League of Women Voters of Winchester

Minutes of Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 20, 2015

Masa Restaurant, 350 Cambridge Street, Woburn

Moderator: Marilyn Mullane First Reader: Vicky Coccoluto

Recorder: Susan Woodward Second Reader: Stacey Irizarry

The members enjoyed brunch while filling out a questionnaire to give their input for the League’s activities for next year. At 10:45 Moderator Marilyn Mullane introduced the two guest speakers, Rosalind C. Barnett, and Caryl Rivers, co-authors of the book, ‘The New Soft War on Women’.They gave a summary of their research and findings on women in the workforce and allowed for comments and questions from the audience.

Moderator Marilyn Mullane opened the business meeting by welcoming about 25 attendees; she announced Susan Woodward as Recorder and Vicky Coccoluto as First Reader. Stacey Irizarry volunteered to serve as Second Reader for the minutes of the meeting. Before Marilyn began to highlight the past year, she remembered two League members who passed away – Sarah Swiger and Marcia Wood. Marilyn then asked all the members of the Steering Committee to stand to be recognized. She thanked Juanita Zerda, our outgoing Treasurer, who worked with Nancy Schrock, nominated for Treasurer; and Leslie Kennedy, outgoing Membership Chair, for assisting Vicky as the new chair of membership. These “shadowing” relationships should help provide for a smooth transition in the new year. She also announced that the Steering Committee would meet in the summer to review member input and plan next year’s activities.

Steering Committee Report

Marilyn highlighted the past year's events and accomplishments which included the following:

* Fall kicked off with an event featuring State Senator Marian Walsh, author of ‘Run’, a

how-to book on running for public office.

* Voter registration at Stoneham and Winchester High Schools.
* Candidate interviews were coordinated by Jo-Ann Michalak and her team for a State Representative primary race in September, and a candidate debate for a State Senate race in November.
* March “Day at the Races” featured a forum of candidates for local elections for Board of Selectmen and Planning Board vacancies.
* New this year was daytime programming which we named Tuesday Topics. The first one covered the November ballot referendum questions, presenting the League’s positions on the first three questions. We provided speakers for both sides of question 4- Earned Sick Leave, for which the LWVMA did not have a position. State Senator Pat Jehlen provided the argument in favor and a representative of the Boston Chamber of Commerce presented the opposing side.
* “Is There a Better Approach for Winchester to Serve Town Employee Health Insurance Needs?” was the second Tuesday Topic. We had a speaker advocating for each side and it was videotaped by Wincam.
* The final Tuesday Topic was a book read for Women’s History month programming entitled ‘I am Malala’. Leslie Kennedy led the discussion.
* First Hot Topic, Campaign Finance Reform, was arranged by Jean Herbert, with a speaker from the Massachusetts League.
* In March we partnered with the Multi-Cultural Network and presented our second Hot Topic for Women’s History month at the Griffin Museum. The topic was “Violence against Women.” Professor Dyan Mazurana of Tuft’s Fletcher School and Morgan Trevett, a WHS senior, spoke of their experiences.
* Final Hot Topic – The Future of Winchester Town Center, was well attended. Nancy arranged this event which was videotaped by WinCam.
* The League Moveable Feast Luncheon was held in appreciation for Town employees in December.
* Farmer’s Market booth and Town Day booth to give out League information and encourage membership.
* Participation in WFEE’s Trivia Bee.
* League Night at the Next Door Theater for the Shirley Valentine performance was a social event and a mini-fundraiser.
* Four members attended Day On the Hill, an annual LWVMA program at the State House in Boston in April.
* Civic Leadership Award presented to Caren Connelly, Executive Director of WFEE, (Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence).

Marilyn mentioned that various Steering Committee members took on a variety of communication roles. She encouraged attendees with social media experience to join the Communications Committee. Marilyn repeated the need for all of us to build membership in the coming year.

Membership Report

Leslie Kennedy, serving her third year as membership chair, reported that this year’s tally at the annual meeting is 69 active members, including two who joined at the meeting. There was a generous contribution of 5 funded memberships which included the High School Social Studies Director. The online payment option through the website has been used by more members this year. Leslie introduced the incoming membership chair, Vicky Coccoluto, who added that more than half of the members are “sustaining” and encouraged members to invite their friends to join.

Budget for Year 2015-2016

Nancy presented the budget for the coming year. She spoke on projected programs and other expenditures. This year we expect to have our biennial fundraiser which will coincide with the League’s National Conference.

Agenda Items for Vote

1. The Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting were approved.
2. The 2015 Budget prepared and presented by Nancy was approved.
3. The 2015 slate of Steering Committee members were approved as submitted: Vicky Coccoluto, Jan Dolan, Jean Herbert, Judie Muggia, Marilyn Mullane, Nancy Schrock, Patricia Shepard, and Susan Woodward.
4. Nancy was elected for a two-year term.
5. Marilyn reviewed the summary of the By-Law changes. Changes the review of our books to bi-annually from annually Changes the Annual Meeting process (from adopt to discuss) to determine the League of Women Voters of Winchester “local program”

Reflects the process whereby our local programming is actually developed (solicit

membership input at the Annual Meeting and finalize during the Steering Committee’s

summer planning session)

Approved unanimously. To pass 2/3 of members present must vote to pass.

1. Programs for the coming year also approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Woodward