

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WINCHESTER

Steering Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, November 17, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Brodbine Ghoniem, Facilitator	Caroline Shamu
Kim Foley	Cheryl Shepard
Marie Lee	Robin Swan
Marilyn Mullane, Zoom Host	Susan Verdicchio, Secretary

Board members and Attendees Present: Absent: Trā Evrigenis

**Minutes** - October 19, 2022 meeting minutes were discussed and a few changes requested. Motion to approve with changes as discussed, by Kim and seconded by Caroline. Motion approved unanimously. Caroline noted the final minutes should be sent to her to be placed in the Google Drive folder and to Cheryl to be placed on the website.

**Treasurer's Report** - Jean Herbert, Treasurer sent a written report before the meeting, which was discussed and approved unanimously after a motion by Marilyn and second by Caroline.

**a. Auditor update** - Marilyn noted she had sent a request to membership but received no response; a suggestion was made to distribute the request through the Winchester Chamber of Commerce and Elizabeth agreed to follow up on that.

**Membership Report** - Kim reported she had sent the membership list an annual renewal email message and to date received only 28 renewals, and no new membership applications; this is lower participation than last year. Caroline offered to team up with Kim to craft another appeal email. Non-member recipients of League communications will receive a "sorry we have to say goodbye" message in the hopes that they will become members. Marilyn suggested they see if Vicky Cocoluto and/or Jean Herbert would also collaborate since they have experience with building membership. Kim was agreeable to suggestions.

**Voter Services - General** - Susan reported on the Sept 20 and October 17 voter registration events at Winchester High School. There were the first in-person events the League has held at WHS since the pandemic. She noted Town Clerk, MaryEllen Lannon, had informed us her office had had over 500 names of pre-registered voters under 18 in Winchester and questioned if in-person voter registration at WHS was needed/effective.

Susan said the first event held during student lunch got a very low response, and the principal offered to invite us back during a "What I Need" or "WIN" block, when students might be more receptive. The Oct 17th event (with pre-event publicity help from Dean of Students Anna Paradis and Librarian Andrea Zampitella) was better, but still garnered a low response of 7-10 new or confirmed registered voters. She said some of the students expressed doubt or cynicism around voting, while others were interested and seemed pleased to have information on how to register or about the upcoming state election. Marilyn noted we should renew efforts to get accurate information from the town clerk, particularly the Town's percentage of 18-year-old registered

voters from our two registration drives. Elizabeth suggested that we meet with Ms. Lannon to agree with her how best to work with her office and suggest to her a single point of contact. Elizabeth agreed to schedule a meeting with Ms. Lannon and then we can select who might be that best point of contact within the League.

Susan also reported she sent the 10/25 youth empowerment webinar invitation from the Cape Cod LWV to WHS principal, dean of students, and history/social studies dept. chair but received no response.

An opportunity to write Get Out the Vote (GOTV) postcards to voters in Georgia was discussed and the consensus was this was not something we were comfortable doing because (a) it involved an election in another state and (b) possible public perception this was counter to the LWV nonpartisan mission. No objection was voiced to any member participating on their own, but we would not publicize it to membership. We did discuss having GOTV information on the website when we have it for a MA election.

General Note: Susan has banners and the box of other supplies for table events.

**Voter Services** - Debates, Voter Guides - Potential role with student-led civics projects in middle and high school: discussion postponed to future meeting. New Initiatives: There will be a town-wide vote on replacing the Lynch Elementary School on Jan 7; consensus was we would take no role. Future Debates: The annual town election will be March 18th. Robin and Marie will start an email discussion with Lynne Brodsky on how to plan candidate debates. The need to get the candidate names particularly for contested races from the town clerk asap was discussed and Elizabeth suggested she could work with Ms. Lannon as the League contact. Caroline requested to be on the email chain to facilitate making voter guides.

**Communications and Media** - Cheryl is working on updating the website via Wild Apricot, particularly to make it "https secure". LWVW is a custom domain name and needs the proper certificate (cost should be minimal). She will designate "Contact Us" emails generated by site visitors to go to the appropriate current SC members.

**Upcoming Events** - Marilyn reported annual Movable Feast planning is under way and it will be on December 8th at the Town Hall auditorium. No special protocols are required by the Board of Health. Invitations to town employees went out on November 14. Menu and supplies list from Meredith Crowley is excellent and being followed for this year's event. Marilyn and Elizabeth will meet on November 28th to divide up remaining action items.

December 14 Open Meeting: The plan will be to hold it in-person at the Winchester library and request to use the "Owl" camera & microphone device so members can participate remotely if needed. Caroline will make the room reservation. Discussion of the agenda touched on keeping a short business agenda to be followed by a panel discussion on Running for Office with 3-4 panelists at different levels of government. Susan to invite State Rep. Michelle Ciccolo, whose re-districted area now includes Winchester Pct 6 (Rep. Ciccolo contacted us via website asking to attend a LWVW meeting). We discussed other potential panelists, there was a consensus Jennifer Wilson (former Finance Committee and Select Board member) and Stephanie Zaremba

(Pct 1 town meeting member) would represent the town level, and to balance perspectives town meeting members Dorothy Simboli and Susan Nardone were identified. Elizabeth will contact Ms. Wilson, Susan will contact Ms. Zaremba and Ms. Nardone (Ms. Simboli would be back up). The purpose of the discussion would be to de-mystify how to run and hear about panelists' real-life experiences. Susan will facilitate, trying to allow time for Q&A with members in attendance.

**2023 Program Planning - To be taken up in January**

**Upcoming Meetings -**

Date	Facilitator	Secretary	Host
Wed Dec 14 Open Mtg	Susan	Marie	Winchester Library
Wed Jan 18	Marie	Robin	TBD

Respectfully submitted  
Susan Verdicchio