

Draft 1: minutes of the conference call LWVAR May 18, 2015.

Minutes of Conference Call, May 18, 2015, 11:00 AM – 11:57 AM

All members of the Leadership Team participated: Jean Pennucci, Candy Roman, Susan Rausch, Joyce Hale, Dolores Chitwood, J.P. Peters, and Nell Matthews

1) Establish a MAL for Benton County. J.P. has talked with people (Sharon Carter, Robin Tunney, Susan X). She will determine if any want to reform their Local League, join with the Washington County Local League, or establish themselves as Members at Large (MAL). If interest is ascertained, consider LWVAR sponsoring an ad in the Bella Vista newspaper for an organizing meeting.

2) Vote411. All Local Leagues are reporting interest but want more specific information. Nell may be able to bring back more information from National and obtain from our liaison, Anita Loch, contacts in similar sized states that are currently participating in Vote411.

Dolores is willing to volunteer for state-wide races to ensure participation by those candidates.

3) Landlord-Tenant Laws. After some discussion, this issue was seen as one where LWVAR and local Leagues could cooperate with other organizations that may have a more direct connection to this issue such as Arkansas Advocates for Families and Children or the ACLU, or real estate professionals.

Dolores notes, "We don't have the manpower to develop legislation. We do have manpower to do programs and invite organizations who are interested." Joyce stated that Rob Leflar, panelist at the Convention's panel on this issue, was interested and says he has grad students who are interested in compiling dossiers, which Joyce notes could develop into information to be sent to Local Leagues. The League could do a service by raising awareness of an issue that affects many young people, immigrants, and poor.

4) Nell has been approved to attend LWV Council in Washington, DC June 18-21; As much as \$1200 has been allocated from the budget for her expenses, and she is expected to prepare a report of what she learns.

Motion by Dolores "Approve the payment for one attendee, Nell, to attend Council," was seconded and received unanimous approval.

5) J. P. has begun the process of bylaw review. Her first recommendation is the addition of a date in the footer to the document to ensure that we are working with the most recent (amended) approved version. She will need more time to review to be sure that LWVAR is legal and in compliance with what National requires. She will look to see what

we need to include in bylaws relative to membership and amendments. The current document does not allow for local leagues to submit amendments.

Dolores: Would the fact that we have someone from each Local League to be the conduit to allow for locals to submit changes? J. P.: No, it is not required that we have a representative from each local. Nor are MAL represented.

J.P. will report back at the next conference call at either the end of July or first of August.

6) LWVAR "Where We Stand". Joyce has added the information on LWVAR position for the treatment of mentally ill people by law enforcement (JEMI: Justice Equity for Mental Illness). Nell will proof and edit for typos and then submit to LWVAR Leadership for comment and review. The new document will be posted to the webpage and facebook with a link to the webpage.

7) Nell will prepare a synopsis of our conference call and send out to all to review and add pertinent information. Then the document will be sent to local League Leaders including (Laura?) Kellam, Jennie Cole (Ft. Smith) and Carol Young (Pulaski County) with request that they be sent to all members via email and snail mail, as needed. This will also be posted on the website.

8) Nell has represented LWVAR at several events including a recent Education Council with the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Each member of the Leadership Team is encouraged to wear a League button when representing LWVAR at any relevant event. However, if media requests any comments, that Leadership Team member MUST inform the other team members and ensure that any published statements conform with our current stands. The integrity of the League is at stake.