

League of Women Voters of Collier County (LWVCC)
February 29, 2012 – Minutes, Education Fund Meeting
US Trust, 765 Seagate Drive

Board Members Present: Lydia Galton, President, Joyce Fletcher, Paul Kardon, Tom McCann, Mollie Ottina, Linda Penniman, Bernice Schmelz, Vi Steffan, Donna Suddeth, and Off-Board Publicity Chair, Ira Sharp

Board Member Excused: John Levy

Call to Order: The Education Fund meeting convened at 10:55 a.m.

Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda was approved after the following changes, clarifications and/or corrections were made. To the minutes was added the word “email” regarding the email decisions made between meetings, and, Nick Penniman’s name was corrected. It was confirmed that Nick Penniman would be the sole speaker. The cost of Constant Contact at \$5 per month, totaling \$60 annually was approved. Vi Steffan advised us that the LWVCC received \$1,750 for rendering voter registration services.

Voter Service Report: The issues of if, when (before endorsements), where and with whom to conduct forums was discussed. The pros and cons of involving other parties, i.e., the Naples Daily News or the Chamber of Commerce, and the locales, i.e., the County Board of Commissioners Chambers, the NDN meeting room, the Chamber office or St. John’s Church, of potential forums were discussed along with the potential filming costs depending on the locale selected. ACTION: Joyce Fletcher will investigate the possibility of joint events.

Joyce advised us that seven amendments will be on the November ballot. In addition to these amendments, it was suggested to include the school funding referendum in potential forums and/or speaking events. Becky Newell did clarify that the school funding referendum is not a controversial issue, but rather an informational issue. ACTION: Becky Newell and Linda Penniman will confer to develop a study on the school funding referendum. The results of the study will be presented to the membership at a consensus meeting on a date to be determined. Also, to clarify, the General Fund is the lobbying arm for the referendum, not the Education Fund.

With the school funding referendum issue settled, Joyce asked that the focus be returned to potential forums for the seven amendments. It was determined that amendment forums would need to be conducted in the first week of October prior to the date of any endorsements by potential partners. Candidate forums should be held in June or July. ACTION: Joyce will look for partners.

It was recommended that we wait to see what transpires with the Collier Community Alliance.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna L. Suddeth, Secretary