

**LWVBAE Annual Meeting  
May 28, 2015  
Northbrae Community Center**

**Minutes**

President Nancy Bickel called the Annual Meeting of League of Women Voters of Berkeley to order and introduced the Parliamentarian, Bill Chapman, and Secretary, Pat Day. It was determined that there is a quorum to conduct business. (245 total members; 5% is quorum which is 13 members.)

The order of Business as described in the Annual Meeting kit was adopted.

2014 Annual Meeting Minutes as recorded by Angharad Jones were reviewed and accepted on behalf of the membership by the committee of Ruby MacDonald, Jean Safir, and Diz Swift. The committee to review the 2015 minutes was appointed: Cynthia Chen (Chair), Elizabeth Russell, Phoebe Watts.

**Consolidation of LWVBAE and LWV Berkeley Foundation to form LWVBAE-501(c)(3) organization.**

Phyllis Gale moved to adopt the proposed consolidation; Joyce Jackson seconded the motion.

Discussion: The foundation board has already approved.

Vote: 1 abstention, rest voted aye

**Amended Articles of Incorporation for LWV Berkeley**

Sherry Smith moved to adopt the amended articles; Eloise Bodine seconded the motion.

Discussion:

What is purpose of keeping the LWVB, the 501(c) 4, afloat? The purpose is to receive checks or bills that go to that corporation; for example, if in future we decided to solicit donations for specific political action we would not want to put them in the 501(c) 3, because we would want to spend them on political action. Usually, all checks will be transferred to LWVBAE, now the 501(c) 3. Another reason to hold on to the 501(c)(4) is to absorb checks made out to the LWVB, the legal name of the 501(c) 4. However, we have been told that it isn't absolutely necessary to hold on to this old 501(c) 4, because it is not likely that any problems will arise. The 501(c)3 is now LWVBAE and LWVBAE is now tax-deductible. Note: contributions can go into a 501(c)3 for all purposes and from all sources, but there is a 20% limit on expenditures on political action.

Comment made that we will need publicity to make sure people know that they can donate to LWV and not have to go through Foundation to get a tax deduction. The annual solicitation is in the fall; who will be asking for this? By then hope that paperwork is done and LWVBAE will be the 501(c)(3).

Vote: unanimous aye vote.

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**Amended Bylaws for LWV Berkeley**

Sherry Smith moved to adopt the amended bylaws; Jill Martinucci seconded the motion.

Vote: unanimous aye vote.

President adjourned the meeting of LWV Berkeley

**Convening the meeting of LWVBAE 2014-15 Board to admit all current members of LWVBAE as the Board and members of the “new” LWVBAE.**

Carol Stone moved to admit all current members of LWVBAE, the 501(c)(4), as members of the “new” LWVBAE, the 501(c)(3); Sarah Miyasaki seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous aye vote

Meeting of the LWVBAE Board is adjourned.

**Call to order of the first annual meeting of the LWVBAE as a 501(c)(3) corporation**

Deborah Malbec moved that all previous actions of the LWVB, the 501(c)(4), be adopted; Carole Kennerly seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous aye vote

All Past members of the Foundation Board were recognized for their work, including Ora Huth, one of the original incorporators.

Current LWVBAE Board members introduced: Nancy Bickel, President; Sarah Miyazaki, Treasurer; Pat Day, Secretary; Directors Phyllis Gale, Dean Metzger, Barb Singleton, Sherry Smith, Carol Stone. Outgoing members: Pat Day, Dean Metzger, Sherry Smith, Carol Stone. Nancy thanked the four retiring Board members for their service and contributions with certificates of board appreciation.

**Election of 2015-16 Board Members**

Nancy thanked the Nominating Committee (Jane Coulter, Chair; Angharad Jones, Phyllis Gale, and Regina Beatus) for their work in developing the list of candidates for the new 2015-216 Board.

Nominees: Nancy Bickel, President; Sarah Miyazaki, Treasurer; Christine Wenrich, Secretary; Board members Lessly Winkle Field, Phyllis Gale, Deborah Malbec, Jill Martinucci, Barb Singleton, Diz Swift.

Nominations from the floor: Guy Beneviste nominated Dean Metzger as a director; Carol Stone seconded the nomination.

Vote for the officers: unanimous aye

Vote for Nominating Committee: unanimous aye

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Election of Directors

Sherry Smith, Helene Lecar, and Jane Coulter selected to serve as the election committee to count ballots. Seven nominees; each member can vote for up to 6 nominees. Ballots were distributed.

### **Adoption of Proposed 2015-16 Budget**

Tom Coulter, Acting Budget Chair, reviewed the proposed budget. The budget is for the combined organizations. It is basically the same as last year if the budgets for the Foundation and LWVBAE were combined. Primarily the Foundation budget consisted of contributions; practically no expenses. The Foundation just received a \$70,000 bequest so this doesn't show up since it was just received. This was in addition to a \$40,000 previously received. Question on joining two organizations: how will the administration of funds be done? The Board will make decisions. As long as we don't have expenditures more than 20% of total expenditures on paid political activities, it will be okay to use. What are the total assets of the combined organizations? We don't have that information right now. The Treasurer said that combined assets approach \$300,000.

Vote: unanimous aye vote

### **Proposed Program Plan for 2015-16**

Reconfirm our local policy support positions including those we share with all the other Alameda county leagues.

Vote: unanimous aye vote

### **Proposal to Continue to Emphasize Education and Climate Change.**

Each of these topics has an energetic committee working on activities and education.

Question on income inequality. State and local leagues can now work on this since national league changed its policy; lots of local studies are being done. No state level study being done now.

There will be 3 studies this year: state study on higher education; Carol Thomas agreed to chair that committee. This will be conducted jointly with other leagues. Two national studies: (1) rights of individuals and organizations, under the First Amendment, to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities and (2) a Constitutional Amendment Process study.

Vote: unanimous aye vote

### **County council positions: Juvenile justice, children's mental health services and Alameda County Board of Education and Office of Education.**

Proposal to continue to support these countywide positions.

Vote: unanimous aye vote

### **Recommendation to Board**

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Jane Bergen made a recommendation to the new Board on League expenditures. She expressed a worry that the Board is not spending enough on League activities. We have continual fundraising but we don't use the money we have. Board should decide how we can best spend the money we have.

### **President's summary report for 2014-15**

Did not give report due to time constraints but announced 2015 community luncheon with Loni Hancock as the speaker will be held on Sept 21 at Hs Lordships.

She announced that at the State league convention, our web site won award for best website in our category.

### **Voter Services**

Phyllis Gale described plans for 2016 elections. Focus will be on how to best register voters, especially new voters so we are soliciting new ideas how to go about this. Coming into presidential elections, we will need lots more folks to work on this.

Karen Nelson commented that an excellent way to accomplish this is to give young people a League membership when they are 18. Share membership with what is going on with Smart Voter, state league board has decided to extend/continue relationship with Voter's edge so one can find out information including who are donors to efforts.

**Election committee report:** Sherry Smith announced that those elected as Director for 2015 Board are: Lessly Winkle Field, Phyllis Gale, Deborah Malbec, Jill Martinucci, Diz Swift and Barb Singleon. (38 ballots cast)

### **President Concluding Remarks**

Nancy remarks: the League continues to be a marvelous way • to learn about and take action on important public policy issues, • to use the skills and knowledge you have—or • to train and learn new skills and acquire new knowledge. Most of my best friends I met through the League. We invite you to make new friends and get together with longtime friends by working with us in the coming year. With my affectionate appreciation to all of you, I adjourn this Annual Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm