#### League of Women Voters Dane County

# May 11, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

Conducted remotely using Zoom

## Draft May 20

**Present**: Chris Clements, Jean Jacobson,, Barb Feeney, Amber Rottier, Joan Provencher, Bonnie Chang, Laura Grueneberg, Joan Schwarz, Sue Jennik, Elizabeth Kanne, Mary Ellen Schmit

Absent: none

Meeting called to order by President Chris Clements at 5:34pm

#### Group Norms

Chris started the meeting by reviewing the group norms.

#### **Minutes**

Motion to approve the April minutes by Provencher, second Jacobson, approved

#### Treasurer's report

#### **Income Statement**

An operational loss of \$12k was recorded in April. Year to date operational losses total \$46k as compared to a budget loss of \$119k and a gain of \$20k last year.

Revenue for the month was nominal, with \$366 in membership dues and \$400 in rental income from the office sublet. Contributions totalled \$35. General office and payroll expenses accounted for \$12k of the \$13k total operating expenses.

Investment activity included \$39k in unrealized gains. Our first quarterly investment management fee of \$1.3k was charged and deducted from our investment account. Our overall net loss for the month was \$51.9k bringing the year to date loss to \$95.3k.

The chart below presents year to date results as compared to the annual estimate prepared in January. It is still reasonable to expect we can achieve the annual net operating loss of \$54k. The determining factor will be whether we meet our May/June revenue estimate of \$35k. A shortfall in the revenue estimate may very well be partially offset by underspending in the expense categories.

	April Actuals	April Year to Date Actuals	May - June Estimate	FY 21-22 Estimate
Revenue	\$801	\$107,846	\$35,190	\$143,036
Expenses	\$12,514	\$154,368	\$42,881	\$197,249
Operating Loss	(\$11,713)	(\$46,522)	(\$7,691)	(\$54,213)

## **Balance Sheet**

Cash on Hand continues to decline as it is used to support operational needs. Within the next few weeks it will become necessary to withdraw funds from the Memorial Trust Fund as provided in plan policies. These withdrawals include the 4.5% withdrawal authorized to support ongoing operational needs as well as a withdrawal to support the first year salary of the Executive Director position.

## Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Jennik, second Schmit, approved

# **Discussion Agenda**

President's Report - Clements

## **Old Business**

Annual Meeting Submitted questions and responses (May 12) Motions -proactive board Membership Suggestions for (2) readers (confirm accuracy of minutes)

## Board transitions

Domain 1:1 (Resources for Chairs)

Board Onboard<u>Domain 1:1 (Resources for Chairs)</u>ing Job Board Initiative

Announcements -

**Review DEI Recommendations** 

Don't forget Reggie Jackson Event tomorrow night. It isn't too late to register:

Meeting Adjourned at 6:39pm

**Respectfully submitted** 

Joan Provencher LWVDC Secretary

# **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### Finance

The following items were topics at the April Finance Committee meeting:

- Reviewed the Finance Dashboard. Intent is to utilize the Dashboard for Treasurer presentations at the Board Meeting beginning with May Meeting.
- Discussed having Finance Committee members meet periodically with Domain Committees to review Domain Financials and to answer any other financial questions. Will work with the incoming Board to determine interest and to set up a schedule.
- Introduced the role of Assistant Treasurer to be filled by Committee member, Julie Allen, former CFO for Habitat for Humanity. Initially Julie will serve as backup to the Treasurer with the intent to take on specific duties that enhance financial internal controls.
- Presented the Requisitions form reviewed by the Board at the April meeting to the Finance Committee, outlining its intended purpose and the rollout date.
- Introduced the Comparative Norms Agreement recently adopted by the Board. All members were supportive of the Agreement and felt it would be a positive addition to the Committee's meetings each month. The Committee did inquire as to how violations of the agreement are to be dealt with.

The project to create detailed Finance policies and procedures continues. Work to date will need to be reviewed/updated in light of the addition of the Assistant Treasurer position and the determination of how duties will be shared between the two positions.

# **Executive Director**

Spring is a busy month for everyone here at the League!

• Staff and volunteers are busy planning for the <u>Annual Meeting</u>, being held virtually on Thursday, June 2 at 5:30 p.m. Registration will open May 12 (watch your inboxes for an email). This is a lovely time for seasoned members to celebrate another great year but also a great opportunity for you to invite new members you've connected with so they can get to know what's happening across the organization!

- New and returning Board members have been invited to two in-person summer board onboarding training sessions on June 22 and August 1. Please see me if you have any questions. Topics will include:
  - Leadership Expectations
  - Diversity, equity, and inclusion
  - League structure
  - Board meetings & board resources
  - Finance 101 & budgets
  - Technology
  - Building a leadership pipeline
  - How to avoid burnout
  - Community partnerships
  - Internal & external communications
  - Plus, time for socializing and getting to know one another

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- The <u>May Challenge</u> fundraising appeal is underway! (See Fund Development report for more details)
- We also just hired our first-ever **Grant Consultant**! (See Fund Development report for more details)
- I'm working with representatives from the Membership Committee on a new League brochure that illustrates who we are, what we do, our values, and how to join. Expect to see this out and about at our community events starting this summer! We're also working on a membership renewal flyer (See Fund Development report for more details).

## Governance

No report.

## Bulletin

There is no June Bulletin. The next Bulletin will be our Summer Bulletin. Current plans are to publish this in August.

#### **DEI Report**

<u>Owning Our Past, Charting Our Future</u> May Campaign is underway. This provides an opportunity to investigate and own the disparate impact of our actions and systems in our diverse community and eliminate barriers to full participation on the basis of any characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

Please check May Bulletin and E-news for campaign content.

The newly named Defender of Democracy Award (previously called the Carrie Chapman Catt Award will be presented at the Annual Meeting on June 2nd, recognizing outstanding service as a champion of the League's mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

Thank you Chris and Wendy for your astute Letter to the Editor about our DEI efforts. Communication from Leadership is critically important.

There has been insightful discussion about our past, present and future based on our May Campaign written communications. Relevant materials:

https://captimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/letter-lwv-confronts-racist-past-chartsinclusive-future/article\_d1ff6b60-b9f3-5b33-8526-2e8171d30b9a.html

"Amplifying the Good, Learning from the Inexcusable" article in September 2021 Bulletin.

"DEI Committee Update" and "DEI Reflections: First Trust, then Combined Efforts" in the December 2021 Bulletin.

"Owning our Past, Charting our Future", "Study, Discuss, Act", "Are We There Yet? The Never-Ending Journey to Become a Better Ally", "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: DEI Committee History Within LWVDC" in the May 2022 Bulletin.

On Thursday, May 12, at 6 p.m. LWVDC will hold a virtual talk "How We Got Here: The Hidden History of Diversity in America" Co-sponsored by LWV Dane County, LWV Milwaukee County, LWV Ozaukee County, and LWV Wisconsin Speaker: Reggie Jackson, will take a long look at American history and explore our national ambivalence about diversity and inclusion. He will examine the legal and social treatment of Native Americans, enslaved Africans, and White Ethnic immigrants (such as the Irish, Italians, and Jews), as well as immigrants and refugees from Asia and Latin America, and how those experiences have led to the racial and ethnic disparities we witness today. This event is free and open to the public. Registration for this event is on our website.

May 19 DEI Cafe potluck from 5:30 to 6:30PM. We are meeting at South Madison Partnership <u>https://communityrelations.wisc.edu/south-madison-partnership/overview</u>

#### Located in the Villager Mall

2238 South Park Street

Madison, WI 53713

Anyone interested should contact Mary Ellen Schmit, Maryellen.tim@gmail.com

608-770-8244

#### **Fund Development**

The May Challenge kicked off with a mailed letter to all members and non-member donors (since 2019). We received a generous seed gift of \$10,000 to create a match; as of 05/06/22 we have entered more than \$4,000 in gifts, plus the \$10,000 match gift, toward our \$25,000 goal. You can keep track of progress on the home page of our website, thanks to a neat thermometer tool Brook Soltvedt, webmaster, helped us build. The campaign includes email communication, notes in ENews and Bulletin, and possibly social media.

We received three proposals for the grant consultant RFP; a team consisting of Jean Jacobson, Sue Jennik, and Wendy Hathaway interviewed two candidates and selected Angie Wright to begin work at the end of the month. Phase I will consist of in-depth grant prospect research exploring potential funding sources; a narrative report summarizing our fund development situation and recommendations for a grant strategy; as well as a prospecting database including information needed to apply. At that time, the Committee will evaluate Angie's progress and determine whether to retain her services on an ongoing basis to help us write/edit/submit the grants.

Representatives from the Fund Development and Membership Committees are collaborating on a flyer that will be included in member renewal materials this June trying to help answer the questions: "Where do member dues go?" We're hoping this illustrates that dues help fund important work being done at the local, state, and national level ... while also emphasizing how helpful additional donations can be to our work right here in Dane County. (There will be a digital version of this created for the email to current members, as well.)

The Fund Development Committee is also reevaluating its structure, goals, and more for the coming 2022-23 year. We encourage anyone interested in and/or experienced with fund development to join!

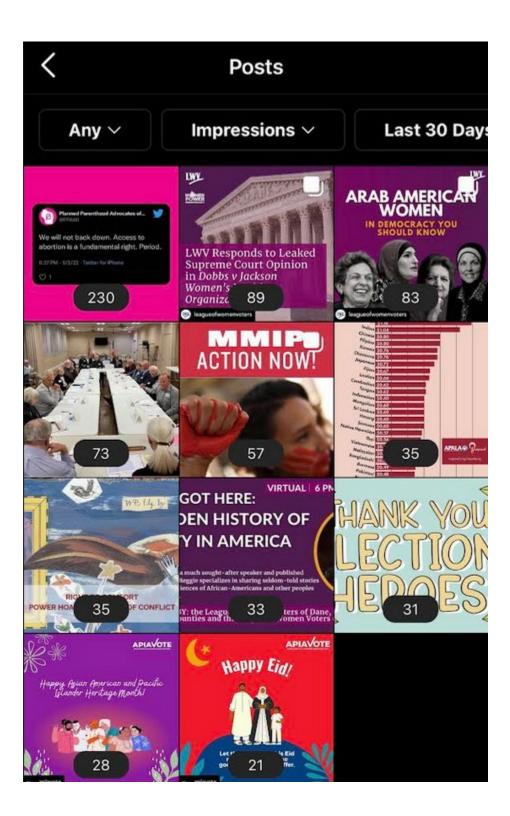
## Communications

Statistics for:

## Instagram

The posts whether they were on the main grid or stories with the highest interactions were those celebrating DEI (AAPIDA month, Arab American Women Month, Eid, Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Awareness Day, EXPO's Second Chance campaign, AAPI Vote's May campaign) and protecting people who give birth the right to choose and body autonomy with 157% higher engagement and new followers.

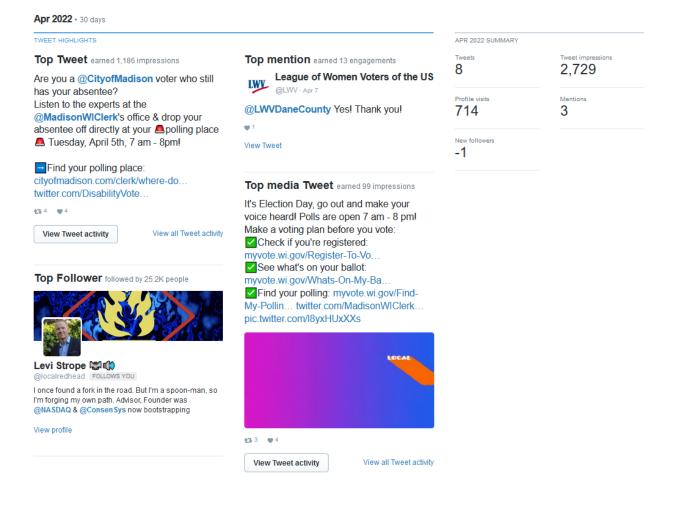
<	Insights	i)
Last 30 Days 🗸	Apr 9 - Ma	y 8
You reached +15	<b>hts Overview</b> 7% more accounts compared Mar 10 - Apr 8	
Accounts reached	<b>445</b> +157%	>
Accounts engaged	<b>33</b> +106%	>
Total followers	<b>622</b> +1.4%	>
Content You Sh 11 Posts	ponds to Leaked Court Opinion V Jackson	> appy

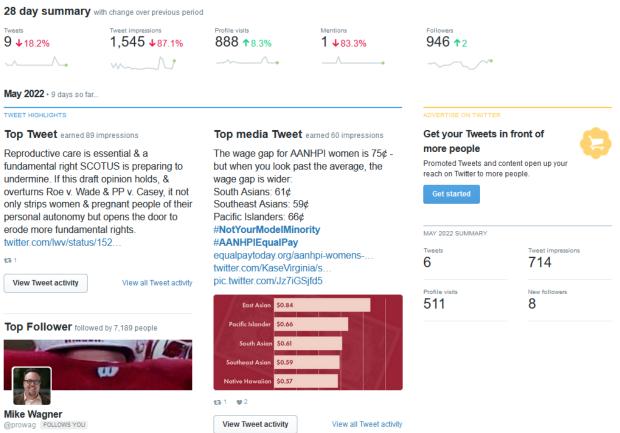




Twitter

Top mention was LWVUS responding to our request for them to repost congratulations to the newest SCOTUS Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson with the correct spelling of the Justice's name.





