

FINAL MINUTES

League of Women Voters of Winchester
Steering Committee Meeting via Zoom
November 9, 2020
7-9 pm

Facilitator: Jeanette Kolodziej

Secretary: Kim Foley

Attendees:

Sonya Rao, Caroline Shamu, Jean Herbert, Kim Foley, Lynne Brodsky, Marilyn Mullane, Amanda Littel-Clark, Michele Nathan, Jeanette Kolodziej

Introduction

After a brief check-in with attendees, we welcomed two new members to the Steering Committee. Caroline Shamu and Sonya Rao, after attending last month as guests, have agreed to assume leadership roles in the League by serving on the Steering Committee. A warm welcome was extended to Caroline and Sonya.

Minutes

Minutes from last month were approved and will be sent to Amanda to be posted on our website.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report submitted by Jean was accepted.

Membership

1. Kim reported that the membership drive is going well. We presently have 63 renewals which is a higher number than from the same time last year. Online renewal also seems to be going well.
2. We have until January 31, 2021 to submit our membership numbers to the National League.
3. Vicky sent out an E-blast renewal reminder last week. It was suggested that the SC members could make phone calls to remaining unpaid members.

Communications

Amanda reports that she, Sonya and Michele are still working to formulate a plan for sharing state and national postings on social media. Caroline suggested using Google Docs to consolidate internal communication. After much discussion, Caroline and Jeanette agreed to explore this possibility.

Voter Services/Registration

1. Jeanette reported that the Nat'l Voter Registration Drive was promoted successfully and will check with Mary Ellen Lannon, the Town Clerk, to determine if there was an increase in new voter registrations as a result of our outreach efforts in October.
2. Marilyn picked up the Vote banner and will store it.
3. Lynne reported on the Candidate Debate. It went well but she feels in-person meetings are more revealing of candidates' views and attributes than Zoom.
4. Lynne brought up an email Vicky recently sent the SC about a group called Act on Mass (AoM). This organization seeks to greatly increase transparency of the deliberations of the MA House of Representatives. So often we hear about legislation we think will easily pass into law but nothing ever happens and we never hear about it again ie: the Roe Act. They have a project, the Voters Deserve to Know Campaign, that they feel aligns well with LWV's mission of making our government responsive to the people's will, and that it has good potential to be very effective.
5. Lynne will check out their website and check with Judy Zaunbrecher to determine if AoM is a group appropriate to partner with and/or post information about on our website.

Moveable Feast

1. Jeanette reported for Merry who couldn't attend due to Town Meeting.
2. After much discussion about whether or not to do an in-person, timed arrival luncheon, the SC decided NOT to do an in-person event.
3. We will, instead, get a count of # of town employees and have the box lunches delivered.
4. Delivery can be either by the caterer or, if they don't/won't deliver to multiple locations, from League volunteers.
5. It was recommended that Merry get competitive bids from D'Agostino's and La Patisserie for box lunches with delivery and without delivery.

League Leaders Lunch

Kim and Marilyn attended the 10/17 Lunch. The keynote speaker was Charles Stewart from MIT's Election Data and Science Lab who basically acknowledged that, yes, our elections are safe. He also talked about how election night might go in a state where a news station will be able to call the election. One example is Florida. Their early voting and mail-in ballots are counted, as they arrive, so when the polls close at 8pm on Nov. 3rd, the officials can simply push a button and tabulate those votes plus the votes cast on Election Day. If one candidate has a sizable lead, the networks will call it for him and game over.

There were also 3 breakout sessions. DEI, Membership, and Fundraising. Marilyn went to Fundraising but not much to report. Most Leagues are laying low keeping expenses down. If they do anything, it's virtual and they don't charge for it. One League held a free Trivia Night that normally would raise approximately \$800. Kim went to Membership and also not much to report. We are doing what most Leagues do. They did talk about giving Membership Scholarships to high school students and also a member pay for a friend's membership to recruit new members. I asked Vicky about this and she said we tried it years ago and it wasn't productive.

The LWVMA 100th Virtual Birthday Gala and Recognition Award on December 13th at 1pm

Marilyn has submitted the nomination for Judy Muggia to be considered for this prestigious award. It's not clear if each nominee automatically receives an award or if this is competitive. If it's competitive, who better to win than our Judy! Remember to register for this event. Cost is \$25.00

Open Meeting on December 8th

Sonya will collaborate with Patty Shepard to design a presentation on DEI for this meeting. Sonya recently spoke on this topic at the Georgetown University Medical School.

ByLaws

Jean reported we are required to periodically have an audit. Permission was given for Jean to look into finding someone to do this. Her sub-committee reviewing the bylaws is ongoing and will have more to report in January.

New Business

Phonathon

Jean reported this is a state and local chapter fundraiser. The local chapter receives a percentage of the money raised by a caller. You will be calling a

chapter different than your own. It is tied into the Gala through a fundraising letter previously sent from LWVMA. If you donate \$25, you will get a ticket and won't be called during the Phonathon.

Semi-Annual Survey from National

Lynne and Jeanette will collaborate to complete and return the survey by December 4th.

Future Programs

We only had time to discuss the Annual Book Read. Initially, this event was created to foster community among LWVW members. In some later years, we collaborated with high school students. A suggestion was made that perhaps we might substitute a movie for a book this year. Further discussion is warranted.

Next meeting: December 8th, Open Meeting.

Facilitator: Kim Foley

Secretary: Jean Herbert

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Foley