

**League of Women Voters of Winchester
Steering Committee Minutes – Approved 3/1/16
February 2, 2016**

SC Attendees: Nancy Schrock (Facilitator,) Patty Shepard (Secretary and co-host,) Judie Muggia (host,) Marilyn Mullane, Vicky Coccoluto, Jan Dolan, Jean Herbert, and Susan Woodward

The meeting convened at 7:01 PM. After member checkin, the minutes of January 5, 2016 meeting were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy presented the Treasurer's report and it was approved. The balance is \$587 and we are within our budget.

Money in Politics Consensus Report - Formally approved by the Steering Committee (SC) and submitted on time to LWVUS.

Membership Report – Vicky handed everyone the official membership list as of January 31, 2016 (reported to LWVUS) and said that we already have another new member, Chelsea Portney, who moved from Andover, making our total membership 74. After a consultation with Judie Muggia and Peggy Roll, we have designated Carolyn Dettinger as an Honorary Member.

Communications – Nancy led us through the LWVWinchester.org website, pointing out the many improvements that she has made recently. She encouraged us to visit the website, create an account from our email and a password, so we can login and see the member information that is posted under "members." Everything else is available without logging in, including: mission statement, non-partisan policy, all the minutes of the steering committee meetings, and links to the town departments, the state and national LWV, a guide to town meeting, list of all town meeting members, current town warrants, and MA voter information. It's really quite useful for our members and some new links to all of our previous events may be coming soon. The SC also decided to forego the spring postcard since firm dates were not yet available for all upcoming events.

Voter Services

- Non-English speakers voter workshop query from an Arlington LWV member – Marilyn reported that she is waiting for a response from our town clerk about whether this is available in Winchester. Vicky agreed to check with Dottie Burstein about this as well.
- Election Modernization Voter Workshop training Webinar, Feb. 16th 5:30 p.m. – Marilyn has signed up for this and Susan might take it as well. Early voting is in effect for the November 2016 Presidential Election for the first time.
- Medford High School – Vicky reported that her contact at Medford High, Nick Kain, has proposed a voter registration event on February 25 (**subsequently updated to February 26**) following their mock election in the morning. She has already contacted the City Registrar and is waiting to hear back from the High School. This would register those who will be 18 in time for the September 8 State Primary election. The board agreed to go ahead with this with some reassurance that the registrar would provide the necessary support. Susan, Jan, Marilyn and maybe Judie will be helping Vicky out. Vicky also be requesting help from the general membership.

Spring Fundraiser – Marilyn reported that she is keeping Vicky and Patty in the loop on this by sending them minutes of their subcommittee meetings. One of the 6 possible kitchens has been confirmed but Mary McKenna is not clear which unit it will be yet. Another kitchen, designed by Ellen Spencer, is a strong possibility, but there is a need for a written proposal to make available to both designers and

owners. Marilyn agreed to draft a proposal (which makes it clear we are a non-partisan organization) and Nancy agreed to finalize and publish it. "What's Cookin?" is a possible name. Marilyn has been making lots of calls on the six kitchens that we are hoping for but if we can not confirm these by the next subcommittee meeting (2/12) we will need to go to our general membership for help. General strategies were discussed at some length in terms of other events that are also taking place in the spring and publicity.

LWVUS 2016-2018 Biennium Program Planning input (due March 1) – Marilyn explained that she and Susan went to the Metro West meeting and the questions that we need to respond to by March 1 are:

- 1. Do you support the proposed program focus, Making Democracy Work, for the 2016-2018 biennium? (Yes/No)*
 - 2. Would you like to recommend another program item, in addition to or instead of Making Democracy Work? (Yes/No)*
 - 3. Please provide a statement (300 words or less) describing the scope of your proposal, including a description of the issue area, its importance in advancing the League's mission and resources that would be required.*
 - 4. What LWVUS positions does your League use to take action at the state and local level?*
- Comment Section – Optional comments (300 words or less) may be added here.**

After some discussion, it was agreed that "Making Democracy work" is a fine area of focus but that we want Marilyn to speak with Karen Price, from the Needham LWV, about what additional programming they might be suggesting and followup with us by email before the deadline.

BRIEF REPORT ON PAST EVENTS

WHS Voter Registration Drive – 124 students were registered but 76 were rejected because it was too soon to register 16 and 17 year olds. This is not possible until August 2016. In the future we need to train our volunteers more carefully and have the town clerk present.

