to continually dip into reserves. She pointed out that this is a "conservative" budget. Looming on the horizon though is an additional cost associated with an office move. The Board has determined that the League should have an office, and the current office lease expires in August. The Board is considering a move with the state office to the Elks Building. Nancy thanked the members of the Budget Committee

Suzi Bakker moved that the 2017-2018 budget as printed on pages 4 and 5 of the Call to the Annual Meeting be adopted. A second is not required because the recommendation had been made by the Board. Motion passed. Budget was adopted.

Local Program:

Paula Lee presented the local program for 2017-2018, which was published on page 8 of the Call to the Annual Meeting. Paula pointed out that program planning was discussed at all the unit meetings. Information gathered at the units was sent to the Board and the Board determined the priorities based on that information and the commitment of resources available. She thanked everyone involved in this process. She further explained that mid-level priorities would warrant perhaps a special meeting (e.g. immigration) unlike high level priorities that require proactive engagement. As to non-recommended items, Paula explained that the Board did not recommend any of the three: Ranked Choice Voting, Foster Care, and Water. As to the first, no one stepped forward to undertake this as a committee chair. As to the latter two, Paula explained that both issues are priorities for the State League.

Paula Lee moved to retain the current Government positions: Budget, City Governance, Government Organization, City of Sacramento Mayor's Office (full time), and Merit. No second is required because the recommendation was made by the Board. Motion passed.

Paula Lee moved to retain the current Human Resources/Social Policy positions: Child Care, Housing, Juvenile Justice, Los Rios Community College District, and Pay Equity. A second is not required because the recommendation was made by the Board. Motion passed.

Paula Lee moved to retain the current Natural Resources positions on Flood Control, Land Use/Planning, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Transportation, and Water for Sacramento County with the Flood Control language amended to add “where there is a potential for significant property damage” to read : In areas of high flood risk, as defined by FEMA, LWVSC supports:

- a. “In most instances, where there is a potential for significant property damage, banning new building until 100 year protection has been certified by FEMA”. A second is not required because the recommendation has been made by the board. Rick Bettis explained the amendment pointing out that the levees are being upgraded to handle a 100 year flood. Motion passed.

In response to questions about the amendment, Rick Bettis explained this clarification was because the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations define the entire floodplain for a stream as “High Risk” including the overbank areas outside of the stream itself. This could be areas where the depth of flooding is very shallow. FEMA allows building in these areas provided the building floor elevation is at least a foot above calculated regulatory water surface elevation. He gave an example of the Galt home of a past LWVSC President which is located in a regulatory "High Risk" floodplain adjacent to the Cosumnes River although her home is elevated on concrete piers above the floodplain. She and her husband used a canoe to get from their car to the house during the very large storms this past winter.

In response to a question regarding "200 year" protection, it was explained that this was State legislation which set a State policy for major streams through urban areas. The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. (in cooperation with the federal US Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Water Resources) is completing work on the American and Sacramento Rivers to upgrade the levees to meet this new standard.

Paula Lee moved to adopt Making Democracy Work locally as an Issue for Education and Advocacy for 2017-2018. A question was raised about whether there was a local study. No recommendation for such was made and Making Democracy Work is an overarching priority for State LWV. LWVSC will be working in collaboration with other groups on registration and implementation of SB450, which will replace polling places with 76 voting centers in the County if the Board of Supervisors approves the plan for Sacramento County to be one of several pilot counties in the state. A voter education campaign is among the plans. Question arose regarding previous discussion about reaching out to other local groups for collaboration. Nancy and Paula both stated that this is an on-going endeavor. The recent forums Mother by Choice and Immigration were sponsored with multiple partners and the League will continue to partner with other groups on Voter Service activities as well. Motion passed.

Paula Lee moved to adopt Homeless and Affordable Housing, Local Climate Change, and Local Immigration Issues as Mid -Level Issues for and Education and Advocacy for 2017-18. An inquiry was made regarding the mid-level designation of Homeless and Affordable Housing by Alice Ginosar. After some discussion, Alice indicated that she would provide information about meetings etc. to members, so that increased LWVSC presence can be achieved with regard to

these issues especially at Sacramento City Council and Board of Supervisors meetings. Information can be posted on the website. Motion passed.

Membership Report

Suzi Bakker reported that there are nine fifty-year members in the League. There has been an increase in supported and student memberships. A fund is dedicated to making up the difference between what students and members can pay vs. the cost. Suzi reported that we now have 188 members.

Voter Service Report

Louise Einspahr reported that Voter Services provided many registration opportunities. The volunteers presented to groups the pros and cons of the numerous ballot initiatives, hosted candidate forums, and educated some on how to help register seniors to vote. Louise thanked the members, who worked on Voter Services programs. She indicated that Voter Services will be involved in the planning for the implementation of the Voters Choice Act for which Sacramento County is a pilot. There will be a need to educate the community on the changes to voting. We also must look forward and plan for the 2018 elections now only a year away.

