

League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County

Program Planning Meeting – January 23, 2016

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Community Room – Whole Foods, 1531 Froom Ranch Way, San Luis Obispo

President Marguerite Bader opened the General Membership meeting at 9:15 AM. She introduced new members Sharon Brown and Kay Washburn. Ms. Bader asked us to remember members we've lost recently – Charlie Archibald, Sonya Bracken, and Livia Sime. She noted that a memorial for Rev. Archibald is being held this afternoon at 2:00 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship in San Luis Obispo.

Ms. Bader noted that this meeting is one of four business meetings required each year by our Bylaws. She reported on the progress of the Higher Education Study Committee, chaired by Cindy Marie Absey, and noted several upcoming forums. On February 10, we will conduct a public forum on the Paso Robles Ground Water Basin Management election. The forum is sponsored by the local chapter of California Women in Agriculture and will be held in Templeton. In April we hope to hold a public forum on "Safe in SLO: Strategies for a Changing World" and have invited Sheriff Ian Parkinson, SLO City Police Chief Deanna Cantrell, and FBI Supervising Special Agent Brian Sullivan from Santa Maria to be the panelists. On March 12 Ms. Bader will present "A Deportation Dilemma" at Morro Bay Public Library in conjunction with the County Library System and Cuesta College's Book of the Year Program. We have been asked to conduct a public forum on the Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project and are considering a forum on Campaign Finance Reform for the fall.

Ms. Bader then asked Sharon Winslow to give us an update on the Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital project. Ms. Winslow reported that the County Planning Commission approved the project on January 14. Opponents have 14 days to appeal the decision to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Winslow asked everyone to continue their efforts in support of the project.

Ms. Bader asked Sharon Kimball to report on the work of the Civil Discourse Task Force. Ms. Kimball recounted how we have used grant money from the Board of Supervisors to create and print a Civil Discourse brochure and buttons. The Task Force is recruiting and preparing Observers and Ambassadors to follow up on the meetings they have had so far with city and county governing bodies. An orientation meeting for Observers and Ambassadors will be held February 9. Ms. Kimball and Deb Humphreys are working on a workshop on Civil Discourse for local officials.

Ms. Bader concluded the business meeting and we turned to program planning. Program Planning Committee Chair Jean Chinnici introduced Emily Penfield who explained the program planning process. Vallerie Steenson then reviewed the Program adopted by the membership at the 2015 Annual Meeting and reported on the progress we have made so far in carrying out the Program. Marilee Hyman, assisted by Ms. Chinnici as recorder, then led us through a discussion of our current local positions and we set our priorities for the 2016 – 2017 Program Year. Ms. Steenson and Mardi Geredes assisted by taking notes of the proceedings. The Program Planning Committee will prepare a report based on the recommendations from the meeting for presentation to the Board.

Twenty-eight members attended the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Submitted by:

Vallerie Steenson
Secretary