

Minutes approved on Tuesday, October 6, 2015
League of Women Voters of Winchester
Tuesday, September 1, 2015
Home of Judie Muggia

SC Attendees: Jean Herbert, Judie (host and facilitator), Marilyn Mullane, Nancy Schrock, Patty Shepard, Susan Woodward (secretary)

After check-in and refreshments, the minutes of Monday, August 3, 2015 were approved. Nancy asked that the person who submits the final copy of the minutes of a meeting for the website to please write "approved" in the top margin along with the date. Marilyn reminded us that a draft of the minutes should also be sent to Jo-Ann. joannmichalak@gmail.com. Susan will reserve the room at the Winchester Savings bank for the October 6th meeting. She will also submit a letter to the Town Manager's office to hang the banner at the rotary for the March 1, 2016 Presidential Primary.

1. Treasurer's Report - Nancy has switched to QuickBooks for her reports. This month's numbers, \$6200 in the checking, a CD of \$7000, and a bill from National for \$1900 will be reflected in next month's report. Nancy has eliminated sustaining members as a donation and created 2 membership categories: regular and sustaining. There were gifts given in honor of Marcia Wood and Sarah Swiger. Nancy is looking at a list of possible grants. The motion to accept Nancy's report was passed.
2. Communications Report – Susan will announce on Facebook the October 6th meeting open to the public, and Needham's Open Meeting on Money in Politics. FB is also being used to highlight important anniversaries like the 50th anniversary of the VRA. The logo and link for on-line Voter Registration needs to be added to our website. Nancy, Susan, and Vicky will meet to update the website and coordinate email blasts and memos. Lastly, Nancy will create our "event" postcard once we have finalized dates for fall programs/activities.
3. National Programs - Constitutional Amendment Study and Money in Politics

Marilyn and Patty participated in the LWVMA August 14th telecon regarding the upcoming studies. LWVMA is looking for good Mass local league turnout since the Mass League influenced LWVUS planning/studies.

Constitutional Amendment -

Steering Committee Member, Patty Shepard, is our lead for this study with help from Marilyn. Morning of November 7, 2015, (9 – 12) is the Consensus meeting at Sanborn House. See the LWVW email of August 26th subject: a League Consensus Studies "save the date" to our membership including available study materials. Since LWVUS is really looking for league input as opposed to "experts" telling us what to do, there is no need for an educational forum for the public and our members. Assignments from the LWVMA telecon include Marilyn checking up on whether the Arlington and Belmont Leagues intended to do both studies. Arlington expressed interest in partnering with us. After some discussion, the SC decided to include the Arlington League if they are still interested. Arlington will be asked to share in our costs. And, we cannot do the consensus portion together. Each league will be responsible for facilitating their own group as we will file separate reports. Since Sanborn is available, and there is another breakout room, this will work.

Marilyn will develop and present Powerpoint slides introducing the topic and the notion of consensus. Patty will facilitate our group and Jean will be our recorder.

Money in Politics – Steering Committee member, Judie Muggia, is our lead. Study guide and questions are expected to be available in mid-October. Regional educational forums vs. LWVW educational forum. Do we want to do one of our own? Pro's (visibility and educating the public), and con's (more work). Also, since LWV does have a position*, we don't have to provide speakers covering different perspectives. Meeting is Sunday afternoon, (2 – 5) on January 10, 2016 at the Winchester Public Library. Judie expressed interest in conducting an educational forum that focuses on local elections, also impacted by MIP. Patty indicated that she has excellent sources who may be willing to present and will pursue them on behalf of Judie. LWV Needham is having an Open Meeting on Thursday, October 15th on Money in Politics. Susan will post the announcement on Facebook to alert our membership, however, we will not push since we intend to deliver one on our own. Judie will facilitate the consensus study and Nancy will be our recorder.

***Campaign Finance** - Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

4. Fund Raising – Marilyn reports that she spoke with Richard Leaf, a local contractor, about a **Kitchen Tour**. This would be in the Spring, like a Xmas or a garden tour. Leaf was enthusiastic and could give Marilyn names of people. Some will like to show off their kitchen and others might say “no”. We will need 5 – 6 kitchens and could also pursue obtaining local business sponsors. Marilyn will also follow up with Dick Doherty Comedy Productions and the SC indicated its preference for a women comedian. And, she looked into the possibility of a Sustainable House Tour. She passed out the Concord-Carlisle program that indicated that they made a profit of \$22K. Of course, such a tour can't just be solar panels so she reached out to Carolyn Starrett of Sustainable Winchester to determine if there was sufficient Winchester housing stock of interest. Again, we could pursue local sponsors. The Concord-Carlisle house tour was very successful and a lot of work. All in all, the SC seemed more interested in the kitchen tour. Marilyn will follow up with Richard Leaf and all were encouraged to think about interesting kitchens that could be part of this tour. Several mentioned top chefs that live in Winchester as possibilities.
5. Next Door Theatre night - Marilyn spoke to Brian about this year's productions. The SC decided to go with the play date of November 14th for **Spitfire Grill**. Sale date will be Monday, November 9th and we will receive 20% of the proceeds for that day.
6. Grants – Nancy says that we qualify for a bunch of grants: ENKA, Rotary, Mary Murphy, Scharfman, and others. Main questions are, “Are you open to the public?” And “How many people will you serve?” Nancy has investigated prices for a wireless PA. \$299 plus shipping. Nancy will write the grant and one of us will submit it. We may also qualify for things like a banner for registration and printing of materials. She will apply to Scharfman for Hot Topic items and to Mary Murphy for a speaker.
7. Women's History Month – Patty contacted Andrea James as a possible speaker for a Hot Topic. James is the executive director and founder of Families for Justice as Healing, a criminal justice reform organization with a focus on women and children. Criminal justice was the number one suggested program pursuant to member program planning input during the Annual Meeting. Patty

will call about available dates and her fee. Should we reach out to churches that can co-sponsor and help pay for cost? It will be free and open to the public. Some other possible venues are Jenks or the library.

8. Gathering for New Members – Nancy is planning to invite new members to a pot luck at her house before the play on November 14th.
9. Other Business – There is one change in the By-Laws in Article V, section 2, Dissolution in the By-Laws was corrected by Nancy.

Farmer's Market Booth on September 26th from 9 – 1. Jean will send an e mail to all regarding schedule coverage. We will need voter registration cards, post cards, membership forms to join the League, etc., and the LWVW "event" postcard.

October 3rd is League Leader Round Table. It is like Metro West meeting and SC members were encouraged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 6 . It is at the Winchester Savings Bank and open to the public. Susan will be facilitator and Vicky will be secretary.