

League of Women Voters of Winchester  
Minutes of Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 14, 2016  
TWK restaurant, 14 Thompson Street, Winchester

Moderator: Marilyn Mullane      First Reader: Patty Shepard

Recorder: Susan Woodward      Second Reader: Cindy Stone

The members enjoyed drinks and appetizers while filling out a questionnaire to give their input for the League's activities for next year. At 6:30 Vicki Coccoluto introduced the guest speaker, Ellen Fitzpatrick, author of the book, *The Highest Glass Ceiling, Women's Quest for the American Presidency*. She highlighted the three women who had come the closest – Victoria Woodhull, Margaret Chase Smith, and Shirley Chisolm. Time was allowed for comments and questions from the audience. Copies of the book were available for sale.

Moderator Marilyn Mullane opened the business meeting by welcoming about 35 attendees which was enough for a quorum. She announced Susan Woodward as Recorder and Patty Shepard as First Reader. Cindy Stone volunteered to serve as Second Reader for the minutes of the meeting.

Jean Herbert made a special announcement that Judie Muggia had been chosen by the LWV Winchester for this year's Civic Leadership award for her many years of service not only to the LWV, but also to the town of Winchester. A celebratory event is planned for some future date.

Before Marilyn began to highlight the past year, she announced the members of the Steering Committee: Vicki Coccoluto, Jan Dolan, Jean Herbert, Judie Muggia, Marilyn Mullane, Nancy Schrock, Patty Shepard, and Susan Woodward. The Communications Committee members were Vicki Coccoluto, Jo-Ann Michalak, Nancy Schrock and Susan Woodward. Marilyn then asked all the members of the Steering Committee to stand to be recognized. She also recognized three League members who are involved in other organizations: Jan Dolan was awarded Town of Winchester Citizen of the Year, Gloria Legvold received the Unsung Heroines of Massachusetts award, and Judie Muggia who was recognized by the Galapagos Conservancy for her commitment to its Education for Sustainable Development program. 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:

- The Constitutional Amendment Study led by Patty Shepard was held on November 7<sup>th</sup>. We joined with the Arlington League to share costs. They produced their own consensus meeting results, as required. We had to consider criteria for evaluating constitutional amendment proposals, aspects of an Article V Convention itself and when the League should support a Constitutional amendment.
- On November 17<sup>th</sup> Judie Muggia organized a Hot Topic on Money in Politics (MIP) with guest panelists State Senator Pat Jehlen, State Rep Michael Day and Kim Whitaker, local political consultant. Each explained the impact of fundraising on running for office.

- The MIP consensus meeting was led by Judie and Marilyn on January 10<sup>th</sup>. We discussed First Amendment protections and methods for regulating campaign finance to protect the democratic process. LWVW results were submitted to LWVUS on time, then folded into the grassroots submissions from local Leagues all over the country. These efforts resulted in League positions on Article V conventions and MIP.
- Major Fundraiser – “What’s Cooking Kitchen Tour” The subgroup of the SC found a good mix of amazing kitchens, sold ads for our booklet, produced a booklet with historical facts about the homes as well as the featured kitchens, solicited donations from local businesses like The Gingerbread Construction Co., Mahoney’s, and Pond View Florists.
- Marilyn and Judie worked with *Connect and Commit*. They participated with panelists from other Winchester non-profits and elected officials to talk about civic engagement and the value of volunteering.
- Susan Woodward, Voter Services Chair, led our annual voter registration drive at WHS partnering with the Student Council and its President. She took advantage of online electronic voter registration, Facebook shout outs by the Student Council, WHS Chrome books, and set-up in the cafeteria over two lunch periods. Successful drive with 124 confirmed registered. This was then rolled out at Medford High School by lead, Vicky Coccoluto.
- Day at the Races for the Spring town election brought us only one contested race, that of the Board of Selectmen. Jo-Ann Michalak and her team organized an informative candidate forum of two remaining candidates after one withdrew.
- Jo-Ann and Susan Woodward experimented with VOTE411, a voter information resource on line now at the local level. It provides information solicited from the candidates’ responses to questions created by LWVW. It did prove challenging as they included eight precincts of Town Meeting members in the guide.
- Hot Topic – “Building up People, not Prisons” brought the discussion of incarceration upfront and person. Patty Shepard organized a talk and Q& A with Ms. Andrea James, a formerly incarcerated woman, lawyer, and 2015 recipient of a Soros Justice Fellowship for organizing incarcerated women in America. Her talk emphasized the effect of incarceration on mothers and their children. We were encouraged to support bill H1382, “An Act to create community-based sentencing alternatives for non-violent primary caretakers of dependent children”
- We participated in a “Conversation on Classicism” which was hosted by the Multicultural Network.
- We partnered with WinCam and did two podcasts; one to publicize our Hot Topic and our spring fundraiser.
- Moveable Feast is a luncheon for town employees to express thanks to all of them for all they do for Winchester.
- At Town Day Booth in June, we used the opportunity to advertise the League, our policies, and activities.
- Farmer’s market in September is a kick off for the year’s activities. We do voter registration and a membership drive.
- League Night at the Next Door Theater served as a mini-fundraiser and an opportunity to socialize with one another and enjoy a play. This year’s performance was “The Light in the Piazza.”
- In February four of us attended Day on the Hill where we met with our senators and reps to discuss legislative positions of the League. It is an annual event.
- Metro West meetings – a good chance to catch up with the activities of Leagues in surrounding areas.
- Phonathon calls were made in support of LWVMA.

