

**Darien League of Women Voters (LWV)
Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, February 3, 2021
Zoom Call**

Attendees:

Stephanie Maher, Evonne Klein, Martha Banks, Vicki Baldwin, Clara Sartori, Amy Zerbe, Mary Genco, Arlene Tulacro, Sue Okie, Barbara Thorne, Theresa Vogt, Karla Coe, Karen McNicoll, Carolina McGoey, Martha Olson, Vivian Liu, Jill McCammon, Sarah Neuman

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Barbara Thorne moved and Karla Koe seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report (Stephanie Maher)

Stephanie Maher reported that the bank balance as of January 31 is approximately \$18,000. She stated that \$2,200 of income was received in January as membership dues and donations.

Membership Update (Jill McCammon and Shelly Skoglund)

Thanks were expressed to both Jill and Shelly for their efforts. Jill reported that membership now stands at 96, with five new members, compared to a historical total membership of about 125. A discussion followed about reaching out to new members, and recruiting via the Newcomers Club, realtors, and the Town Hall list of new residents. Mary Genco and Carolina McGoey volunteered to reach out to new members, and new member Martha Olson offered to provide insights.

Membership Directory (Theresa Vogt and Vivian Liu)

Theresa reported that a PDF file is easy to prepare utilizing Google forms to create a document to enable members to review and update their information online. This is consistent with the plan to move to a password protected membership list on our website. We also have a spreadsheet containing membership information which is provided to Gwen Mogenson for Constant Contact communications. Since not all members seem to be getting Constant Contact emails, Vivian and Theresa will get the spreadsheet from Stephanie to review., and Carolina volunteered to reach out to Gwen regarding Constant Contact functionality.

Legislative Coffee (Clara Sartori and Committee)

This has traditionally been held in a private home, but will be a Zoom call this year scheduled for 9:00 AM on Thursday, February 25 and planned by Clara and other committee members Evonne Klein, Martha Banks, Mary Genco, and Laurie Williamson. Senator Duff and Representatives Wood and Blumenthal will attend. Evonne recommended from experience that questions be requested in advance and managed via Chat letting participants know that there may not be time for all questions submitted. Carolina suggested that people may prefer to submit questions anonymously, which is possible via an App. The committee will solicit questions from members. The event is for members and guests, so will be publicized internally rather than to the public. Amy Zerbe will organize the Zoom meeting.

Government Guide (Sartori)

This has traditionally been a trifold printed brochure, but will now be online on our website. Nina Miller has volunteered to do research and make phone calls, but we still need technical help. Stephanie Maher will

assist Clara. Additionally, Theresa Vogt, who is on the RTM Rules Committee, will look into “.gov” email addresses for all RTM members.

Voters’ Services (Sartori)

A special election will be held on March 2 to fill Senator Leone’s seat, representing Districts 2 and 4 in Darien, as well as parts of Stamford. Candidates are Josh Esses (R) and Patricia Billie Miller (D). Clara has talked to the Stamford LWV which may host an event. Discussion followed around holding a Zoom event with the two candidates, similar to our Legislative Coffee, and possibly with a moderator to keep the program controlled and balanced. It could also be recorded so that the public can view it later via Channel 79, which Clara will explore.

Food for Thought (Karla Coe)

Karla reported that the last discussion topic was the First Amendment, which the group agreed they may revisit. The forum has successfully transitioned to a Zoom format, and the suggestion was made that a broader notice should go out to all members. While no preparation has been required, in 2021 the group may send out material in advance to give those so inclined to do some research in advance.

Nominating (Sue Okie and Committee)

Sue announced that Evonne Klein has volunteered but additional help will be needed on the committee. We will be encouraging new and young to provide leadership.

Programs (Sartori)

The "Future of Darien" program, which we had agreed was of interest, has targeted March 1, 8 or 11 and we will let them know any conflicts. The Fairfield County Community Foundation plans to sponsor this program around the economic future of our region, in conjunction with the Darien Library. It will be via Zoom, free and open to the public.

A discussion followed regarding rescheduling the Rebecca Traister program as a remote event vs waiting until it can be an in-person event. Part of the issue is understanding our financial options given our \$5,000 paid deposit, their refusal to return it given Covid, and the original \$10,000 charge for a full event. Stephanie Maher, as Treasurer, volunteered to call Simon and Schuster, Traister’s agency, to probe our options from a financial perspective.

LWVCT Call to Action: Contact your State Legislators.

The Agenda provided links and contact information regarding two resolutions to amend the State Constitution on early voting and no-excuse absentee voting.

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

Motion to Adjourn:

Barbara Thorne moved and Stephanie Maher seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Baldwin, Secretary