

League of Women Voters of Winchester
Draft Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2020 from 7 - 9 PM via Zoom

Attendees: Lynne Brodsky, Kim Foley, Jean Herbert, Jeanette Kolodziej, Amanda Littell-Clark, Meredith Mason-Crowley, Marilyn Mullane, and Michele Nathan

Facilitator: Marilyn Mullane

Secretary: Lynne Brodsky

I. Informal Check-in while SC members gathered over Zoom

II. We approved the minutes from the May 12th LWVW SC meeting, and the July 15th LWVW SC Planning Meeting.

We further discussed catching up on posting these on our website, which Robin did previously. Jeanette investigated and determined first that the SC minutes can be viewed after some non-intuitive navigation, and second, that they are posted through April 2020. Kim and Amanda will address this further.

III. Treasurer's Report. An updated report was distributed by Jean prior to the meeting, and discussed further during the meeting.

IV. Upcoming Programs and Events:

A. September/October Farmer's Market – Jean is following up with Fred about the date(s).

B. Day/Harrah Debate in person debate – Lynne reported that WinCAM has expanded and renovated, and now has a new, modern, socially distant meeting room that already has been used in real time by the School Committee. The Winchester Town Clerk Mary Ellen Lannon has given her permission for us to hold an in person debate. Lynne has toured WinCAM and spoken with David Gauthier who runs it. He recommends we conduct the debate on a week night, because he can provide more technical support than is available on the weekend. One of the candidates and the League moderator have tentatively agreed on the evening of Tuesday October 13. We are still waiting to hear from Mike Day regarding that date. Lynne has begun contacting community groups to submit debate questions, and asked them to send them to her personal email address. It might be better to utilize our organizational email address, which is info@LVW.org. This currently is accessible to Joanne Michalak. Amanda will look into making it available for our current activities, but presently we will continue asking residents to send questions to Lynne's personal email address. We discussed publicity release to solicit questions from the public, and to announce the date, once it has been finalized. Lynne

will compose specific announcements for distribution in this regard, and send them to Amanda, Lauren, and Susan, as indicated.

C. September 21st National Voter Registration Drive Week (Working Group Jeanette, Merry and Amanda). The Network for Social Justice asked us to partner with them to present an event involving the High School students. Jeanette's contacts at WHS suggested we prepare a program for a zoom assembly for students on a Wednesday morning. Beyond this, Jeanette has had some difficulty establishing contact with mentors and teachers at the high school and student members of Connect and Commit, which may well be because all their energy is consumed by getting ready to return to school with the new routines imposed by COVID. She also has not been able to have enough contact with the Network to have clarity about what sort of event they would like to organize. She pointed out that the message need not be complex. It would be ideal if the students themselves could provide the material to distribute on their social media. Meanwhile Mary Ellen has reviewed our League's letter to the editor about voter registration. We also discussed that we have a voter registration banner ready to post at the high school. Marilyn and Jeanette will meet on site to prepare to post it.

D. Ranked Voting special program/hot topic - Patty Shepard has organized a program with the Yes on 2 campaign, with Reverend Vernon Walker as a featured speaker. Current sponsors include the Winchester Unitarian Society and the area NAACP chapter. Patty asks our League and Temple Shir Tikvah to cosponsor. Because this event aligns with state League positions, because the event is not affiliating with any one church, and because of the prominence of the scheduled speaker, we voted to cosponsor this event, pending confirmation that we as a cosponsor will not be asked to provide financial support for the event. Lynne will be in contact with Patty on an ongoing basis about this event.

E. Banner for General Election - Jeanette reported that the banner is ready, that she is storing it until it is deployed, and that it will be hung at the Transfer Station.

F. Aug. 31st Legislative Briefing (webinar available) - Jeanette and Lynne from our League attended, and updated the Committee about the event. If a link to this event is available, we would like to post it.

