

**Darien League of Women Voters (LWV)
Annual Meeting Minutes, Friday, June 26, 2020
10:00 AM Zoom Call**

Attendees:

Clara Sartori, Martha Banks, Millyn Gaaserud, Joan Davis, Kate Larson, Vicki Baldwin, Gwen Mogenson, Karen McNicoll, Evonne Klein, Mary Genco, Amy Zerbe, Jill McCammon, Sue Okie, Stephanie Maher, Karla Coe, Theresa Vogt, Shannon Silsby, Adele Conniff, Enid Oresman, Nina Miller, Vivian Liu, Shelly Skoglund

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Clara Sartori at 10:04 AM.

Approval of May 23 Minutes

The minutes of the May 23 meeting were unanimously approved.

Congratulations to Volunteers of the Year

Congratulations were expressed to our volunteers of the year, Evonne Klein and Susan Vogel, for their very successful programming work under the theme "Women Using Their Power to Bring About Positive Change". We had several thought provoking and well attended programs thanks to their efforts.

Presentation and Vote on 2020-21 Proposed Budget and Financial Report

Clara Sartori and Gwen Mogenson explained that this is a conservative budget showing lower membership and contributions. We usually budget to breakeven but will be investing in our website and restocking our stationery supplies. There is \$1000 in the budget for programs given the possibility that we can schedule an event in spring 2021 or an Annual Meeting event. We budget for programs to breakeven.

Stephanie Maher reported that the current bank balance is about \$17,000. Later, Clara Sartori explained that the Darien LWV is in discussions to have the \$5,000 deposit returned by the agents of Rebecca Traister whose program was cancelled by the Covid-19 pandemic. It was suggested that the Darien LWV seek pro-bono legal advice. In addition, the Darien Library has cancelled all events, so they will not be donating space or the expected \$2,500 contribution. This does free up the Darien LWV to look into a Zoom meeting event for which we could charge a fee.

Evonne Klein moved, and Sue Okie seconded a motion to approve the budget. The budget was approved by a unanimous vote.

Discussion and Vote on Proposed By-Law Changes Regarding Board Composition and Remote Meeting Standards

Clara Sartori presented the proposed changes to the By-Laws (Attached). Martha Banks moved, and Joan Davis seconded a motion to approve the changes. The changes were unanimously approved.

Presentation and Vote on 2020-21 Board Nominating Slate

Clara Sartori and Sue Okie explained that, in line with the proposed By- Law changes regarding Board composition, and given the challenges we are facing with the Covid-19 pandemic, we will only vote on the Executive Committee candidates this year. Clara asked for nominations from the floor for any members who wish to be considered for an Executive Committee position, and none were offered. Kate Larsen moved, and Martha Banks seconded a motion which was unanimously approved for the following slate:

2020-21 Board Executive Committee Nominating Slate

Co-Presidents: Clara Sartori and TBD
V.P. Voter Education: TBD
V.P. Outreach: TBD
V.P. Communications and Advocacy: TBD
Secretary: Vicki Baldwin
Treasurer: Stephanie Maher
Candidates' Night: Marcy Minnick
Voter's Guide: Martha Banks and Gwen Mogenson
Food for Thought: Karla Coe
Legislative Interviews: TBA
Membership: Shelly Skoglund and Jill McCammon
Membership Book: Sue Okie
Nominating: TBA
Newsprint PR: Joan Davis
Tech Support: Amy Zerbe

Thanks were expressed to the following members who have volunteered their services at large for Executive Committee support: Martha Banks, Carolyn Bayne, Millyn Gaaserud, Mary Genco, Kate Larson, Evonne Klein, Jill McCammon, Nina Miller, Susan Spain, Barbara Thorne, Stacie Tie, Arlene Tulacro, Theresa Vogt, and Laurie Williamson.
The Executive Committee will be communicating staffing as additional activities and initiatives are determined.

Discussion and Vote on Darien League Concurrence with Attached LWVCT Position in Support of Expanded Use of Absentee Ballot Voting for both the CT August Primary and November General elections

At our May 23rd Darien LWV meeting we shared the May 21st Call to Action information and asked members to respond to our gmail account as to whether they supported these initiatives. We heard from over 10% of our membership in favor and no opposing communication. We consider that to be "a state of the meeting" consensus approval.
We are asking for a vote at our Annual Meeting as to whether we concur with the LWVCT's positions on expanded absentee voting.

Per our by-laws (Article VII Sec.3.) One-tenth of the membership shall constitute a basis for consensus or concurrence

Per our by laws (Article IX Sec. 7.) Members are free to contact their legislators on a personal basis but may act in the name of the League of Women Voters only when authorized to do so by

the Board of Directors. They may act only in conformity with and not contrary to a position taken by the LWV of Darien, the LWVCT or the LWVUS.

A vote for concurrence would allow us, as a league, to publicly act in support of this initiative and develop a local voter education campaign.

The group generally discussed the attached LWVCT Legislative Priority regarding Expanded Absentee Ballot Voting. Evonne Klein stated that a special legislative session will be held at the end of July to take effect for the November election. Sue Okie moved, and Evonne Klein seconded a motion for the Darien LWV to support the LWVCT position. The motion passed unanimously.

End of Year Wrap Up Report

In the interest of time, Clara Sartori referred those attending the meeting to attached written version of the 2019-2020-year end report.

Possible Joint Zoom Meeting with the New Canaan LWV

Clara Sartori described a new agenda item which is a possible event with the New Canaan LWV featuring Secretary of state Denise Merrill on voting procedures. The group unanimously approved a motion to pursue.

Motion to Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Baldwin, Secretary