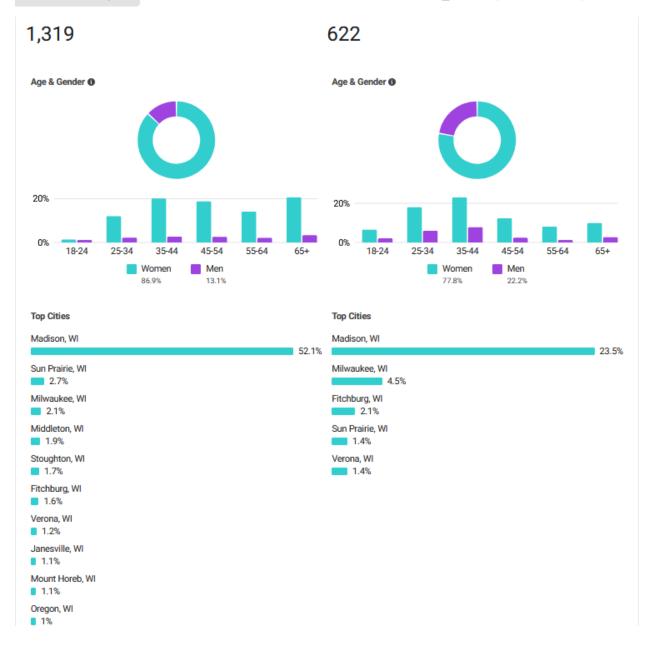
Beloved political scientist, Minnesotan. Journ & Mass Comm Prof. @UWMadison. AE at POQ; Forum Editor, @polcommjournal. 10/10 Room Rater. Trying radical decency.

#### Facebook

ontent			Ads and Posts 💌	🛃 Expo
Recent content ↑↓	Туре	Reach <b>0</b> ↓ Likes and re	actions 10 ↑↓ Comments	<b>①</b> ↑↓
Con May 12 @ 6pm, join Reggie Jac Thu Apr 14, 10:49am	Post	256	8	0
This post has no text Tue May 3, 7:18am	Post	134	2	0
"Although it seems like a laudable Sat Apr 16, 12:31pm	Post	117	2	0
https://www.whitesupremacycultur Sat Apr 16, 12:38pm	Post	108	1	0
This post has no text Wed Apr 20, 11:01am	Post	106	1	0
This post has no text Tue May 3, 6:59pm	Post	99	4	0
The average Asian American / Nati Tue May 3, 11:05am	Post	51	0	0

en Voters of Dane County 🛛 👻

📰 Last 28 days: Apr 11, 2022 - May 8, 2022 📼



**Reminder** - Events are posted on the LWV Dane County's Facebook page for all major League events. Reminders are posted an hour before the event. Press releases are sent for Candidates's Answers and all major League forums.

Publicity continues to request any and all press releases & publicity requests be sent in a timely fashion (per long-standing policy) to <u>publicity@lwvdanecounty.org</u> <u>at least 4</u> <u>weeks ahead of the event</u>, following all Editorial Guidelines.

## Program/Advocacy

#### Program Committee

This month, the Program Committee has focused on evaluating the work of the past year and making plans for the coming year.

The Climate Change Subcommittee held a Ride with the Pros event to educate members about riding the bus in Madison. About 10 members attended and learned from experts <u>from</u> the City and County how to store a bike on a bus and how to use phone apps to access bus schedules and routes. On May 25, members can learn about riding b-cycles with representatives of the company that operates that system in Madison.

The Book discussion will hold 2 book discussion groups on June 16 and 18. The book to be discussed is "Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth" by Sarah Smarsh. Leaders are evaluating possible books for next year.

Some of the Discussion Units will meet to discuss the DEI presentation by Reggie Jackson.

#### Observer Corps

Laurie Egre, Coordinator, met with the Advocacy Corps for assistance with dissemination of information that members learn from their observations of city/county committees, councils and boards. Development of an effective procedure will be forthcoming.

