League of Women Voters of Winchester

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes September 27, 2016

SC Attendees:  Patty Shepard (Facilitator), Jan Dolan (Secretary) Judy Blaine (Host) Vicky Coccoluto, Lauren Costello, Susan Woodward

The meeting convened at 7 P.M.

**Member Check in**

**Approval of minutes**: The minutes of the August 30, 2016 Meeting were approved

**Treasurer’s Report**: Nancy presented the LWVW Profit and Loss By Class July 1 through September 27, 2016 YTD for Budget 2017 (July 1,2016 –June 30, 2017)

Nancy reported that Robin Wolf is the Second Signer on the LWVW checking account.  The LWVW CD is extended for one year.

Nancy stated that the application for non-profit status may require a change in the LWVW by-laws.

LWVW has made a request to the ENKA Society for funds for the election banner.

**Membership Report**: Vicky indicated that October is the month for membership renewal.

**By Law Change**: Nancy reported the LWVUS requires all Leagues to vote on the following By Law changes:

**Article 111, Section 2, Types of  Membership**

1. Voting Members.  Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues, and of the LWVUS;  (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

1. Associate members.  All others who join the league shall be associate members.

The LWVW Steering Committee members voted to accept these By- Law changes.

**Voter Services**

Susan reported on **411 org**. stating that information on the four Presidential candidates is in the 411 database but no Vice President or other candidate information is there as yet.

Rides to the polls: Susan contacted Town Clerk, Mary Ellen Lannon.  One person requested a ride but later indicated that she had made other arrangements.

High School Voter Registration: Susan and Vicky reported that Winchester High School will participate in the program on October 5.  Medford High School and Stoneham High School will be contacted for a date either this fall or next spring.

Tufts Community Day:Vicky reported the event will take place on Sunday, October 2 on the Tufts campus and agreed to send the Tufts information letter on to Jan, Patty and Susan who plan to attend.

Debate for contested State Elections:  Mass. State Senate:  Vincent Dixon (R) and Jason Lewis (D), the incumbent will debate Monday evening, October 24, at the Stoneham

Town Hall auditorium.  Nancy presented a draft of a poster to advertise the debate and agreed to have Litho Craft produce the posters.  Vicky agreed to oversee the distribution of posters in Winchester and Stoneham.

There will be no debate for the Mass. State Representative:  Caroline Calarusso (R) is challenging incumbent Michael Day (D) ,as Caroline Calarusso declined the invitation to participate.  Vicky agreed to send a press release to the STAR about the State Senate Candidate forum , and to acknowledge that the State Representative candidates were also invited but the Caroline Calarusso chose not to attend. The deadline for the public to submit questions for the debate is Wednesday, October 19 at 5p.m. and the question review committee will determine the selection and order of the forum questions.  Lauren, Jan, Judy and Nancy volunteered to be on this committee which will meet on the evening of October 19 or on the 20th at the latest, in order to allow enough time to compose the script for the forum and send it (without questions!) to the candidates.  Patti Muldoon, who is the moderator, will receive a full script, as well as the League participants who serve as time-keepers.

**Report on Past Events**

Farmer’s Market, September 3:  Patty reported that LWVW presented a display of materials with emphasis on opportunities for voter registration and various league programs.  Many citizens young and not so young stopped at the table.  Several League members helped during the day

LWVM League Leaders Luncheon:  Elinor and Jan attended the program which was held in Hingham.  Jan reported that 25 Leagues were in attendance.  The focus of the event was the upcoming state election.  It was emphasized that the League has taken no position on three of the ballot questions and is opposed to the gaming question.  Karen Price, Needham League, presented an outline for how to organize and run a consensus meeting.  We have a copy of that outline.

Suggestion for a future League project was to consider proposing legislation to limit funding for ballot questions.  This is motivated by the $$$ spent this year on the Charter School question.

In the afternoon session ideas for programs included the Springfield League’s plan to hold a “Candidating2106” which is based on the Speed Dating Model.

The Needham League explained their program in conjunction with the local TV Station.  Several voters commented on the question, “Why is it important to vote?”  The TV station will air these 15-30 second clips regularly.

Winchester League offered the suggestion of participating in Farmer’s Market.

**Future Planning:**

Next Door Theater mini-fund raiser:  Nancy had no report at this time

Moveable Feast:  Jan reported the site will be The Winchester Fire Station (down-town).  Chief Nash has agreed.  The date is Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016

LWVMA Charter School Consensus Study:  Patty is in contact with the Arlington League about combining the effort.

Climate Change:  Nancy indicated that she would be in touch with Sustainable Winchester about a possible joint program

Public Transportation in Winchester:  Mary McKenna.  Suggest a program in February

Brainstorm Brunch for LWVMA Planning:  Due February 1, 2017.  This is done every other year.

**New Business;**

Nancy explained her concerns as Treasurer, about LWVW making donations to other non-profit organizations.  The SC agreed not to make a donation on behalf of the LWVW to the new brick park for WFEE although individual League members are free to do so.

Patty shared information about several debates that will be held on the ballot questions this fall (form the League Leaders email list) and will circulate this information to our members.

Patty reported that the Arlington LWV is hosting an event involving Sheriff Kouroujian. This is scheduled for the evening of October 24.  Arlington has asked the Winchester League to co-sponsor the event.  The Steering Committee  approved this even though the event  is the same night that our State Senate debate is scheduled.

**Calendar:**

Monday Oct. 17   Daniel Scharfman Grant Deadline

Wednesday, Oct. 19   Last day to Register to vote in the General Election

Monday, Oct. 24  LWVW State Senate debate, Vincent Dixon(R) and Jason Lewis(R) at 7 P.M.  in Stoneham Town Hall auditorium and an event for Sheriff Kouroujian, Middlesex County Sheriff, Robins Library, Arlington at 7 P.M.

Tuesday, October 24  **The next steering committee meeting at 7 P.M.** Vicky will reserve a room at WinCam for this meeting, which is open to the League membership.

Friday, October 28 LWVMA Board Meeting, Acton Library, 11am to 2pm

Tuesday, Nov. 8  General Election

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted   Jan Dolan, Secretary