

**Darien League of Women Voters (LWV)  
Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, January 13th, 2021  
9:00 AM Zoom Call**

**Attendees**

Stephanie Maher, Evonne Klein, Martha Banks, Kate Larson, Vicki Baldwin, Clara Sartori, Amy Zerbe, Mary Genco, Arlene Tulacro, Laurie Williamson, Carolyn Bayne, Sue Okie, Barbara Thorne, Marcy Minnick, Theresa Vogt, Susan Spain, Shelly Skoglund and Karla Coe

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Clara Sartori at 9:03 AM.

**Approval of Minutes**

Martha Banks moved and Evonne Klein seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November 11 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Stephanie Maher reported that the bank balance as of December 31 is approximately \$13,500. There has been no change regarding the \$5,000 deposit paid and not returned for the Rebecca Traister event that could not occur last June given Covid-19. (See discussion below under Programs.)

**Membership Update (Jill McCammon and Shelly Skoglund)**

It was reported that 34 existing members have not yet renewed, following our annual membership and finance drive which was primarily online this year. Membership is now at 60 vs. a goal of 100, with some new members. Members can renew on our website by clicking the red Join square at the top of the home page, then following the directions on how to pay dues and make an additional contribution online. Old members were reminded to pay before the end of January when we are required to pay the state LWV.

Outreach was made to all local elected officials, but few responded.

**Membership Directory (Teresa Vogt and Vivian Liu)**

We plan to move to a password protected membership list on our website. A bound paper version would cost \$300 for 100 copies. Alternatively, the Directory could be printed from the website. It was noted that the online version will likely only be available for one year. This discussion will continue.

The January 31 membership list per the Treasurer will be the data source for the directory. It will be put online as soon as possible after January 31 based on that information.

**Legislative Coffee (Clara Sartori)**

This has traditionally been held in a private home, but the format will have to change to a Zoom call this year. A discussion followed and it was agreed that we should pursue with the virtual format, and not include other Leagues given the added complexity of the new format, and to give local members more opportunity to participate in discussion with legislators. Clara Sartori, Evonne Klein, Martha Banks, Mary Genco, and Laurie

Williamson volunteered to plan the event, including the development of questions regarding legislative priorities.

### **Government Guide (Clara Sartori)**

This has traditionally been a trifold printed brochure, but the suggestion has been made that it now be online on our website. Discussion followed about desired features including email contact information which is preferable to phone and addresses, and the need to promote the Guide. The dilemma was noted that not all local and RTM government officials have made their emails public, or obtained a government email address, which can be challenging. The town website has the information, but it is unclear if it is updated and nevertheless information is not easy to access. Another possibility is a PDF format on the website, which could also be emailed to members. Information should include the role of each elected official. It was mentioned that we should campaign for RTM members to be required to provide a public email address. Stephanie Maher volunteered to assist Clara.

### **Follow up on Songs of the Suffragists**

Thanks were expressed to Jean Sweeney for moderating the discussion. It was co-sponsored with the Darien Library and unfortunately not as well-attended as live events. This could possibly have been a result of limited staff available to register participants on the day of the event, or perhaps also indicated the need to publicize events more. It had been promoted on Twitter but was also held at a busy time between Thanksgiving and the December holidays.

### **Follow up with Registrars of Voters regarding Darien High School Voter Registration Drive in October (Clara Sartori)**

Thanks were expressed to Millyn Gaaserud for coordinating this effort. It was aimed at new, younger voter registration, and we should get some numbers to measure results.

### **Nominating (Sue Okie and Committee)**

Sue will continue on the committee, but we will need to recruit more members to join. We need to recruit many more active board members when we return to a more active calendar, although at large board volunteers are expected to step up when asked.

### **Food for Thought (Karla Coe)**

This is a free form discussion group. The topic is not announced in advance and no advance preparation is required. It has successfully transitioned to a Zoom format.

The December topic was "Is our Constitution/Democracy Strong Enough to Withstand Attempts at its Overthrow. The next session is Thursday, January 21.

Reminders are sent to regular attendees, but information is also provided on Constant Contact. This led to a discussion of the need to ensure that all members are receiving information via Constant Contact.

### **Programs (Clara Sartori and Evonne Klein)**

The "Future of Darien" program, which we had agreed was of interest, will probably be delayed until February. Evonne Klein reported that she has spoken to Stephen Saloom of the Fairfield County Community Foundation which is trying to sponsor this program around the economic future of our region in conjunction with the Darien Library. The program will be free and via Zoom. We will also look at rescheduling the Rebecca

Traister program as a remote event as a way to increase our visibility. We will attempt to negotiate a discount as is the case with most Zoom speakers. Sponsoring a Sunday Movie with the Darien Library is unlikely given current Covid restrictions.

#### **Other Business (Clara Sartori)**

The passing of long-time member Joan Davis was acknowledged, and sympathy expressed. Laurie Williamson moved, and Sue Okie seconded a motion to authorize \$50 donations to both Person to Person and At Home in Darien, Joan's indicated charities of choice. Clara wrote a tribute to Joan when she recently retired from the RTM. Clara will adapt it for possible publication in the Darien Times and inform Joan's daughter of our recognition. Joan had handled our print media contacts and wrote many articles communicating our initiatives and positions. She will be missed.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 3 at 9:00 AM via Zoom.

#### **Motion to Adjourn**

Shelly Skoglund moved and Sue Okie seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vicki Baldwin, Secretary