#### Advocacy Corps:

The Advocacy Corps' first campaign launched on May 8. An email was sent to 311 members to invite them to join the letter-writing campaign, focusing on election integrity issues. Replies to the invitation are due on May 13. Members of the Advocacy Corps will hold Virtual Training Sessions for writing letters to newspapers, the legislature and elected officials on May 16 at noon and May 18 at 6:00 PM. Research, talking points and email addresses for the South-Central Greater Madison Area and South-Central Statewide Area will be available in Google Docs. All information about the letter-writing campaign can be found on the LWVDC website. The email address for the letter-writing campaign is <u>AdvocacyCorps@lwvdanecounty.org</u> A big thanks to Wendy for all her assistance.

#### Membership

Member Type	Active Member Count 🔹
Primary [L1V] or [L2V]	442
Secondary [L3V]	55
Life [L4V]	27
Student [S1V]	19
Grand total	553

Link to Membership Dashboard

Total Members: 553

New Members in April: 2

New Members in 2022: 36

The membership committee has been focused on planning an outdoor, in-person event to follow the annual meeting on June 7 at Vilas Park. We look forward to providing an opportunity for members to informally gather and celebrate the work the League has done over the past year!

The committee also continues to work with Wendy on the brochure and renewal materials, focusing on making sure our members know where their dues are going. We are also beginning plans for the membership renewal period this summer, including our strategies for following up with members who have not renewed.

#### **Voter Service**

- Training has been held or is scheduled for voter registration volunteers. We are adding a "shadow" position to most voter registration events for new volunteers who are learning.
- The "Behavior and Communications" video is required for all volunteers. (recommended for any LWV member). It is on the LWVDC website.
- We met with representatives of AAUW who are interested in connecting their college student members with voter outreach work. We described the

BadgersVote intern team. They may be interested in sponsoring an intern. We can help connect the AAUW student members to the BadgersVote team.

- VS has a presence at the Madison Night Market again this year, which is being held in the summer instead of fall this year.
- We have added new volunteers to the Voter Helpline, and as library liaisons.
- We are making connections to a few organizations interested in collaborating for the New Citizens Grant.
- There will be a get-together at Rennebohm Park on May 19th for VS volunteers who have been active in the last year, and new-ish members interested in VS work.
- UW Madison is interviewing candidates for a new staff member who will supervise the BadgersVote team.
- VS is working on a customizable flyer about voting that could be used by community groups that are interested in knocking doors.
- We are starting to get requests to participate in community events.

## Vice President

No Report

## President

# EC Approved Official Communications Since the Last Board Meeting

Two Letters to the Editor

Wisconsin State Journal, April 17, 2022 (Also McFarland Thistle, DeForest Times-Tribune, Madison.com)

https://madison.com/opinion/letters/election-officials-made-voting-work----christineclements/article 71baa8be-6a36-52df-8abe-0e67aa9baa18.html

Capital Times, April 29, 2022

https://captimes.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/letter-lwv-confronts-racist-past-chartsinclusive-future/article\_d1ff6b60-b9f3-5b33-8526-2e8171d30b9a.html

# **EC Approved Actions**

None

## **Report from the Executive Committee Meetings**

## April 20

- Discussed the April Board Meeting, in particular:
  - DEI review notes from the meeting were filled in with highlighting indicating whether or not actions can be initiated immediately (pink) or are longer term (yellow).
  - For Parade of Leagues, using the suggestions from the board meeting, social media and the hiring of an ED will be listed as LWVDC's highlights; one thing we learned is the need to identify and build a leadership bench
- Regarding the Annual Meeting, questions from members are to be submitted by May 12; questions go to the President, but will be forwarded to the areas for responses. There will also be some time for Q&A at the meeting.
- Meeting will take place with Eileen Newcomer about how to address issues with access for the future based on April elections.
- EC discussed and decided that whether or not to offer the civics course is a decision for the new board.
- Discussed a particular vending situation the membership brochure; printing costs are higher in union shop, but EC recommended sticking with union shop vendors which reflects our values. Brochure should be shared strategically due to costs. Jean approved that there was room in the budget, although gifts for these materials are always welcome.
- Reviewed tasks for Board Onboarding
- Briefly discussed how outgoing officers & directors should connect w/incoming -May or June meeting? Reach out to current board members and likely office/director position holders in May?
- Discussed logging volunteer hours May start in July but it is important to keep track of the amount of effort relative to what we get for it and the actual utility of the data.

## May 4

- Discussed agenda for the May Board Meeting, including Annual Meeting update and new board onboarding activities.
- Several individuals have expressed interest in adding Roe V. Wade/women's reproductive rights to next year's program agenda; the best vehicle for proposing this change was discussed
- After attending several events including CommUnity, Barb suggested LWVDC should consider its tabling outreach; what kind of presence do we want to have when we are tabling or meeting with groups? It was suggested this discussion take place informally in VS and P/A domains, and hopefully DEI as well. Then come back to the new board as a proposal.

