

LOWER KEYS LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINUTES OF 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

February 12, 2022

Zoom Meeting 10:00 AM

IN ATTENDANCE: Marge Holtz, President; Kathleen Shackle, Treasurer; Membership Chair, Dawn Messing, Suzanne Sullivan, Secretary; Voter Services Chair, Joan Wallin; Communications Chair, Anne Barnett; Dave Arnold, Environmental Chair; Mark Songer, LWVFL Treasurer; Emily Sorkin, Jeffrey Frost, Kathryn Norris, Loretta DiTocco. A total of 21 in attendance for the business meeting. President Marge Holtz called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

A **Quorum** was present

Welcomt to Shriley Freeman and Harvey Server

The **Agenda** was accepted as submitted.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting were accepted as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Submitted by Kathy Shackle, Treasurer

1. Submitted the Financial Report to Members as of 2/1/2022. The final report at the end of the Fiscal Year on March 31, 2022 will be forwarded to the Audit Committee for final review.
 - MOVED AND ADOPTED BY ACCLAMATION. **Herewith attached.**
2. Treasurer Kathy Shackle presented the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget, beginning April 1, 2022, and ending March 31, 2023 for adoption.
 - MOVED AND ADOPTED BY ACCLAMATION. **Herewith attached.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- President's Report on State of the Lower Keys League of Women Voters
- Our Mission governs our operations and activities:
 - The Lower Keys League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.
 - We do not support candidates or political parties,
 - but we do support legislation and various issues
 - If we do take a position on an issue, it is through study and consensus. That process takes about 2 years.
 - Vote411 is a league project that provides personalized information to voters such as registration status, what's on their ballot in your community, where to vote
 - Our members research and enter all that information specific to our communities into the League's national Vote411 database. Our volunteers worked on that during the runup to the election.
- There are several months each year that have five Tuesdays. We use those Tuesdays to conduct events focused on the community or a specific element of community interest.

- It has been an interesting year for all of us.
 - Spent the entire year conducting meetings via Zoom
 - Early in the year, in February, we named President Emeritus Joan Wallin as our Unsung Hero, and she was recognized by the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys for her contributions to our league and the community.
 - That was one of the many virtual events that occurred during the year.
 - Joan was a founding member and the founding President of the Lower Keys league and truly the cornerstone of our organization
 - She is stepping back from some lower keys activities as she shares her residency with us and with central Florida.
 - I cannot begin to tell you how much we will miss her presence – but we know where to find her!!
 - We cautiously continued with Zoom meetings throughout the spring as we learned to live with Covid – and tried to figure out what we could do to involve the community in League activities.
 - I attended the State League Convention in June – via Zoom, of course where we welcomed Cecile Scoon as our new State president.
 - The board ventured to Salute for a live-and-in-person board meeting in July before we were all but shutdown again.
 - County Commissioner and Mayor Michelle Coldiron was our 5th Tuesday Speaker in July where she spoke about the challenges of managing a county spread among islands and swamps – and rising sea levels.
 - We participated in Constitution Day and Voter Registration Day at the College of the Florida Keys in September, which was yet another virtual event.
 - November had another 5th Tuesday, and Mark Songer walked us through how redistricting works and what to watch for during the process. It is not as simple as drawing a few lines and counting people.
 - In December we met for a holiday gathering where we could actually see members in person.
 - We learned about Ranked Choice Voting in January. The league has no position on this form of voting but is studying it for consideration.
 - We completed some administrative tasks such as updating position descriptions and undergoing a financial audit which we passed.
 - The Florida Legislature made voting and voter registration more difficult when they passed Senate Bill 90 in the 2021 session.
 - Registering voters is the League's bread and butter.
 - Lower Keys members stepped up and took the required training ensuring we are properly certified to register voters under the requirements of the new law.