Marilyn moved that the minutes from 2015 be approved. The motion to approve the programming is as follows – “I move that the Winchester League of Women Voters approve our annual set activities and authorize the SC to develop further programming based on today’s expressed interest of the membership, the continuing relevance of a topic, and the capacity – resources of volunteers and funding – we have to produce an excellent event.” Motion was approved.

#### Membership Report – Vicky Coccoluto

Vicky, our Membership Chair, confirmed that we are 76 members strong in the Winchester League and that there has been a 10% increase over the past 12 months. She asked the members to think about people they know, whether neighbors or long time acquaintances, who might be interested in membership in the League of Women Voters. Also when we volunteer for an event, think about someone you could ask to volunteer with you! Helps to build relationships and interest in the League.

Vicky expressed our thanks to our members for the time they spend helping us to prepare for all our community events. Finally, she thanked our Sustaining Members – 40 out of the 76 – who donate an amount over and above the basic dues so that we have additional financial support for our work.

Vicky was optimistic about our membership prospects in the coming year. It should be a lively one with the national election which she believes will assist in our fall membership drive. And she reminded us that *Making Democracy Work* will require the concerted efforts of all of us, before elections, and in whatever events follow them.

#### Treasurer’s Report – Nancy Schrock

Nancy began with a summary of this past year’s budget (2015/16). We did a great deal of events with a small amount of money. Our large fundraiser, Kitchen House Tour, took in \$4,965 and we spent \$944 on the brochure and other expenses. The League made a little over \$4,000. We had a small fundraiser with the Next Door Theater. Nancy also applied and received 2 grants, the Scharfman, and Enka. She also explained that we needed to do these fundraisers because a large percentage of our dues goes to the state and national Leagues.

She then went on to talk about our expenses while referring to the budget sheet contained in the annual meeting packet. The expenses are administrative, programs like Moveable Feast and Hot Topics, and Voter Services. Nancy also pointed out the expenses for our website, publicity, travel expenses to the National Convention and our current checking account and CD balances. Marilyn proposes to approve this budget. It is approved by the members.

Nancy presented the projected budget for July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017. She uses Quick Books which is her own software. Lots of small fundraisers are planned. Expenses are self-explanatory: general administration, programs, and voter services. Marilyn moves to approve this budget. It is also approved by the members.

Agenda Items for Vote

1. The Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting were approved.
2. The 2015/16 and 2016/17 budgets prepared and presented by Nancy were approved.
3. The 2016/17 slate of Steering Committee members were approved as submitted: first term, Judy Blaine, Lauren Costello, Mary McKenna, Elinor Quill, and Robin Wolf. Candidates currently serving: Vicky Coccoluto, Jan Dolan, Nancy Schrock, Patty Shepard, and Susan Woodward.
4. Programs for the coming year also approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Woodward