

League of Women Voters of Winchester\*\*\*

Minutes of Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 10, 2017

Sanborn House, 15 High Street, Winchester

Moderator: Vicky Coccoluto

Recorder: Susan Woodward

First Reader: Elinor Quill

Second Reader: Jan Dolan

The Annual Meeting began with a gathering for conversation and a delicious brunch. At 11:30 our moderator, Vicky Coccoluto, welcomed everyone to the meeting and the presentation of our Civic Leadership Award. She spoke about the League's main mission; that being the education of our citizens so they may be well informed before they vote. Vicky also talked about our activities of the last year and gave a few examples of what we are planning for the fall.

Vicky then introduced Judy Manzo as this year's recipient of the Civic Leadership award. The speakers on Judy's many accomplishments were Caren Connelly, executive Director of WFEE, Paul Rahmeier of early WFEE, Kathy Richardson from Winchester Reads, Corie Nichols of WCMS, and Pat Byrne, Judy's friend and business partner.

At 12:45 Vicky opened the business meeting by welcoming approximately 30 attendees. She announced Susan Woodward as recorder and Elinor Quill as First Reader. Vicky asked for a Second Reader from the group and Jan Dolan volunteered. Next, the members took time to review and complete our form for suggestions for program topics for the coming year, ranking their top three choices. They also were asked to indicate how they might become more involved in the work of the League. Next was a report from Susan Woodward of the Steering Committee which highlighted the past year's events and activities.

#### Steering Committee Report

We had 2 members of the Steering Committee attend the National Convention in June, 2016 in Washington D.C. A change in the By-Laws was adopted at the meeting which lowered the full membership age from 18 to 16 years old. The Steering Committee reviewed and voted to accept the National By-Law on September 27, 2016, and it was recommended that the membership ratify the language on the by-law page at today's meeting.

- Voter registration at Winchester High School and Tufts Community Day in Medford last fall
- Organized 2 Candidate Forums – one in the fall for State Senate of the Fifth Middlesex District at Town Hall in Stoneham, and “A Day at the Races” for the Spring Town Election in Winchester. We had a record turnout in Winchester with more than 120 attendees!
- Co-sponsored a program, “The Role of the Sheriff in Our Community Justice System” featuring the sheriff of Middlesex County, Peter Koutoujian

- Made available on our Facebook the Middlesex County Sheriff debate organized by NewTV and various chapters of the LVWMA, and a Q &A of the democratic candidates for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Middlesex District Senate primary election.
- Several members participated in the State League Phonathon to raise funds for state and local leagues.
- We presented Judie Muggia with our 2016 Civic Leadership Award at the Moveable Feast luncheon for town employees in December.
- We organized a Charter School Consensus Study in conjunction with the Arlington League. This was a state-wide League study on the impact of charter school expansion on the public school system and overall effect on the quality of education in our state.
- We did program planning that will shape the LWVMA state league programs for the next 2 years
- One of our league members was a delegate to the LWVMA Convention in Framingham in May.
- Co-sponsored “The Politics of Justice,” a comprehensive criminal justice reform program in Arlington. There were a dozen speakers leading discussion of pending legislation in the General Court.
- Joined with other leagues in Boston for the Women’s March on January 21<sup>st</sup>
- We had a table at Farmer’s market in September and a League booth at Town Day a week ago. These events provide opportunities to connect with potential voters and promote civic involvement.
- Several steering committee members attended Metro West meetings throughout the year. It is a good opportunity to hear about the activities of Leagues in surrounding areas and to share what we have done.

These are several activities already in the planning stage for next fall:

- Climate Change/Health Program – Ruth Trimarchi, our member of the LWVMA Environmental Steering Committee has confirmed Jon Buonocore speaking on Climate, Energy, and Health 10/4
- Winchester Train Station renovations and plans for the Town Center – Nancy Schrock and Mary McKenna have met with Winchester’s Town Planner. This topic may take the form of both discussion and possible walk-through of the redesigned pedestrian area involving more than one program.
- A program on “How to Run for Office” is in the works for early November.

