

Minutes LWVBA
November 21, 2025
Via Zoom

Members in Attendance: Kathleen Cha, Kim Wallingford Homes, Jean Perry, Louise Rothman-Riemer, Marieanne Shovelin, Yolanda Schoenbrun, Sheri Thomas

Members Absent: Roma Dawson, Madeliene Kronenberg, Raeena Lari

Guests: Linda Lyons-Justus, Alameda LWV Representative to LWVBA

Meeting called to order by Co-President, Marieann Shovelin. It was noted by some of the board members that when logging into today's meeting they logged in to the meeting the notice said it was scheduled for Nov. 24th which caused them to wonder if they had the wrong date or if the notice was incorrect.

Minutes: The minutes of October were approved, and there were no changes to the Agenda. Sheri will post our minutes on the website and asked Louise for back minutes and an agenda she was missing.

Co-Presidents Report: Marieanne said that she and Roma were working on a brief survey to send to our member leagues. The purpose of the survey is to better understand the ways in which LWVBA can support them and to encourage them to become more involved with the Bay Area League. Marianne further commented that they were looking for new LWVBA Board members and encouraged Board members to recommend folks for our Board.

Roma and Marieanne have been focusing on encouraging our member leagues to become more involved with LWVBA.

Louise asked if the survey included the possibility of Regional meetings which could easily be done on zoom, to engage with local leagues. Kathleen remarked that this had been quite successful in the past. These meetings which were generated by LWVBA, were mainly done with leagues in the North Bay, Napa, Sonoma, and Marin. The meetings served as a round table on what the individual leagues were doing and to share what LWVBA was working on. These regional outreach meetings occurred every few weeks/months. Marieann thought this was a good idea, and a discussion followed in which we considered which leagues would fit into each region. The following regional meeting groups were suggested:

North Bay: Napa, Sonoma, Solano, and Marin.

East Bay: Alameda, Berkeley Albany Emeryville, Eden Area, Newark/Fremont, Oakland and Piedmont, Diablo Valley, and West Contra Costa

West Bay: San Francisco and San Mateo Leagues

South Bay: San Jose, Los Althos/Mountain View, Cupertino/Sunnyvale, Palo Alto, Southwest Santa Clara Valley

If there was a County Council as there is in Alameda County and Santa Clara County LWVBA would work with the County Councils.

Treasurer's Report: Kim W-H now has all the Treasurer information and says that she is working on taxes. She also suggested that the League establish an ACH account and that all electronic transactions take place in this account. She has set up a Zelle account for the League as it is a direct bank to bank transfer process with no additional fees. Sheri will work with Kim to help her access our League Google Drive to store documents.

Louise sent a memo to Finance Committee suggesting we restructure our accounts to place more in our savings account and utilize laddered CDs or Treasuries. It was agreed that this should be discussed by the Finance Committee and then returned to the Bard.

Kathleen reported that we are no longer being charged a fee for the few drawers of files that we have remaining in the office of LWVBAE office. Madeline, Louise, and Kathleen will review the files again and see what can be scanned or eliminated.

Regional Study: Kathleen shared Leslie Stewarts's question and her response. Leslie color coded the agencies/organizations that are important to our work. Kathleen's reports are attached to these minutes.

Communications Report: Sheri gave us a demo of our new website which she hopes will be active after the first of the year. She still has some additional updating to perform before making it live.

The demo of the new website pleased the Board, and all felt it was a big improvement over what we have now. Suggestions were made to add a Regional Positions box.

Another suggestion was to create a place for leagues working on the youth vote issues, such as Oakland's "YOUth Decide." Sheri will add the category to the website and asked for examples of what League's were doing. Louise will send info on Oakland's committee's work.

We spoke briefly about having an in person get together and both Marieanne and Louise offered them home in January.

There being no further business we wished each other Happy Thanksgiving. Our next meeting will be December 15th, which is our regular time of 5 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Louise RR Secretary