

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WINCHESTER Steering Committee Meeting (Open Meeting), March 9, 2021 - via Zoom MEETING MINUTES**

**FACILITATOR:** Meredith Mason-Crowley **SECRETARY:** Sonya Rao

**ATTENDEES**

Steering Committee ("SC") – Lynne Brodsky, Kim Foley, Jean Herbert, Jeanette Kolodziej, Amanda Littell- Clark, Meredith Mason-Crowley, Marilyn Mullane, Michele Nathan, Sonya Rao, and Caroline Shamu.

Other Attendees (for various portions of the meeting): Mike Bettencourt, Judy Blaine, Caroline Schlatz. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM.

**A. MONTHLY ITEMS**

1. **Review and approval of the Minutes:** The February 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Jean Herbert. The report was sent to the SC members and reviewed. An accounting of income and expenses was provided. All information is up to date.
3. **Membership:** Kim Foley. As noted at the prior meeting, we had a successful drive ending 2020 with 90 members. An additional member joined in February 2021! So, the campaign ended with 91 members.
4. **Voter Services** Lynne Brodsky. This discussion was tabled until, and combined with, discussion concerning Candidate Debates.
5. **Communications and Media:** Amanda Littell-Clark.
  - Communication/Social Media Plan: Amanda Little-Clark. Discussion was postponed until April meeting.
  - Website: Amanda Little-Clark, Caroline Shamu. We should memorialize the functions for which the website is used (e.g., posting minutes, sending membership emails, etc).

These instructions will be stored on the Google Drive (see discussion below regarding the Google Drive).

- **Google Drive:** Amanda Littell-Clark, Caroline Shamu. The Google Drive is a great place for LWVW document storage. It is logically organized and able to preserve/memorialize our work/documents/instructions. The Drive is currently being piloted by a few SC members, but a larger presentation concerning how to access and use may be appropriate at a later date. Whole SC likely to have read/download access to the Drive, but only 2-3 SC members would have write/edit-access (to avoid inadvertent deletions and/or mistakes).

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

1. **Revision of Documents:** Meredith Mason-Crowley. Revision of documents concerning policies/procedures postponed until April 2021 meeting.
2. **Phonathon:** Jean Herbert. Six SC members made 200 phone calls. Jean is waiting to hear from LWVMA about the total funds that LWVW will receive from donations collected.

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

1. **Harvard Case Method Civic Workshop Nomination:** Jeanette Kolodziej, Marilyn Mullane. Two Winchester HS teachers (i.e., Christopher Kurhajetz, Chair of Social Studies Department, and Anne Marie Edenhofner, Social Studies teacher) have registered for the workshop. The workshop provides them: 32 hours of training, civics class taught by Harvard professor. The aforementioned teachers are required to teach one class session of the above-referenced civics class and facilitate a Winchester community meeting (by June 2021).
2. **2021-2022 State Program Planning from LWVMA:** Jean Herbert,

Marilyn Mullane. The program planning is conducted every 2 years, and our thoughts are due to state League by March 25, 2021. Each local League is to recommend top 10 priorities. The MA Board will review the recommended priorities provided by local Leagues, and, by mid-May, the MA Board will recommend priorities, which will be sent back to the local Leagues. The official priorities will be finalized at the Convention. The priorities of LWVW was discussed and approved via a vote. The approved priorities are set forth in Attachment A, which is appended to these minutes. All of the priorities were to be looked at through a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion lens. The priorities for our chapter were discussed and approved. They will be forwarded to the MA League. There was discussion of local Leagues being allowed to study/take positions on overrides. Will table discussion of this until after Town elections.

3. **Candidate Debates:** Lynne Brodsky. Debates will take place over 3 different nights and will be broadcast over WinCam. There was discussion of posting candidate bios (WinCam interviews) on website and having bios in Voter Guide (which can be referred to) in lieu of reading them at the start of the debate; this leaves additional time to hear from candidates and for questions. Lynne will inquire whether candidates will agree.
4. **Voter Guide:** Meredith Mason-Crowley, Caroline Shamu. Goal is to get the Guide posted on website by March 15, 2021. Candidate profiles for all candidates (for contested and uncontested positions) are currently being collected. There was discussion of the publicity for the debates and Voter Guide.
5. **Voting Info on Website:** Amanda Littell-Clark. Information about upcoming election and candidate debates are on website. Will post information re candidate bios and the above-

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referenced voter guide on the website. There was discussion about

ensuring that the public knows to access information on the website.

