

**Winchester League of Women Voters
Draft Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee
Monday January 7, 2019**

Location – 10 Hinds Road, Winchester MA

Host – Meredith Crowley

Facilitator – Jan Dolan

Secretary – Lynne Brodsky

Attending – Patty Shepard, Jan Dolan, Meredith Crowley, Lynne Brodsky, Jeanette Kolodziej, Robin Wolf

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM.

Member checkin time

Minutes – the minutes of the December 11, 2018 meeting were approved with some corrections.

Membership report – Earlier this day, Vicky Coccoluto sent a member update by email. As of that writing, 71 members had signed up, comparable to 72 at the same time last year. We are still waiting for payment from one or two. There may be a problem with the Paypal mechanism.

Communication report – Prior to this meeting, Patty provided a review of the website to Robin and Jeannette. Others on the Steering Committee may wish to learn the website functions. Wild Apricot is raising the rate for the website from \$432 to \$540 per year on February 16. We may therefore wish to consider transferring to a less expensive site managed by the California League. This may also eliminate the need to double-enter the membership in both the local and the national website. Patty is going to ask Denise Goluboff if she can help with website management.

Treasurer's Report – Robin submitted the Treasurer's report dated December 31, 2018. At the time of this report, we have a bank balance of \$13,019.99, and a Certificate of Deposit of \$7,261.61. For the year and month of December, respectively, our income was \$6031.25 and \$1,450.00, and our expenses were \$6,127.64 and \$866.80.

Voter Services Update – Jeannette reported no update.

Banner – Jeannette has obtained 3 quotes for a new banner. Boyd's of Stoneham \$566, 18 ounce vinyl hemmed, grommets 2 feet apart. Lithocraft \$620 (the price would be \$510 for a smaller size of 4x15 feet).

14 ounce vinyl. Each patch would be \$110.

Fast Signs (Woburn) \$425 (the price would be \$360 for the smaller size of 4x15 feet), each patch would be \$75, all 14 ounce vinyl.

We agreed to move forward with the smaller 4x15 foot size, with a decision to get the quotes in writing before coming to a final decision, noting that the Winchester DPW would prefer the smaller, lighter banner.

Mini-Fundraiser – We have decided to defer further planning for a mini-fundraiser for now. Patty proposed having a presentation about Rank Choice Voting at the Annual Meeting.

Consensus Study – Congratulations to Patty for a great job organizing the event, and for her excellent formal presentation. The event went well.

Upcoming events –

Spring Book Read – Jeannette is still waiting to hear back from Chris Kurhajetz, the teacher at WHS. We may or may not participate with them in a book read this year.

Mass Incarceration event – Patty reported that the ACLU is establishing legislative priorities. They may send a speaker at no charge if we could guarantee a good audience. Such an event may appropriately be cosponsored with another community organization, such as Winchester Multicultural Network.

Celia Blue from the Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition (MAWOCC.com) made a presentation at the League Leaders meeting in October. Their platform includes criminal justice reform, civic and political leadership, health and wellness and education and justice with a focus on women of color. They are conducting outreach to other groups, and support the League's mission in the area of Diversity and Inclusion. Patty has been in communication with Chioma Nnaji, Eastern Massachusetts VP for MAWOCC, who would like to help provide a presentation in Winchester in late May on the intersectionality of these issues with the LWV. Our next step is to set up a meeting between her and members of the Steering Committee. Patty agreed to follow up on this

100th Anniversary – We deferred further discussion of this occasion, which will be in 2020, except that Patty noted a new statewide Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and some potential themes of a program related to the 100th anniversary.

Candidate Forums – Lynne has reserved the Jenks Center space for the afternoon of Sunday March 3. Voters and candidates have advised us that they would prefer standardization of the questions asked the candidates, and

that the proceedings be recorded by WinCam. In response to this feedback, we will stick to a single room format. If we have a formal debate, we will solicit questions from voters, and secure the services of a League trained moderator, Patti Muldoon being recommended. Candidates can place their name in nomination through the end of January. We will not know until then what exact format the forum will take, because we do not know if the open seats will be contested (that is, whether there will be more candidates than open seats). In addition, we may wish to present a forum with speakers for and against the Proposition 2 ½ override question being proposed by the Select Board. How and when we do this, depends on the format of the candidates forum, so we cannot plan in more detail until the end of this month.

State and National League newsletters and activities – The Metro West Field Service Committee meeting is Saturday January 11 10:15 to 1 in Newton, to learn what the state League and other chapters are doing. For example the idea for the round-robin (“speed dating”) candidate forum came from the State League. Merry, Robin, and Jan may be able to attend this meeting.

A new member handbook – Patty agreed to send information about this along to Vicky and Gail, who will be able to supply a list of our new members to LWVMA, so they can send them a new member handbook at no charge.

Other items mentioned include monthly technology and communication webinars by LWVUS, updated census action kits, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion goals for 2019, and the “Declaration for American Democracy”, recently released by LWVUS in response to HR1.

Annual Meeting planning – This presently is scheduled for June 8. Patty and Jan will meet ahead of time for this, because they are outgoing members of the Steering Committee.

Aspects of planning to consider – type and manner of refreshments, whether to change the date and time, who will receive the League’s annual award.

Other discussion –

Discussion of recruiting new (and younger?) members of the Steering Committee

Upcoming events –

Last day to register to vote 3/6/19

Town Election 3/26/19

Spring Town Meeting – 4/29/19

LWVMA 2019 Convention in Westford – 6/7/19 – 6/8/19

LWVW Annual Meeting and Civic Award Presentation 6/8/19, 12:00 PM, Sanborn House

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne Brodsky