

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WINCHESTER
Steering Committee Meeting **MINUTES**
May 11, 2021 – via Zoom

Facilitator – Lynne Brodsky

Secretary – Caroline Shamu

Attendees: Lynne Brodsky, Caroline Shamu, Marilyn Mullane, Merry Crowley, Amanda Littell-Clark, Michelle Nathan, Jean Herbert

Lynne called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

A. Ongoing Business/Monthly Items

1. Review and approve minutes of April 13, 2021
Approved unanimously with three (minor) requested changes.

2. Treasurer's Report – Jean Herbert

Had a budget committee meeting in mid-April (Jean, Marilyn, Caroline). Jean and Marilyn reviewed some items:

1. We will receive \$300 for 2020-21 from our League phonathon effort. Jean has emailed thank you notes to the six LWVW members (Meredith Crowley, Jeanette Kolodziej, Gloria Legvold, Marilyn Mullane, Michele Nathan, and Sonya Rao) who helped raised this money by making more than 200 calls. We decided to recognize their efforts at the Annual Meeting in the Booklet.

2. Please note there is now an extra column for the Proposed Budget for 2021-2022.

3. Our 2021-22 budget anticipates that our League will gain 7 members next year, on top of the current ~93 (as of April 2021), taking us to 100 for 2021-22, we hope.

4. Possible expenditure: we can update our LWVW brochure; there are almost no copies of the current brochure left (Vicki C has a few; Lynne B might have some). [Members will check to see if there are other stocks of the current brochure.] Note that the brochures are expensive, but this is worth considering, to update them, add new photos, etc.

5. We are planning to do the Jimmy Tingle Fundraiser in 2021-22.
Vote by Steering Committee on Proposed Budget 2021-22: Approved for presentation at the Annual Meeting.

3. Membership – Kim Foley—nothing to report this month

4. Voter Services – Lynne Brodsky

A. Amanda attended the LWVMA “Votes Act” meeting today. Merry is also keeping up with related information and activities presented by LWVMA. The

Votes Act is supported by LWVMA. It would make vote by mail permanent, expand early in-person voting options, implement same day voter registration, expand access to the ballot for eligible incarcerated citizens, and more. Amanda updated our League website with relevant information. There is urgency to get the Act in place by the end of June, when special pandemic-related voting procedures are set to expire.

B. We spent some time discussing the duties of the Chair of Voter Services. We will discuss the position at the planning meeting, over the summer.

5. Communications and Media – Amanda Littell

Amanda shared some documents that she has uploaded into the LWVW Steering Committee Google Drive, in the Communications folder. She is pulling together information/instructions re: communications, e.g. how to post meeting minutes on the website, how to send emails to the LWVW listserv, points of contact for LWVW activities (eg re: WinCam, Winchester Star, Google Drive, GoDaddy, etc.)

Note that we have identified recipients of league emails that are forwarded via GoDaddy, so we can now use these addresses, e.g “info@lwvwinchester.org”, “membership@lwvwinchester.org”, etc. when we request information from League members or members of the public. This information is in the Google Drive.

We reviewed some Effective Email Tips that Amanda compiled (also available in the Google Drive), that might help reduce the volume of LWVW emails in SC member Inboxes.

Caroline and Amanda are experimenting with Google Chat (which is like Slack) as a way to hold online discussions with other SC members without using email. They will continue to experiment in upcoming months, possibly looping in a few more SC members to pilot the tool, and will make a recommendation to LWVW in September if it seems like a good idea to set-up a Google Chat or Slack account for use by all SC members.

Note that Marilyn M will take over the League Spokesperson role.

6. Liaisons to LWVMA and Metro / West – Marilyn Mullane

April 29 People Powered Fair Maps Day of Action cosponsored with LWVMA. Marilyn looked at some of these meeting materials, including some describing the history of gerrymandered districts in Eastern MA. She wrote a letter to the Winchester Star based on a template provided by meeting organizers; it appeared on April 29 on the Wicked Local website. She also submitted a letter to the Woburn Times, but it is not clear that it has been published yet.

Lynne is concerned that letters sent to the Star/Wicked Local are not always published, even online. And sometimes they are not published in a timely

fashion. She suggests that perhaps we should consider posting letters on the Town Facebook page, as well. Marilyn noted that she has had success in getting letters published by meeting with the Editor.

Merry is interested in attending Metro/West meetings. They are announced by email. The meetings used to be held quarterly, in Newton, on Saturdays. Because the meetings are held on zoom now, it's easier to attend. However Marilyn noted that the meetings might be held less frequently than quarterly these days.

7. Other LWVMA events

Harvard Case Model Civics Program updates – Jeanette Kolodziej

Chris Kurhajetz, WHS Social Studies Chair, attended the Harvard training session and will teach a lesson in the Fall on Citizens United using the materials from the Case Studies Civics Program. SC will discuss timing for the League-WHS co-sponsored event, that is another requirement for the program, at our summer planning meeting.

WHS teacher Anne Marie Edenhofner was unable to attend the original Harvard training session and has been provided information about the make-up, to be held in August 2021.

