

**League of Women Voters of Winchester
Steering Committee Meeting
MINUTES
Tuesday, March 20, 2018
Wincam, 32 Swanton Street, Winchester
Facilitator, Patty Shepard, Secretary, Robin Wolf, Host, Elinor Quill**

The meeting convened at 7:10 pm.

Attending: Jan Dolan, Patty Shepard, Vicki Coccoluto, Elinor Quill, Robin Wolf, Jan Dolan, Susan Woodward.

Minutes—Minutes of the February 13, meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report was submitted and reviewed.

Membership Report – Vicki Coccoluto distributed an up-to-date membership list showing 76 members, including one who joined just before the Candidate Forum.

Communications Report – Wild Apricot is removing its limit on the number of site Administrators so Lauren Costello will be re-added as an Administrator on April 3. Links to the two ballot questions for the Town Election on March 27 will be put on the League Facebook page by Susan and on the web site by Vicki. If a link is available for the candidates for office that will be added as well.

Program Follow-Ups

1. The **Day at the Races** was judged to have been a success. It was noted that one audience member wanted to be able to ask questions at the Forum as opposed to submitting them for consideration in advance. It was also noted that there were difficulties with lighting at McCall that may have been less than optimal for television purposes, but the comfort of the candidates and moderator on stage took precedence as the light would have been shining in their eyes. This is not a problem at the Jenks Center and we will keep this in mind for next year.
2. **Spring Book Read on April 25** – Plans are proceeding. Vicki has been in touch with Chris Kurhajetz and at least 5 members of the Steering Committee will be in attendance. Vicki had sent out an email blast to members so additional attendees are anticipated.
3. **LWVMA Program Planning Survey** – Susan Woodward has responded on behalf of our League to the National League's request for Programming Planning input. Questions were related to support of and possible alternatives to the Campaign for Making Democracy Work and past and future related local league projects such as voting rights, etc.
4. Recruitment of new **Steering Committee** members—goal is to recruit at least two new members. Potential members have been identified and will be contacted by various people who will report to Vicki.

Upcoming Events

1. **Kitchen Tour Fundraising Update** — Six houses have been lined up and ad revenue is beginning to trickle in. There is a great need for house-sitters to do 2-hour shifts—18 are still needed to avoid having to ask others to do double shifts. Susan Woodward is coordinating house sitters. Other committee members are Vicki, Jan, Michele, Judy, Nancy and Marilyn.

2. **Annual Meeting June 9** — will be held at Sanborn House. Vicky will facilitate and Susan will take minutes. Patty is working on catering. Robin will be out of state on that day and will provide the Treasurer's Report for delivery.
3. **Civic Award** — A subcommittee of Jan, Lauren, and Elinor are working on the selection and received ideas from those in attendance.

Old Business (Covered Via Email After Adjournment)

Vote Banner for Town Election-- has been hung at the Rotary.

Saturday, April 28, 2018 - **LWVMA Spring Conference** in Worcester and the **53rd National Convention**—June 28 to July 1 in Chicago— Attendees solicited from the Steering Committee. If none, the general membership will be solicited.

DA Forum in Arlington now tentatively planned for July – Colleen Kirby, LWVMA point person, is currently working on a plan to have a DA forum with both DA candidates in Middlesex County. The Arlington League voted to be a cosponsor for a mid-July event. The First Parish UU Church is available as a venue but a moderator is needed. Arlington is soliciting co-sponsors.

New Business (Guest Ingrid Geis)

Ingrid Geis, who has been working with a group of concerned citizens to sponsor a Town Meeting article to eliminate plastic checkout bags provided by retail establishments, is enlisting our support. She explained the reasons for moving forward to reduce the grocery-store-type plastic usage: (1) that these bags are the physical culprit that 'gums up' the continuous stream recycling process; (2) surrounding towns are already considering passing such a ban; (3) the retailers are prepared to cope with it if Winchester does pass the issue, because they are already complying in Towns with these restrictions; and (4) while this small step might seem insignificant in addressing the enormous waste from excessive packaging in general -- it would help raise 'awareness' of the global glut of plastic garbage and (we hope) shift consumer behavior away from wasteful over-consumption.

Their immediate objective is to convince Town Meeting Members to vote in favor at Spring Town Meeting on April 30. The Steering Committee will have further discussion on this issue and our potential role, which may include support of the warrant or educational efforts directed at local consumers.

Calendar

Tuesday, March 27, 2018 – Winchester Town Election

Saturday, March 31, 2018 - LWVMA Video Contest, "Get in the Game and Vote" Submission Deadline

Tuesday, April 17, 2018 - Daniel Scharfman Grant Deadline

Wednesday, April 25 – Spring Book Read at Winchester High School, 3:00 PM

Saturday, April 28, 2018 - LWVMA Spring Conference, "Beyond the March: Women Leading the Way in Massachusetts", Clark University, Worcester, 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Monday, April 30, 2018 – Winchester Spring Town Meeting

Sunday, May 20, 2018 - LWVW Kitchen Tour, 12 noon – 4 PM

Saturday, June 9, 2018 – LWVW Annual Meeting/Civic Award

Thursday, June 28 to Sunday, July 1, 2018 – National Convention in Chicago

Wednesday, August 15, 2018 – Last day to register to vote in State Primary

Tuesday, September 4, 2018 – State Primary

Wednesday, October 17, 2018 – Last day to register to vote in the State Election

Tuesday, November 6, 2018 – State Election

Thursday, November 8, 2018 – Winchester Fall Town Meeting

Next Meeting—April 10 at the home of Elinor Quill. Lauren is scheduled to facilitate; Judy secretary.

Adjourned at 9:10 pm.