Brief 6-3-2020

Our first Annual Meeting held on May 30th via Zoom was a success! Forty-three members attended while safe in their own homes. Many people worked hard to produce the meeting and I thank Ellen Dalton and Todd Childers for providing the written Annual Report; Committee Chairs who both wrote and spoke their reports; Katelyn Elliot our Secretary; Barbara Moses and the Budget Committee for presenting the 2020-2021 budget; Jennifer Karches for providing the updated roster (which was mailed only to members); Maria Simon and the Nominating Committee who prepared the slate of officers and directors; and to Milt Hakel who secured a Zoom license for LWVBG and taught us how to use it.

All votes were unanimous, so we have officers, directors, nominators, a budget, and approved minutes from last year’s Annual Meeting. We are prepared to move forward.

I am especially grateful that all officers, directors, and nominators agreed to serve another 2-year term. Frances Brent will turn over the leadership of the Education Committee to Sharon Libby, but the rest of the Committee chairs will continue. Until we can meet in person, committee meetings will be held via Zoom. Char Scherer and Denise Zephier are ready and able to help you set up your Zoom meetings.

I have been sending you statements made by LWV US leaders regarding the death of George Floyd. Clearly in the months ahead we will have LWV actions to try to turn the tide of racism in this country. I am very proud of our BG community, police, and elected officials for their handling of the recent protests. If inequality and racism are to be changed, voting is central to those efforts. That is where we come in. We must educate and register voters and ensure that all elections are fair and free. As a first step, I encourage you to take the following action requested by LWVOhio:

**THE MESSAGE**
Ohio must update the absentee ballot request system to ensure every registered voter receives a ballot in time to vote. I demand an online process to request an absentee ballot AND I demand postal delivery of pre-paid ballot applications to all eligible Ohio voters AS SOON AS VOTER REGISTRATION CLOSES.

**ACTION STEPS:**
COPY the above message
EMAIL it to your Ohio Legislator
PASTE the message into your Legislator's email and SEND

Abby Byers, Adult Services Librarian, Oregon Branch of the Toledo Lucas County Public Library is requesting that we record a presentation on the history of the League of Women Voters in Northwest Ohio. The programs will be shown every Monday starting in either July or August. Her phone number is 419.259.5250 for more information. This could be a fun project for a few people. Let me know if you want to participate.

We know that the Census matters and we also know that things are not turning out the way we hoped. Even more problems lie ahead. By the legislation we helped to pass, the apportionment must be decided by a fixed date in April 2021. With the census deadlines extended, the new districts may or may not be defined by then. As you consider which candidates you will support, ask them what they will do to make Ohio’s districts fair.

Our next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:00 pm via Zoom.