- In all candor, it was not an easy year, but we did persevere, and we will continue to do so. This is a mid-term election year so the league will be involved in Vote411 preparation.
 - Many thanks to the current board members for hanging with me.
 - I personally could not have done it without you and your support.
 - For all members, please get involved with our programs in the coming year.
 - Our meetings and speaker events, the 5th Tuesday Civics Lessons, voter registration assistance.
 - Our work is important and crucial to our democracy.
 - And help us grow our membership
 - Bring a friend to a meeting;
 - Or to help with League activities.
- Finally, I can say with certainty that we WILL NOT be having any more Zoom meetings in the near term.
- **Report from LWVFL – Mark Songer**

State League Update 2-12-22

Redistricting:

- LWV had an influence in Senate maps, not as much in House due to their initial partisan approach and subsequent lack of transparency
- Congressional maps are still to be negotiated between the chambers; Governor is playing to the base with a more partisan map that reduces the potential for minorities to elect a candidate of choice
- A press event is planned for Monday 2-14 with All Voting is Local to continue pressure to follow the law and constitution
- Litigation as a solution is a difficult choice. Big concern is that bringing a suit in state courts would allow judicial precedents that undermine Fair Districts amendment to the constitution. Big concern in Federal courts is the continued erosion of Voting Rights Act and hands-off approach on gerrymandering.
- Stay tuned

Looking Ahead

- Council meeting is Saturday March 12th. Main goal is to approve a budget for the coming fiscal year. We'll also have updates from the President Cecile Scoon on current activities, legislation and a look forward to the fall election cycle.
- LWVUS Convention is June in Denver Colorado. Florida will be looking for delegates, so if you would like to attend and get involved, please contact Leah Nash at the state office. Registration was not open on the US website last week when I looked.
- The voting suppression lawsuit relating to the Senate Bill 90 continues. Feedback has been positive regarding the league's witnesses. This is not an easy win. We expect there will be a change in the required statements when registering voters that currently make us explain there is no guarantee that the registration form will be turned in to the Supervisor of Elections in a timely manner. Current legislation being considered would continue to restrict vote by mail by adding multiple required signatures, envelopes and steps to using the ballot. It may be several months before we know the court's ruling on the 2021 laws we are challenging.
- The coming year state programs will include a training event for local league leaders and members. Look for opportunities to increase your media skills and incorporate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in all your activities.

- Lobby Days for 2023 session is being planned for next March. We have found that going earlier during session makes us more effective. We're also considering how to have a presence during committee weeks or months prior to session.

Attacks on democracy continue, particularly in Florida. Thanks for your attention to action requests from the state league and please keep your attention focused. We are making a difference with league programs. It is worth the time and effort.

- **Voter Service report for 2021 Annual Meeting-Joan Wallin**

- League Annual Meeting February 2022
- When you read our mission statement, you'll see Empowering Voters - Defending Democracy. That mission has never been more significant than now. Our democracy is under attack. Since the Florida legislature now has a solid majority of a single party in both the house and senate plus the Governor's office, decisions on significant issues rest in the hands of a single party. Bills are being passed without the support or significant input of the other party. Nor is compromise needed except within the majority party. Local governments' ability to make decisions and pass laws on local issues is being limited by the State Legislature. Voters' ability to register to vote and easily exercise their right to vote are being restricted by proposed legislation. A number of bills are moving through the legislative process that make it harder to vote, stymie free speech, put onerous restrictions on women's reproductive rights, diminish public education, censor classroom and library resources, and force the state government's will on our local communities. The League is also closely monitoring the redistricting process to be sure it adheres to Florida's constitutional requirements. The State House and Senate are moving forward for Supreme Court approval. Congressional districts are not done yet.
- The Florida League of Women Voters is actively lobbying. But they need your help. We need you to do three things. One. Read the Capitol Report to stay informed on what is happening during this legislative session. It gives you bill numbers and details on the issues I just mentioned. I can't cover all the relevant issues in the short time we have together here. Two. When you see an Action Alert, please respond by contacting legislators to express your opinion. Three. Help us get out the vote and inform voters on the issues and candidates in the 2022 election. Voter turnout is traditionally very low in non-presidential elections. It's about half that of a presidential election year.

- **Vote 411**

- Vote 411.org is a website. We first used Vote411.org in 2018 as our voter information platform. Since then, we have reached thousands of voters using this resource. Vote 411 offers detailed information on state and local candidates; provides self-created sample ballots; and connects voters to registration and update tools. Online voter registration is especially important now. The State has made in person registration more difficult with the requirement to inform voters that the organization registering them to vote may not file their registration to the appropriate office within the required time. Online registration eliminates that roadblock. They can also read the pros and cons on any Florida constitutional amendments or local referenda. The Florida Legislature is considering two amendments to place on the Fall ballot this session. One amendment would permit the legislature to recall local office holders. Currently, only local governments have that authority. The second possible amendment may limit what topics a ballot initiative could cover. Topics would be restricted to procedural subjects and structure of government. At this time, Florida citizens can propose amendments on issues the legislature declines to address like minimum wage and medical marijuana.