G. Bylaw Review - Jean will be hosting at her residence, a socially distant meeting of the subgroup for Sept. 13th from 10 - noon; term limits to be considered during Bylaw Review

V. Postponement of Jimmy Tingle Fundraiser/100th Anniversary Celebration:

A. Verify checks from Tingle (\$1250), Jenks (\$300), La Patisserie (\$130) and Peak Event Service (\$90.43) received. The update is that Jimmy Tingle's check has not been returned at this time.

B. We decided that now is not the time for us to have a direct appeal for funds for our League. Current donations include many voluntary remissions of Tingle ticket prices back to our League, and additional donations many people might make incident to updating their membership during the fall and winter.

This led to a discussion of operationalizing our link to a pay portal on our website to enable payment of membership dues and donations in the way that most people are accustomed to, and no longer require people mail a paper check. Amanda recently presented us with the results of her extensive research on this topic. We decided that Amanda and Jean will go ahead and talk to Robin about setting up the Wild Apricot payment portal.

VI. Other Reports:

A. Membership - Kim (and Vicky). There are no new members this month. Membership renewal letters go out soon. Although Vicky has liked to send a mailed letter with a handwritten greeting, we discussed that now may be the time to switch over to all email, except for the few members who do not use email. Kim will discuss further with Vicky.

B. Website - Amanda has been updating our website and keeping it current.

C. Communications/Media - Amanda (Lauren, Susan and Vicky); Amanda reported back about the League FB training module. It is important that all posts be appropriate to the specific platform (website, Facebook, Twitter), that we follow League policies and bylaws, and that we respect the League “brand”. We therefore concluded that it would be beneficial for SC members to take this training module. We had further discussion of specific items that have been posted, or may be posted on our website, including the 8/21 Virtual Gala to Protect 2020 Election, the picture of the Town Drop Box for voters to deposit ballots, a promotion about the US Post Office official suffragist stamp

D. DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) – DEI is now an important theme of LWVMA’s programming. Patty Shepard is our representative to LWVMA in this regard, as well as being very active with various community groups. See the previous entry about the Yes on 2 event she is organizing, featuring a prominent racial justice activist. Patty and Lynne will update the SC as programs develop, rather than on a regular monthly basis)

E. Liaison with State activities – Marilyn listed a number of previous and upcoming programs about which the State League has notified membership. We discussed the question of whether she as a representative of the SC, needs to notify our membership about specific events. We decided that will not be necessary, although we may want to post specific action items on our Facebook page.

VII. Other LWVW Roles:

A. Lauren Costello confirmed as Spokesperson

B. We discussed whether to establish an official Voter Services Chair.

Their roles might include

- Mock elections
- 9/15 How to Run Virtual Candidate Forum

- Ballots over Bars Jailing Voting Project
- Completion of the LWVMA Voter Engagement Survey (which Lynne has done the past couple of years).
- Organizing the candidate debates
- Working with WHS, the Network, etc around registering young voters.

There was some concern that this role would be too much for a single volunteer to take on, and we are not in a position to have a paid employee. We think distributing these duties among members of the SC may be a local Winchester phenomenon. Marilyn will begin talking to other Leagues about how they provide Voter Services.

The meeting adjourned at 9 PM on schedule, after brief discussion of scheduling next month's meeting.

Next month is scheduled for October 13 7 to 9. If the candidate debate is scheduled on October 13, we will postpone our LWVW SC meeting to October 20. Lynne will facilitate, having compiled the minutes tonight. Jeanette Kolodziej will record the minutes (and facilitate the November meeting).

The following text includes agenda items were not discussed because we did not have time to get to them.

VIII. Other Hot Topics - consider survey results: protect/expand voting rights; \$\$ in politics; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Civic Education

- Basics of Government, Part II
- Winchester 2020 Climate Action Plan
- Right to Repair Ballot Question
- Others?

IX. Later Programs and Events:

- A. Moveable Feast
- B. Metro West Meetings
- C. Day on the Hill
- D. Annual Book Read
- E. Civic Leadership Award
- F. Annual Meeting
- G. Town Day
- H. Spring Town Elections

X. Housekeeping - Assign Facilitator and Secretary Roles for December 8 - May 11 SC Meetings

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Brodsky