

Minutes of League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County

Board of Directors Meeting January 13, 2010, 6pm

Present: Susan Novak, Ellen Dunbar, Marsha Waggoner, Hanna Renning, Mary Giventer, Mildred Kinser, Michele McNeil, Lynn Kelso, and Sue Chaffee

Call to order: 6:03pm by 1ST Vice President, Susan Novak

Excused: Ellen Meyer, Marie Bairey, Jean Tenney

Minutes: Sue moved, Hannah seconded and the board approved the minutes of the November 11, 2009 meeting.

President's Report: Ellen will email last year's reports as guidelines to put together Annual Reports that are due no later than March 23rd. KEEP THEM SHORT.

2nd VP: Holiday Fling was attended by a smaller number this year for a variety of reasons. Both the food and entertainment were excellent. It was suggested that the Secretary write Thank Yous if President Meyer had not already done so. The Program Planning meeting will be held January 20th. The word "concurrence" is being suggested by National which means that a complete, new study does not have to be done. Hannah has planned to do the meeting like last year where we will break into 3 groups.

Treasurer's Report: Michele handed out the Treasurer's Report: Actual Income to Date: \$13,966.13, expenses, \$9,981.50, with a balance of \$3984.63. The use of email vs. bulk mail was discussed to keep costs low. It was suggested we begin to look at a change. Through use of the Voter we will begin to prepare members for a survey to see the desire, with the cost taken into account, of what the members want. Sue Chaffee moved, Ellen Dunbar seconded and the board approved the direction of looking at a survey.

Finance Drive: About the same number of donors contributed, but the contributions were less this year.

Membership: 137. The death of Betty Cohen was noted. It was suggested that we use the Lunch and Learn as a monthly Membership Event since the number of people coming has increased and the speakers that have been lined up have perhaps been as effective at getting new members as a special onetime membership drive might be. Lunch and Learn for January 26th will be Mary Sherwood from the Stanislaus County Medical Reserve Board and for February 23rd- Jorge Perez will speak as the Outreach Coordinator from Modesto City Schools and how their services attempt to combat gangs. .

Voter Service: Forum plans for the county elections June 8 are being made. It is hoped that they will take place sometime between May3-14. All expenditures for these forums need receipts given to Michele for repayment. The SEIU election was monitored by Phyllis Hart and Deidre Bush-West. We received \$50 for our services.

Public Relations: No Report

Nominating Committee: Susan Novak, Mildred Kinser, Laurie Carley and Seena Rhine met. The board agreed to do a brunch at Appetez for the Annual Meeting to possibly be held May 8 or May 22. The committee is open to speaker ideas,-Linda Romero-Sales, the Court Administrator was suggested. Other speaker ideas will be sought from membership.

Local Action: Marie sent report via email to board members.

State and National Action: Sue mentioned the website is interesting and the Congressional bills can be tracked there. The State Government information is available to all. Sue would like to get a focus group started that would look at different areas to follow, such as on the national level the health care bill, immigration, partisan information, and on the state level the water, and air bills, the budget and redistricting. There is good information on the way about the Census. Much is going on.

VOTER: there will be a February/March issue. There needs to be a decision about the date of the Spring Membership event in order for Jean (not present) to set a Voter article deadline. Lynn will contact Margie Lipsky about any plans she might be making. We again discussed the need for a Spring Membership Event- is it really necessary? Board members suggested that the Lunch and Learn become a monthly membership drive with a personal call to visitors after the lunch. Susan Novak will ask Ellen Meyer to put this on the February agenda for discussion and a vote by the Board. Lynn Kelso will discuss the idea with Margie Lipsky. The direction was suggested because in recent years no one joins as a result of the Spring Membership drive and perhaps we can ask members to "Bring a Friend to Lunch and Learn" and that would be more successful than a onetime meeting. There would also be a cost savings.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Waggoner, acting secretary