

League of Women Voters of Winchester - Steering Committee Meeting

October 7, 2019

Host: Jean Herbert

Facilitator: Meredith Crowley

Secretary: Jean Herbert

Attendees: Meredith Crowley, Erica Lane, Lynne Brodsky, Sue Carney, Jean Herbert

Absent: Robin Wolf, Kim Foley, Jeanette Kolodziej, Judy Blaine

Member Check-in

Approval of Minutes – minutes were approved and will be sent to Susan and Lauren for the web site

Treasurer's Report – Robin was not in attendance, but sent her report

Membership Update – Kim and Vicky are still working on the letter to be sent to members for dues

Communications Update

Lynne reported that she asked a friend who does web sites for professional organizations to provide an estimate for improving and updating our site. The estimate we had received (\$3000 or more) from our earlier query was deemed too high for our budget. Lynne suggested that we could just update Wild Apricot. Vicky had reminded us in an email that we are not really in a rush to change vendors at this point, so we will continue exploring options. Sue offered to follow up and will contact the state LWV for possible recommendations. (Her son is a software engineer and can probably offer advice.) Sue will ask Robin to help with this.

Updates on Old Business

Farmers' Market

Lynne reported that the table at the Farmers' Market went very well. We received a contribution and several names for possible new members.

Climate Action Advisory Committee

Lynne and Kim attended the Climate Action Advisory Committee program. Author John Rogers spoke about how we as individuals can reduce our climate footprint. Other speakers were Jason Lewis, Lisa Wong, and Mike Day, among others.

Jimmy Tingle Fundraiser

Marilyn has arranged a date with Jimmy Tingle and the Jenks Center for Saturday, April 4. Reception at 6:30, show at 7:30. It will be called "Humor for Humanity." Jean will write up a Save the Date email to be sent to members. Erica suggested that we should include a Save the Date item in the Membership Letter that Vicky and Kim are putting together.

100th Anniversary Program

There was much discussion about what we might do for the 100th anniversary celebration.

Merry has been looking into what the state and other local leagues are doing for the 100th anniversary. She contacted Ellen Knight at town archives because women in Winchester were active in the movement from the early days. We considered an educational panel at the library, or a program involving high school students, but will follow up first with a "ready-made" program that Nancy Schrock has suggested. It is a musical performance called "We Did It For You," which includes the contributions of women of color.

Jean will follow up with Nancy to find out more about this “ready-made” program, possibly for early March. (Lexington is doing it in late March.) Even though this program is expensive (\$1500 plus room fee), the Steering Committee decided that we have enough money in the budget to make this a free event. We do not want it to conflict with our April fundraiser. It was suggested that we could charge a small fee of \$5 or \$10.

Sue will assist with exploring whether this event could be held at a school in town. We will also find out if Mary Ellen is doing anything to mark the 100th anniversary of women getting the vote. Merry reminded us that anything we do should be registered with the state league, since they want to know of these events. Merry mentioned that National Women’s Day is Sunday, March 8, so an early March date would be good perhaps to mark this occasion as well.

Candidate Forum

Lynne has found a moderator: Margaret Coppe from Lexington. The forum will be held at the Jenks Center on March 15. The space is paid for by the Cummings Foundation. If all three boards are not competitive, then the forum will be cancelled. January 31 is the deadline to get papers in to run.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)

Lynne reported that this organization is focused on candidate forums. They have had two Facebook Live conversations. The most recent was about the bell hooks book *Ain’t I a Woman?* There will be two more before the end of the year. Lynne alternates with Patty to be on camera and she will ask Susan and Lauren to do more publicity for the next ones.

Legislative Liaison

Tabled until the next meeting.

Spring Book Read

Jeanette is working on this and will report on progress at the next meeting.

Voter Services

Erica had looked into vote reminder emails and discovered it is too expensive.

Registration at the high school will take place the first week of February.

Lynne contacted the town about using Reverse 911 for election day reminders to vote. She will follow up with the fire chief, who is in charge of this service, once a new chief has been hired.

Lynne might speak with Michelle Bergstrom, head of the school committee, to see if we might remind parents to vote through her contact lists.

Lynne suggested that we should write a letter to the editor about why it is important to vote in local elections, and also to provide options for how busy people might vote by absentee ballot.

Deadline to register to vote – March 11

Upcoming Events

Moveable Feast

Merry met with Jan Dolan and has the list of things to do. She will begin contacting people the last week of October. The event will take place December 5th.

Basics of Winchester Town Government

This event will take place November 3, the day before town meeting, from 2:00 – 3:30 in the Winchester Room, Town Hall. WinCam is all set. Lynne is working with a graphic artist to produce updated posters that inform about the workings of various town offices. Speakers will include Mariano Goluboff, who will discuss legislative elected boards; Michelle Bergstrom, who will talk about the board of education; and Lisa Wong, who will describe the job of town manager. Each person will speak for 20 minutes, followed by a Q & A session. Lynne will put posters advertising the event in Bookends, Caffe Nero, and The Fuller Cup.

Lynne would like to do a similar event before the spring town meeting. That one will address how warrants are submitted to town meeting, what the planning board does, and what the town clerk does.

Other Programs That Have Been Suggested

Open meeting law

Single-payer health care

Ranked voting

Understanding the electoral college (?)