6. **LWV Vote Banner:** Jeanette Kolodziej. Banner cannot be hung on transom during construction. It is instead hanging at Winchester High School.
7. **Civic Leadership Award:** Meredith Mason-Crowley. At the meeting, it was stated that nominations will be accepted until April 2, 2021. There was discussion of the nomination criteria, which will be posted on the website. Any member making a nomination should write a short paragraph about the individual to write a short paragraph about the nominated individual with some details and reason for the nomination. Any nominations for the 2020 Civil Leadership Award will also be considered for this year's award. A more detailed announcement (that will include the nominating criteria) will be sent to the membership via email and also will be posted on the LWVW website. At the next (i.e., April 13, 2021) meeting, we will review nominations and make a selection. This year, the award ceremony will be virtual.
8. **Annual Meeting:** Final facilitator, secretary, host in table below. Kim Foley will be first backup reader (and a second can be determined at the April or May meeting).

#### D. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Date	Facilitator	Secretary	Host
April 13	Sonya	Lynne	Marilyn
May 11	Lynne	Caroline	Marilyn
June 12 (Annual Meeting)	Caroline	Jean	Marilyn

Merry ended the meeting at 8:14 PM.

## Considerations for the April Open Meeting

Communications/Social Media Plan Update

- Google Drive Update
- Revision of Documents (policies/procedures)
- Override Positions
- Civic Award
- Annual Meeting **Please send agenda items to Sonya**

# ATTACHMENT A TO MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2021 LWVW OPEN MEETING

## LWVMA PROGRAM PLANNING RECOMMENDATION FORM Local Leagues, Local Units and Members-At- Large 2021-2023

**FOR LOCAL LEAGUES AND LOCAL UNITS:** League of  
Women Voters of [Winchester](#) Date: [March 12, 2021](#) Name of  
Person submitting the Form [Marilyn Mullane](#) Phone # [781-729-  
6787](#) Email Address: [marilynmullane@me.com](mailto:marilynmullane@me.com)

### **FOR MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:**

Date: Name of Member-at-Large:

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\_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for submitting recommendations is March 25, 2021**

Please submit Recommendation Form by email to  
[program@lwwma.org](mailto:program@lwwma.org).

## **ACTION PRIORITIES:**

Action Priorities are the broad, general subject areas the state League should focus on. LWVMA will concentrate, though not exclusively, on legislation in these areas and take action as issues come up.

Do you/Does your League or Unit agree with the action priorities proposed on pages 3-5 of the State Program Planning guide? (circle one) **Yes**

**List your League or Unit's/your recommendations for Action Goals.** Remembering that LWVMA's resources are limited and our efforts should not be spread among too many categories, **please limit your recommendations to 10.**

Given we will apply the DEI lens to all of our programs and projects, we recommend the following 10 goals:

**Improving Elections** 1.Goal: Advocate for election reforms, including same-day voter registration and making permanent vote-by-mail and other early voting measures with the improvements which have been identified.

### **Civic Education**

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What priorities would you suggest replacing and what would the replacement action priorities

be? N/A

2.Goal: Continue to encourage informed and active participation in government and understanding major public policy issues. (ongoing actions include education grants, video contest, civic trivia events, candidate forums)

3.Goal: Support civic education in schools.

### **Climate Emergency**

4.Goal: Track implementation of major, comprehensive legislation

### **Healthcare**

5.Goal: Advocate for single-payer universal healthcare coverage legislation for all residents of Massachusetts

## **Education**

6.Goal: Develop and advocate for strategies to improve educational access and learning experiences for marginalized communities

## **Meeting Basic Human Needs**

7.Goal: Work to prevent cuts in spending on public transportation, needed to enable all residents to reach jobs, grocery stores, and medical appointments

## **Pandemic Recovery**

8.Goal: View the amplified and exacerbated inequities as an opportunity to examine and change laws, institutions, and conventions involved in the creation and perpetuation of these inequities

## **Racial Justice**

9.Goal: Take action to identify, educate, and advocate to eradicate systemic racism in the state of Massachusetts...

## **Criminal Justice**

10.Goal: Support legislation to reform sentencing, probation and parole policies.

**NEW STUDY:** List your League or Unit's/your recommendations for any new studies, provide a brief description of the scope and intent of each study, and indicate your membership's willingness to participate in the study. You can also indicate if your League or Unit/you are not interested in a new study now. **Please limit your recommendations to no more than two studies.**

We do not recommend any new studies at this time. Still, we believe we need an ability to turn around quick responses to establishing a position when warranted - case in point, the previous referendum question on sick leave.

**REVIEW AND UPDATE OF AN LWVMA POSITION:** List your League or Unit's/your recommendations for updating current positions, describe why your League or Unit/you thinks reviewing the position(s) is necessary, and indicate your membership's/your willingness to participate in the review and update. **Please limit your recommendations to**

**no more than two reviews.**

**CONCURRENCE:**

Please list any suggestions for positions to be adopted by concurrence with a position developed after study by another state or local League. Include the issue you are considering, and as much information as possible on the existing position you are recommending concurrence with, especially the name of the League which developed the position and the exact wording of that position.

N/A

We are also interested in your recommendations for improving the Program Planning materials or process: The Program Planning materials were very complete and the process well laid out and easy to do.

**FORM DUE MARCH 25, 2021**

[program@lwwma.org](mailto:program@lwwma.org)