

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WINCHESTER**  
**Steering Committee Meeting, April 13, 2021 - via Zoom**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**FACILITATOR:** Sonya Rao

**SECRETARY** Lynne Brodsky

**ATTENDEES**

Steering Committee – Marilyn Mullane, Jeanette Kolodziej, Caroline Shamu, Lynne Brodsky, Kim Foley, Sonya Rao, Jean Herbert, Meredith Mason-Crowley, Amanda Littell

Sonya called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**A. MONTHLY ITEMS**

1. **Review and approval of the minutes** The March 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved.
2. **Treasurer's Report** Jean Herbert. The report was sent to the SC committee members and reviewed. All information is up to date.
3. **Membership** Kim Foley. We have a new member for a new total of 93 members.
4. **Voter Services**

The candidate debates for contested seats on School Committee, Select Board, and Board of Health went very well. This year Caroline and Merry obtained brief information from most candidates, including Town Meeting, and posted it on our website as a Voters Guide. We agreed that we should keep the online candidate bios going forward. We agreed to leave the Voter Guide up visible to the public for 2 weeks after the election.
5. **Communications and Media**
  - a. Update on Social / Communication / Media Plan – Amanda continues to update the website to keep it current. Posting the online Voter Guide went well, as a result of coordination with Merry and Caroline.

Amanda has obtained a protocol for us to be able to have emails linked to the website, so that we do not need to publish our personal email. More to follow, including setting up the email addresses, and efficiently using email.
  - b. Update and demonstration of Google Shared Drive by Caroline. You do not need a Gmail account to access this. We discussed how we might use the Google Drive, and set up a few new folders in it. Caroline offered to help us individually learn how to use Google Drive.
6. **Liaisons to LWVMA and Metro / West**
  - a. April 29 People Powered Fair Maps Day of Action. We agreed to cosponsor this event set up by LWVMA. The goal will be to get rid of racially motivated gerrymandering, and Marilyn gave an example of this. More information to follow.
  - b. LWVMA Strategic Plan – Jean and Marilyn attended an event that provided information about the SWOT analysis, the survey we answered for LWVMA. It was not really about a

strategic plan.

- c. LWVMA High School video contest – Jeanette reported that teacher Chris Kurhajetz has received the video contest information Jeanette sent to him. She has no further information about whether this was followed up by the teachers. Mr Kurhajetz and teacher Annemarie Edenhofner plan to participate in the Harvard Case Model Civics Program, and will teach a class in the High School based on the workshop material during the current academic year. Next year, they are required to facilitate a community program cosponsored with the League.

## **B. REPORTS ON PAST AGENDA ITEMS**

1. **Revision of policies and procedures.** Jean Herbert, Marilyn Mullane, Meredith Crowley, Lynne Brodsky. Merry is interested in redefining the role of host for our meetings based on the new reality of virtual meetings. We discussed the role of the Zoom host and some mechanics of Zoom meetings. Merry will let us know more about this.

## **C. REPORTS ON CURRENT EVENTS**

1. Civic Leadership Award – Members attending the meeting discussed the nominations submitted, and came to a consensus that we would present the 2021 award to Patty Shepard. Merry and Marilyn will ask Patty if she agrees. If so, Merry will move forward planning the award presentation.
2. Civic Engagement Event for residents of the 5<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District, being organized by Senator Jason Lewis’s office. It will be a program with Senator Lewis and other community civic organizations and leaders to discuss strategies and best practices for effective citizen advocacy with local and state government. The event will have a special focus on recent Asian-American community organization that is occurring in response to anti-Asian hate crimes.. Marilyn reported that Michele is the point person for our participation in this event. We discussed whether Sonya or some other person could speak to the issue of anti-Asian racism. Sonya shared that she has taught a full length lecture about her own journey to graduate students and is on DEI committees for some national legal organizations. Marilyn will follow up with Michelle about the date, because Sonya’s participation depends on the date.
3. Spring Town Meeting Warrant about adding an optional Saturday Voting Day - Select Board Chair Susan Verdicchio has proposed a warrant for Spring Town Meeting to add an optional Saturday election day for Town elections. The underlying reason is to eliminate the pressure voting places on schools on weekdays when school is in session. We discussed this warrant, some of its ramifications, and our discussions with Susan about the warrant. We decided we probably do not have time to put on a League event about municipal voting at this time. We would like more information about whether towns that moved their local elections to Saturdays saw any increase in rates of voting. We decided we are neutral at this time on this issue, because we do not have data to show whether the change in day of the week improves voter turnout.

4. State Convention (June 26, 2021) – Caroline has signed up. Kim will find out how many delegates we can send. Sonya will send us an email about participating.

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Plan for Annual Meeting. Bylaws require the following needed 2 weeks before June 12. Jean, Caroline, and Marilyn volunteered to plan this event. As was the case 2 years ago, Merry will organize the Civic Award ceremony to be held at the Annual Meeting.

The following will be included in the Annual Meeting

- a. Budget –
- b. Bylaw changes –
- c. Slate
- d. Civic Leadership Award

2. Scharfman Grant application (closes April 19). Brief discussion. We have not had any expenses this year, so it is not so urgent at this time.

**The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.**

**E. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
May 11	Lynne	Caroline
June 12	Caroline	Jean (annual meeting)

Kim first backup reader, Second backup reader TBD)