Scharfman Grants – we have no need to apply this year

Civic Leadership Award is being conferred on Patty Shepard – Merry Crowley

Merry is working with Patty on readings and speeches recognizing Patty at the Annual Meeting. Marilyn will do the nomination of Patty. It would be good to include other speakers who might honor Patty, *e.g.* from the NAACP and from LWVMA re: the DEI work that Patty has been doing, or from her family. Merry will look into additional speakers, working with Patty. Note that there is a simple plaque, to be arranged by Merry, associated with the award. The award will be presented at the beginning of the annual meeting, followed by the business meeting.

Civic Engagement Event for residents of the 5th Middlesex District, being organized by Senator Jason Lewis's office – Michele Nathan

Michele has been trying to get more information about this but has gotten no response from Jason Lewis's office or from the contact there, Thomas Dalton. Michele will wait to hear from them, at this point, and will not reach out again.

Spring Town Meeting – warrant submitted by Susan Verdicchio to add an option to change municipal election day to Saturday. We decided prior to today's meeting that we would not at this time take a position or speak publicly to this issue. Update from Merry Crowley (TMM): the warrant was withdrawn from the TM agenda. The topic will be referred to a Town Government Regulations Committee. Note that because it seems likely that early voting/vote

by mail will be options for most MA Towns going forward, Saturday voting will likely be an option for most state residents in the future.

LWWW supports a two part virtual meeting offered by the Network for Social Justice, the Housing Partnership Board, and the Planning Board about housing in Winchester.

Part 1 April 28 looked at the history of housing in Winchester including the Residential Security Map (aka redlining map) and how it impacts Winchester as we know it today. Caroline attended for the first 30 min, Marilyn attended the whole meeting. It was an excellent program, that even included a local speaker, Harris Gibson, who described his experience with red lining in Winchester when he first moved to our town.

Part 2 May 26 will focus on the town's commitment to diversify housing opportunities in our community, and ways to address inequities resulting from past and present policies and practices. Marilyn, Caroline, and Michelle are planning to attend.

State Convention (June 26, 2021) – Caroline Shamu and Patty Shepard are planning to attend. Our League can send four delegates (this year confirmed by Kim). We will contact all League members to notify them of open slots in case others want to attend.

B. New Business

League attendance at a 30 minute Zoom meeting with Representative Katherine Clark's staff on Wednesday May 6 at 11 AM to discuss House Joint Resolution 1 (to end Citizen's United) – *No one from LWWW attended.*

Special Joint Committee on Redistricting virtual hearing for residents of the 5th Congressional District – Tuesday May 4, 2021 5 pm to 11:59 PM. *No one from LWWW attended, but Patty Shepard submitted testimony in writing.*

LWVMA briefing about redistricting presented by former State Senate President Stan Rosenberg and Assistant Majority Leader Representative Michael J. Moran, 18th Suffolk, Thursday April 29 – *Lynne Brodsky attended. She was impressed with the State plan for redistricting. They have tried to create as many districts that are majority persons of color, although this is no guarantee that persons of color will run/win in those districts. Marilyn wondered why MA has not established an independent (non legislature-run) commission to effect re-districting? Lynne said that this was not addressed at the meeting. However, the MA commission is bi-partisan.*

C. Plan for Annual Meeting – Jean Herbert, Caroline Shamu, Marilyn Mullane

Date – June 12, 2021

Time – 10a (limit to two hours)

Zoom link to be sent ahead of time – by Marilyn

Facilitator Caroline Shamu (there will be a script)

Secretary Jean Herbert

First backup reader (to confirm minutes)– Kim Foley

Second backup reader – TBD at time of meeting

[We need a quorum of 14 at the business meeting.]

Bylaws require that the following are needed 2 weeks before June 12. These items, “the booklet”, will be attached to the meeting announcement email, and will be submitted for a vote by those attending the business part of the meeting

A) 2021-22 Budget – as accepted by SC earlier in this meeting

B) Bylaw changes

C) Steering committee slate – Kim and Jean are stepping down from the SC in 2021-22; Jean will become the Treasurer and will not be attending SC meetings every month. Ideally, we need at least two new SC members: Nina Parker (new League member) has agreed to join. [On May 19, Tracie Evrigenis also agreed to join.] Thus, we will have at least 10 SC members in 2021-22, a good number!

D) List of Accomplishments—only waiting for two SC members to provide their contributions.

Note: LWVW members do not need to be Winchester residents. Woburn and Stoneham do not have LWV chapters, so residents from those towns might be interested in joining.

The Civic Leadership Award will be conferred on Patty Shepard at the meeting (Marry Crowley). This will happen at the beginning, before the business part of the meeting.

We will aim for a two hour meeting, total. Jean will send out a proposed timeline to the SC for comments. Merry will work out the timing for the Civic Leadership Award portion of the meeting, aiming for 20-30 minutes total.

Note that there will be a summer LWVW planning meeting—it is usually held in July or August, with all new members of the SC. We will try to choose a date, after the Annual meeting, when all SC might be able to attend. We hope to be able to meet outside and will do so in a Covid-safe way.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:57pm