



LWVCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Board Briefing – Mar. 10th, 2021

The LWVCO Board of Directors met virtually on March 10th, 2021. The meeting began with an icebreaker led by LWVCO's DEI Committee. The Board gathered in four-member virtual breakout rooms to discuss how the proposed Inclusion & Nondiscrimination Policy reflected LWVCO's new approach to DEI. In summary, the Board appreciated how the policy held LWVCO accountable, addressed multiple components of DEI, and optimistically presented DEI as component of success rather than as a challenge to overcome. Following the icebreaker activity, the meeting was spent discussing LWVCO's Bylaws, the proposed FY 2021/2022 Budget, and miscellaneous announcements. Directors' reports, financials, and Jan. 13th meeting minutes were all reviewed and approved in the consent agenda.

LWVCO Bylaws Presentation and Discussion:

Jean Fredlund and Irene Tynes, Chairs of the Joint Committee on Bylaws & Policies (JCB&P), presented a new draft of LWVCO's Bylaws. The presentation was detailed. In summary, the Bylaws had been cut from eleven pages to seven pages, with much of the language being moved from Bylaws to LWVCO's Policies & Procedures. Jean and Irene presented changes to each Article, highlighting how guides from Blue Avocado and the Colorado Nonprofit Association were used in the decision-making process. In previous Board meetings, the JCB&P had already received feedback about the largest proposed changes including a new "Annual Meeting", a new "Executive Director" Article, and the option to revise Bylaws at each "Annual Meeting." The Board identified inconsistent formatting and language, providing little additional feedback about the content. In conclusion, the Board accepted this version of the Bylaws, with the understanding that formatting and language inconsistencies will be resolved before LWVCO members vote on these Bylaws in May.

Nominating Committee Announcement:

While revising the Bylaws, the JCB&P had difficulty determining if the Nominating Committee should be addressed in Bylaws or Policies. Ruth Nerenberg, current Chair of the Nominating Committee, briefly expressed support for the Nominating Committee being the only committee outlined in the Bylaws. Then, she and the JCB&P expressed support for the Nominating Committee being a year-long committee and for the Chair of the Nominating Committee to sit on the LWVCO Board. These changes are reflected in the draft Bylaws and draft Policies.

Executive Director Evaluation Discussion:

Karen Sheek, President, announced the upcoming annual Executive Director evaluation and the opportunity to include Beth Hendrix's evaluation in a LWVCO member survey. Beth Hendrix expressed concerns about having membership participate in her evaluation, as the Board is her boss. The Board was in agreement. Karen suggested that since the primary intent of this survey was to determine if local Leagues felt they were receiving the support they needed from state as well as what's working and what might be improved, a survey from that perspective could be developed. Karen asked the Board to provide survey questions to her by the following Monday.

Budget Conversation

Bonnie Seals, Treasurer, quickly and thoroughly reviewed the proposed FY 2021/2022 budget. She

celebrated LWVCO's improved financial position and a reduction in the amount LWVCO will be pulling from long-term investment accounts. Other notable highlights include providing Vote411 free-of-charge to local Leagues, a new DEI budget line, and increased savings due to fewer in-person events. Bonnie answered a few specific questions, and the Board voted to accept this budget, ready to be voted on by LWVCO membership in May.

Executive Director Report/Goals Discussion

Beth Hendrix offered a few announcements, including upcoming events, Gerry Cumming's upcoming National History Day speaking opportunity, the successful Leader of Democracy 2021 event, and current sexual harassment charges in the Colorado Supreme Court. Deb Armbruster will be monitoring the ongoing investigations into the Colorado Supreme Court as an LWVCO Observer.

Additionally, Beth reported on her conversations with the LWVCO Executive Committee about establishing new, long-term objectives for LWVCO. She presented an initial list of ideas. She recognized that with the successes of Amendments Y&Z and National Popular Vote, LWVCO is in need of lofty, big-picture goals. This conversation prompted the Board to discuss partnership opportunities and recurring partnership challenges. The Board then considered the difficulty in creating geographically diverse coalitions. In conclusion, Beth asked the Board to discuss and establish long-term objectives.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM. The LWVCO Board of Directors will meet again on April 1st at 6:00 PM.