- Our job is to provide information on local races like our Key West, Marathon, and Monroe County candidates. We have kicked off the Upper and Lower Keys 2022 online vote411 voter information project and need your help.
- We're seeking members who will assist with contacting candidates, putting information into a spreadsheet, and proof reading documents before they go live. All work will be completed remotely. The work is not hard or time-consuming. This is an excellent opportunity to help with an important project that empowers voters.
- Also please start thinking about what questions you would like us to pose to all candidates for local and county offices. Questions should be open ended and specific to a particular office. IE. Mayor of Key West, Monroe County School Board. We will send them to the candidates in June and post their responses on vote411. Our goal is to have our vote411 site go live before the vote-by-mail ballots are sent out for the August primary.
- For a democracy to thrive citizens must be actively involved. By joining the League of Women Voters, you have demonstrated you care. Now we need you to get involved. You can reach me at joanwallin@me.com or post your candidate questions in the chat room.
- **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:**
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT 2022. Jan. 15, 2022
- The 2022-2023 Nominations Committee, including Sue Sullivan, chair; Toby Armour and Mary Sheerin, present the following slates of officers, board members and 2022-2023 Nominations Committee to the Board of Directors and the Membership.
- **SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**
 - Jeff Frost has accepted the nomination for a 2-year term as Treasurer
 - Anne Barnett has accepted the nomination for a second 2-year term
 - Dave Arnold has accepted the nomination for for a 2-year Director position
 - Elizabeth Levi has taccepted the nomination for for a 2-year Director position

Completing ongoing terms:

- President Marge Holtz has one year left of her term.
- Secretary Sue Sullivan has one year left of her term.
- Membership Chair Dawn Messing as one year left of her term.
- Media Chair Emily Sorkin has one year left of her term.

- **SLATE of NOMINATING COMMITTEE | 2022-2023 | one year term**

- Board member: Elizabeth Levi

Member at large: Donna Windle

Member at large: Loretta DiTocco

MOVED AND ACCEPTED BY ACCLAMATION - BOTH SLATES.

Business meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Sullivan, Secretary

Welcome Rhona Haag, the Chief Resilience Officer for Monroe County. Presentation on Countywide Roads Adaptation Project and planning effort.

Lower Keys LWV FY 22-23 Budget for Membership Adoption

Version Date 01/03/22	Notes	Admin	Advocacy	Fund Raise	Public Policy	Voter Par- ticipation	Total
Membership Dues	Estimate based on 2021 membership			2,900			2,900
Donations	Same as 2021-22 budget, average of prior years			1,427			1,427
Grants							-
Total Income		-	-	4,327			4,327
PMPs	Dues to State & US			2,200			2,200
Paypal Fees	FY 20-21 \$101			110			110
Bank fees							-
Mailbox Rental	PacMail	120					120
Event Expenses	Don't anticipate in-person meetings for > 3 months due to COVID		200		600	200	1,000
Web Hosting/Manag		180					180
Domain Renewal		60					60
Marketing	Signs, Nametags, etc			100			100
License/Permit	FL Corp Filing Fee	62					62
Misc Admin	Postage, Office supply	100					100
vote411.org	01/20 every 2 yrs (due 2022)					150	150
Total Expenses	03/31/20 \$4,203 03/31/21 \$2,610	522	200	2,410	600	350	4,082

Net Income

245

February 2021	Treasurer's Report: 7 February 2022 Lower Keys LWV Board Meeting		
Checking account Balance on 1 February 2022			\$7,881.98
January Income			
<u>Donations:</u>			
Matthew G. Helmerich		\$ 190.00	Check #8209 Sojourner Truth
			Total Donations: \$190
Membership Dues:			
Matthew G. Helmerich		\$ 60.00	
Dawn Messing/Jeff Frost		\$ 85.00	Paypal 01/11/22
Linda Grist-Cunningham		\$ 60.00	Paypal 01/19/22
			Total Dues: \$205
Total January Income		\$ 395.00	
January Expenses			
Paypal fees		\$ 6.04	Fees for \$0
Other		\$ -	
Total January Expenses		\$ 6.04	
Total Outstanding		\$ -	0
PayPal Balance on 1 February 2022		\$ -	0
Petty Cash Balance			\$ 21.94
Total 501 (c) (4) Assets			\$7,903.92
*Education Account Balance		\$ 431.92	These are 501(c)(3) funds in accrual acc. maintained by the State League See attached spreadsheet from State