- Wendy talked with Nonprofit Votes they are working with Leagues (and other Nonprofits) to develop more expansive materials about why to vote (not just how to vote). They are willing to train Wendy to train others on civic engagement.
- Annual Meeting update
  - Submitted questions are due on May 12, responses to be sent out by email prior to the annual member meeting
  - We will need to identify 2 readers to confirm the accuracy of minutes.
  - Wendy will contact chairs (Prog, VS, Finance & DEI) about presentation details
- Eileen Newcomer will put together a report on the Spring election, especially problems related to people with disabilities. There is going to be a monthly meeting with nonprofit organizations and Madison Clerk's Office.. LWVDC hopes to be included in that.
- Roe v. Wade Demo on May 15; Wendy will see what is happening in Madison we should learn more about sponsors before promoting it in enews and on social media.
- Board Onboarding
  - Scheduling (date conflicts). There is one date where only one person cannot be there. We probably need to go ahead - Wendy will talk to that person to see if she has any flexibility on that date.
  - DEI? (Session II) Wendy will ask Lisa H. and Lisa J. if they have suggestions.
- Strategic Planning was briefly discussed, as was the possibility of moving it back to November so outcomes can be incorporated into budget discussions. There are now charges involved in using UW Extension services.

# Other

- Communications between LWVDC and NAACP over Voter ID Coalition Budget
- Continued preparations for the June annual member meeting
- Regular meetings with ED, Wendy Hathaway,
- Meeting with the Exec Comm twice each month
- Over the next month, hope to work on new board onboarding presentation and Codes of Conduct for board and committee members

# Goals for 21-22

- 1. Assure that the Planning Goals approved by the Board from the Winter 21 planning meeting are met. (#3,4,5 below)
- 2. Hire a new executive director *Complete*

- 3. Provide recommendations to improve the nominations process; increase awareness of and opportunity to participate as a board member and/or officer *Complete*
- 4. Review and revise if necessary, partnership policy Complete
- 5. Build Communications infrastructure to reduce conflicts and enhance effectiveness:
  - a. Develop a Communications Domain and Committee *In process*
  - b. Develop editorial guidelines around communication tools Complete
  - c. Redesign web pages for greater effectiveness *on hold, with plans to move forward with this project next year.*
  - d. Complete planning process for 22-23 Sessions will take place in January, with February board discussion and March budget discussion and decision *complete*

# <u>Thank You's</u>

- Wendy, Jean Jacobson and Sue Jennik for identifying and hiring a Grants Consultant to help build the grants funding source for LWVDC.
- Lauren Surovi and Emily Weiss for their outstanding work managing the editorial process for and publication of the 2021-2022 Bulletins.
- DEI Committee for excellent work pulling together our May Campaign "Owning our Past, Charting our Future." The level of engagement has been excellent and the conversations critical.
- Barb F. and Sue F. for their publication "Voting Volunteers Weekly," an excellent tool for keeping members engaged with voter service activity.
- Wendy and Kerry for their efforts pulling together the Annual Meeting and support materials and all Board Members for their promptly submitted and outstanding reports on the work of their domains. The process has been exceptionally smooth this year.
- Barb F. and Wendy for their "Job Board Initiative"; a great volunteer clearing house
- Congratulations to Lauren for completing her Ph.D. in Italian this spring!

# **Old Business**

- Annual Meeting
- Board Transitions
  - Domain 1:1 (Resources for Chairs)
  - Board Onboarding

#### **New Business**

#### Calendar

#### May

Annual Meeting, June 2, 2022. May Member Challenge appeal Updates to renewal/member interest sheet Membership chair drafts renewal letter Dates for Summer Bulletin

#### June

## Annual Membership Meeting June 2, 2022, 5:30 pm

(Mailing letters for CA questions to candidates in even years; KYC planning) Confirm list of project coordinators, non-board committee chairs, and Unit Discussion leaders for next fiscal year Review of 2021-2022 Activities Outgoing and incoming Joint Board Meeting Dues renewal/member interest survey mailing June 30 fiscal year ends

#### July

New fiscal year, new Board (Know Your Candidates (KYC) interviews for Fall partisan primary - preparations) Planning for September General Meeting/Forum

Program Calendar for fall finalized

By July 31: dues payable (Reply in July)