

Voter Engagement Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Present:, Linda Biemer, Sharon Exley, Doug Garnar, Margaret Goodfellow, Kyra Hickey, Carla Michalak, Alison Twang, Nick Wagner, Karl Wokan

- 1. Meeting called at 3:04pm. Linda welcomed and thanked everyone for attending today's meeting.**
- 2. Minutes from February 1, 2022 approved.**
- 3. 3. New members:** Kyra Hickey, BU Center for Civic Engagement Coordinator, Welcome Kyra! Gervlyne not present, will ask at next meeting about a representative from Broome-Tioga NAACP
- 4. Voter Education in Local Schools:** The Social Studies Teachers were not available to join us. We discussed how we can strengthen our connections and interactions with the high schools. We will ask Jackie to invite the Social Studies teachers to the next meeting. We would like to solidify a plan for voter registration activity between the colleges and high schools.

Doug Garnar with Carla's help will be collaborating with Binghamton High School on a couple of Civic Engagement initiatives. Doug would also like to invite the Board of Elections to SUNY Broome, Carla is working on scheduling that program. Alison provided Sarah Knoell's contact information from the BOE.

Carla will offer the BOE program via Zoom, in person and perhaps also record it so we can put it on our soon to be developed Civic Engagement Website.

- 5. New Visions Academy: Law and Government** - Alison will email Ani Loew again to see if she can start planning fall voter registration activities. Carla will also email Ani to see if there is any interest in participating in a deliberation.
- 6. Re-districting:** Congress, NYS Senate, NYS Assembly, Broome County maps/lines: court case in progress regarding Broome County redistricting Map 3. Primary is June 28th, General Election is November 8th. Broome County is now split between two districts, currently Congress member Tenney does not have a Democratic challenger.
- 7. Broome County Sheriff:** Senator Akshar is running as the Republican candidate and Captain Kate Newcomb is running as the Democratic candidate. (she too was a Republican but switched parties as the Republican party tried to dissuade her from running)

8. **Debates for the primaries, general election:** Will WSKG consider holding a debate between the Republican candidates for the 23rd Congressional District? And a debate for the 19th Congressional District for the General Election?

SUNY Broome would be interested in holding the Sheriff's debate and would contact the Criminal Justice department to coordinate with them to host this debate.

SUNY Broome would also host a Lupardo/R candidate debate.

Giovanni offered to contact Vince Briga who works at Spectrum if we should want to run a debate via Spectrum.

Margaret mused about doing a Governor's debate but we recognize that we do not have that credibility as a small committee.

9. **Updates from Committee Members**

Alison: BU is updating their Voter Engagement plan – using Votes and Ballots

Margaret: Carla Michalak is the League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga County's nominee for the Status of Women Council's award to be celebrated at their luncheon on March 26th, 2022 at Traditions at the Glen.

Carla: SUNY Broome is offering two deliberations this semester, Racial Justice and Policing. Carla is also offering Moderator training. Dates are as follows:

Policing Deliberation: March 22nd 3-5, DH 201

Moderator Training: April 11th, 3-4:30pm TH 108

Racial Justice Deliberation: May 3rd, 3-5, DH 201

Carla will let high school teachers know about deliberations.

Meeting concluded at 4:17pm. Our next meeting will be determined once we confirm Charlie and Jackie's availability. Then we will send out a Doodle Poll to determine the best time for all.