Vicky announced that we had a quorum and asked that we refer to the Minutes of last year’s Annual Meeting held on June 14, 2016. There was a motion to approve and it was seconded. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

## Membership Report

Vicky, Membership Chair, confirmed that we are 77 members strong as of today. Sadly, during this past year we lost one of our quiet and faithful longtime members, Ellen Kimball, who passed away in March. We are grateful for the generosity of our Sustaining Members who contribute an additional amount above the annual \$65 dues that can be applied to our local program costs. At this point Vicky honored our 3 Life Members, those who've been in the League for at least 50 years: Pat Wells, Carolyn Dettinger, and most recently thus designated, Judie Muggia, who was also our Civic Award recipient for 2016.

Vicky announced the By-Law change that was adopted at the 2016 National Convention of the LWVUS. It lowered the full membership age to 16 from 18, and it clarified that members are free to join any local League, and are not limited to the League where they reside. If they reside outside an area of a local league, they may join any local League or simply become state members-at-large without affiliating with a local League. Our steering committee voted to act this by-law at its September 27, 2016 meeting. Vicky asked if anyone needed a reading of the new language or a discussion. There was none. The members voted and the By-Law change was approved.

## Treasurer's Report

Our Treasurer, Nancy Schrock, began by giving last year's financial report (2016/17). The League's assets at the time of the meeting were \$7,620 in checking and \$7132 in a CD, both in the Winchester Cooperative bank. Nancy applied for 2 grants, one from the En Ka Society that paid for the new sound system and voting banners which are hung at the rotary at Church Street and cost \$100 to hang and \$115 to change the patch which shows the date of the election. She also applied for and received a grant of \$250 from the State League's Daniel Scharfman Citizen Education Fund which went towards programming. Nancy explained that we broke even this year because we had a large fund raiser last year (Kitchen Tour). To raise funds the coming year we will do an appeal letter in January.

Vicki moved to accept the financial report for 2016/17. The motion was seconded and the budget was accepted.

Nancy then presented the budget for July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, referring to the sheet contained in the annual meeting packet, which listed the figures for 2016/17 and projected income/expenses for 2017/18. At this time Judy Manzo and Judy Blaine volunteered to help with an appeal letter on line. It is projected to be at no cost to us as we will not be using printing or postage. Marilyn Mullane asked why we were not planning to do a large fundraiser. She said that she feared that the idea of a Kitchen Tour may be stolen by another group and we need the funds for our programs. It was very successful and although it was a lot of work Marilyn agreed to work on a second Kitchen Tour fundraiser in the spring of 2018. Judy Manzo volunteered her kitchen to be on the tour. The budget was amended to include a large fundraiser in the spring. Vicky made a motion to approve the budget as amended. The motion was seconded and the amended budget was approved.

The fourth voting item on the agenda was the nomination for the position of Treasurer for a two-year term. Lauren Costello placed Robin Wolf in nomination. Vicky asked for other nominees. There were none. Robin was elected Treasurer in absentia. (She knew this was happening and had agreed to it.)

The last vote was the nomination and election of a slate of Steering Committee members for 2017/18. The nominees were Michele Gerroir-Bartalini, Winni Paskarian for their first two-year term. Jan Dolan and Patty Shepard are stepping up for a second two-year term. Vicky recognized Nancy Schrock as she steps down and will finish her second term. No one can match Nancy for talent in communications and graphic design for our website; and for organizing and publicizing our candidate forums, as well as her contribution to designing, writing and printing the booklet for last year's Kitchen Tour. In addition, she served as Treasurer for the last two years. Vicky made a motion to elect the slate of nominees to the Steering Committee. It was seconded and the slate was elected. Vicky motioned to adjourn. It was seconded and the meeting adjourned at 1:30.            Respectfully submitted, Susan Woodward