Suffragists Club and Anne Rudin Scholarship:

Trisha Uhrhammer reported on the Suffragists Club, which was founded in 1995. Currently there are 35 households and 42 individual members. The club is made up of members who donate monies in addition to their dues. This funding goes into the general fund. Annually the Suffragist members meet, most recently in Trisha's garden. In the past few years, they have paired with the Anne Rudin scholarship program for a reception. The \$1,000 Scholarship is given to a woman whose major is in the field of public policy or one that benefits the public good. The LWVS continues to receive applications from exemplary students, offering evidence that the scholarship is highly valued.

Adoption of By- Laws Amendments

Nancy Compton advised that the members had all received a copy, included in the Call, of the proposed amendments to the by-laws. She advised that these amendments had been approved by the Board. In response to a request to highlight the changes, Nancy and Paula Lee responded. The majority of changes made were technical. Others included eliminating the 3rd Vice President position, changes the composition of the Executive Committee to be the elected officers, authorizes co-presidents, and expands the time period during which annual meetings may be held. Nancy called for a motion to adopt the LWVSC by-laws as amended. Suzie Bakker so moved: Barbara Hopkins seconded. Motion passed.

Paula Lee moved that the LWVSC Secretary be authorized to correct spelling, punctuation, etc., and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the organization in connection with the amendments just made to the bylaws. Second not required. Motion passed.

Nominating Committee Report

Louise Einspahr provided the committee report in behalf of Trudy Schafer. An updated report was

available to all attendees. Asking those present to stand when their name was announced, Louise submitted the following nominations:

Co-Presidents: Nancy Compton, Claudia Bonsignore

1st Vice President: Paula Lee

2nd Vice President: Kate Van Buren

Secretary: Bernadette Lynch

Directors (two year terms): Heather Skinkle, Marina Perez, Theresa Rivera, and Barbera Bass.

Director (filling behind Lynch for one year term) Kristine Rekdahl.

Louise noted that the Treasurer Suzi Bakker is continuing in a two year term as are Directors: Rick Bettis, Louise Einspahr, and Mahnaz Khazari. Louise further submitted the names of the off-board members of the nominating committee: Trisha Uhrhammer (Chair), Roseanna Torretto, and Catherine Troka.

Louise thanked the members of the Nominating Committee: Trudy Schafer, Bernadette Lynch, Mignon Marks and Barbara Hopkins. Paula Lee thanked Louise.

Nominations from the floor

Paula Lee indicated to the members that having heard the nominating committee report, nominations from the floor were now in order. She reminded members that any nominee must consent before a nomination may be made.

First considered were nominations for officers and directors. She asked all who were named to then come forward for a group picture. She proceeded with the nominations for officers and directors:

For Co-Presidents, Nancy Compton and Claudia Bonsignore were nominated. There being no further nominations for Co-president, the nominations were closed.

For First Vice President, Paula Lee was nominated. There being no further nominations, the nominations for First Vice President were closed.

For Second Vice President. Kate Van Buren was nominated. There being no further nominations, the nominations for Second Vice President were closed.

For Secretary, Bernadette Lynch was nominated. There being no further nominations, the nominations for Secretary were closed.

For Directors, Kristine Rekdahl was nominated to fill a Director position vacated by Bernadette Lynch with a term ending in 2018. There being no further nominations for Director for this term ending in 2018, the nominations for Director with a term ending in 2018 were closed.

For Directors, Heather Skinkle, Marina Perez, Theresa Riviera and Barbera Bass were nominated

with a term ending in 2019. There being no further nominations for Director for a two- year term ending in 2019, the nominations for Director with a two-year term ending in 2019 were closed.

Directors Rick Bettis, Louise Einsphar, and Mahnaz Khazari, and Treasurer Suzi Bakker are continuing two-year terms ending in 2018, and thus they were not subject to election.

Paula continued with consideration of the nominations for the members of the nominating committee:

Trisha Uhrhammer was nominated for Chair of the Nominating Committee. There being no further nominations, the nominations for Chair of the Nominating Committee were closed.

For off-Board members of the Nominating Committee, Roseanna Torretto and Catherine Troka were nominated. There being no nominations for off-Board Nominating Committee members, the nominations were closed.

Paula called for the question of the election of officers and Directors and the members of the Nominating Committee. The vote was taken and the officers, directors, and the Nominating Committee members were elected.

Paula and Nancy recognized the new Board. A group picture was taken. Paula advised that appointments for any other Board and off-Board positions, as well as, two members of the Board to serve on the nominating committee will be made by the new Board at their first meeting.

Announcements

Nancy Compton reminded all that there will be no VOTER in June, July, or August.

She reminded members that an office move will happen in August. She asked if anyone is famous for their organizational skills to kindly help with the move. Even without famous skills, any and all help will be much appreciated. Paula Lee thanked Theresa Riviera for facilitating the use of the SEIU building for the meeting. Both Nancy and Paula thank everyone for all of the food!

Nancy adjourned the annual meeting of the LWVSC at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bernadette Lynch, Acting Secretary
June 19, 2017