NextDoor Theater Mini-Fundraiser – This was very enjoyable, raised \$168, close to our budget, and we recommend doing it again.

LWVMA MetroWest Meeting – Marilyn attended and shared the following information from the meeting: each LWV chapter can have 2 Scharfman grants per year; we do get notified if one of our high school students enters the video contest; the LWV MA is doing a consensus study on Charter Schools in the fall with a report date in 2017. (We should definitely invite Pat Jehlen to this next year.) Marilyn proposed that next year we budget for and donate one "League Choice Book" to each of the schools in Winchester, including St. Mary's and Acera.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WFEE Trivia Bee, Wednesday, February 3rd 7-9:30 pm – Marilyn, Susan and Vicky will be on the LWVW team and will be very well dressed, indeed, in their new red, white, and blue sashes.

Day on the Hill, February 9 - Susan, Nancy, Patty, Marilyn, and Betsy Cregger are registered for this. Nancy offered to carpool for some of us and will be in touch by email soon so we can coordinate.

WHS Focus Panel, February 12 – Marilyn agree to do this, which includes a 10-15 minute talk on civic engagement and the LWV.

Hot Topic - Building People, Not Prisons, Wednesday March 23rd from 7:00 - 8:30 PM – Patty passed out a new article on our guest speaker, Andrea James, which can be accessed here:

<http://nytlive.nytimes.com/womenintheworld/2016/01/27/meet-the-former-lawyer-and-inmate-fighting-for-americas-incarcerated-women/>

Then, we went through the program planning guide and came up with the following remaining task list for the event:

Patty to:

1. check with Andrea about her needs for the presentation, including podium, water, computer, projector, screen, transportation and/or directions, help from LWV members with book sales etc.
2. check with WinCam about covering the event and make any necessary arrangements.
3. check on the exact amount to pay Andrea and let Nancy know.
4. send her letter to the editor to Jo-Ann, along with other written material and request her to submit an article as well as the letter to the editor and also list the event in the relevant calendars. Also, Patty will ask her whether she needs any additional information from her.
5. circulate flyer to WUS, MVNAACP, Lori Kenshaft, Susan Tordello, Josh Beardsley, CJPC.org calendar, and others – all electronic
6. send a thank you note Andrea (after the event) and also write up a blurb for the annual report.

Nancy will:

1. provide flyer/poster
2. follow up on needs for equipment with the Museum, including our new microphones, after Patty clarifies with speaker.

Marilyn to coordinate distribution of flyers in Winchester.

Susan to send 2 additional emails to LWVW membership

Judie and Jean will come one half hour early to the event and help set up chairs if needed and act as greeters.

Vicky will provide and put up appropriate signs and/or banners for the event.

Spring Day at the Races and VOTE411 – Vicky reported that Jo-Ann Michalak, who is the lead for the Day at the Races candidate forum, is suggesting the date of Sunday, March 13, in the afternoon, or possibly the following Tuesday or Wednesday evening. Jo-Ann suggested Patti Muldoon as moderator, and three possible locations, HS auditorium, McCall auditorium or the Jenks Center Pond Room, with availability and rental cost being the deciding factors. Nancy agreed to do a poster and to have our new microphone available for this event.

NEW BUSINESS

Civic Leadership Award – Time was short but some new suggestions were made before the meeting was adjourned. This needs to be decided at the 3/1/16 meeting.

Marilyn also explained her preference for keeping the civic award ceremony separate from the Annual Meeting.

Steering Committee Recruitment – deferred to next meeting

CALENDAR

February 9: Day on the Hill, 10 AM to noon, snow date Feb 23

February 10: Primary Voter Registration Deadline

March 1: Presidential Primary

These are from the 1/27/16 LWVMA email:

Thursday, March 10 "Use your Voice Tour 2016," Sanders Theatre,

Sunday, March 13 **Harvard University, Cambridge, 8 p.m.**
Environmental Action Conference, Northeastern University, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 30 **LWVMA Council, Clark University, Worcester, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

May 22: What's Cooking? Kitchen Tour fundraiser

March 29: Town Election

June 16-19: LWVUS – National League Conference in Washington DC

FUTURE SC MEETINGS

Date	Facilitator	Secretary	CoHost
March 1	Patty	Jan	Nancy
April 5	Jan	Judie	Water only (WPL)
May 3	Judie	Vicky	Vicky

June Annual Meeting, Additional SC Meeting, as needed

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Shepard