

**Darien League of Women Voters
Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, October 7th, 2020
9:00 AM Zoom Call**

Attendees:

Stephanie Maher, Evonne Klein, Martha Banks, Kate Larson, Karen McNicoll, Vicki Baldwin, Clara Sartori, Amy Zerbe, Mary Genco, Millyn Gaaserud, Theresa Vogt, Arlene Tulacro, Ann Reed, Laurie Williamson, Vivian Liu, Lois Schneider, Carolyn Bayne, Sue Okie, Barbara Thorne, Adele Conniff and Jill McCannon.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Clara Sartori at 9:01 AM.

Approval of Minutes:

Martha Banks moved and Mary Genco seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9th meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Stephanie Maher reported that one new member joined the Darien LWV paying dues and an additional donation. The monthly Zoom fee and the P.O. Box renewal have been paid, and the bank balance on September 30 was \$11,605.41. Discussions continue with regard to the \$5,000 deposit paid for the Rebecca Traister event that could not occur given Covid-19.

Candidates' Night:

Clara Sartori reported that Candidates' Night will be held on October 8th at 7:00 PM. Candidates for the Darien Board of Education will appear in person at Town Hall. There will be no live audience. Attendees will be limited to 25 people in person, including eight timers, four question sorters and essential volunteers. The program will be recorded and run live by Channel 79. Covid 19 guidelines, including socially distancing, masks, etc. will be in effect.

All are encouraged to send in questions to lwvdariendebate@gmail.com and thanks were expressed to all who volunteered to help. All are encouraged to post this information to their social media contacts to increase viewership, live or on rebroadcast.

Voters' Guide Update:

Martha Banks reported that the Voters' Guide this year will only be published online at Darienite.com and on our website lwv.darien.org. We will reach out to the media to let the community know where to find the Voters' Guide. Thanks were expressed to Martha and Gwen Mogenson for organizing this quickly to accommodate early absentee voting.

US Fourth Congressional District Candidate Debate, Jim Hymes (D) vs. Jonathan Riddle (R):

Clara Sartori reported that this debate is scheduled for October 18th in Westport. There will be live appearances by candidates, but no live audience. The Darien LWV may be asked to provide a financial contribution as we have in the past.

Additionally, the Norwalk LWV plans a debate to include Bob Duff and his opponent on October 22nd.

Voter registration at Darien High School (DHS):

Millyn Gaaserud reported that this is scheduled for October 8th at the DHS courtyard during lunch blocks. Volunteers will provide paperless QR scanning to register as provided by the LWVCT. No paper or handouts will be permitted.

Membership and Finance Drive:

A discussion was held on the possibility of doing this year's membership and finance drive online. The effort is led by Shelly Skoglund and Jill McCammon. Some hard mail follow up will be necessary as only about 50-60% of Constant Contact emails are opened. We will need members to promote via social media to attract new members.

Stephanie Maher moved and Mary Genco seconded a motion to pursue this approach. The motion was unanimously approved.

Membership Directory:

Clara Sartori initiated a discussion to move the membership directory online on our website with individual password protection. This is the method adopted by the schools a few years ago. Theresa Vogt volunteered to gather information on cost and functionality of this approach given her experience with schools' use of this approach.

Food for Thought:

Clara Sartori led a discussion to consider continuing this program remotely. Kate Larson agreed to ensure we can continue these gatherings via Zoom.

Announcements / Reminders:

Clara Sartori described the following programs available to the public.

- "What Do I Think" which the Darien LWV is co-sponsoring with Everwell on Monday Nights through the election.
- DCA Neighbors, Global Players Series with S.E. Culp, political commentator on October 13th. Ian Murray, co-founder and CEO of Vineyard Vines is scheduled for October 28th.
- Songs of the Suffragists program to be sponsored by the Darien Library and the Darien LWV of Darien, tentatively scheduled for November. This was recommended by Ann Ferris, whose daughter was instrumental in creating and promoting the program which features a video of the songs of the suffrage movement, and reflects the mood of the country from 1850 to the present. The video explains the origins of the LWV nationally and details the connection between the LWV and other activist movements.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Vigil:

Clara Sartori thanked Evonne Klein for her initiative in planning this event which was attended by more than 50 people on the evening of September 21st. All General Assembly delegates representing this area attended and spoke or sent a message to be read. There were many positive comments from the community.

Thanks were also expressed to Arlene Tulacro and all who attended and helped to organize this event on short notice.

Motion to Adjourn:

Evonne Klein moved and Ann Reed seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Baldwin, Secretary