

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WINCHESTER

LWVW Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2022

ZOOM HOST: Marilyn Mullane

FACILITATOR: Meredith Mason-Crowley

SECRETARY: Marilyn Mullane (filled in for Sonya Rao who was unable to attend)

In Attendance: Michele Nathan, Caroline Shamu, Amanda Littell, Lynne Brodsky, Jeanette Kolodziej, Trā Evrigenis and Merry Mason-Crowley

A. Monthly Items

1. Minutes from December 14, 2021 Steering Committee meeting were approved.
2. a. Treasurer's report provided by Jean Herbert, Treasurer - there were many questions regarding Wild Apricot's charges. The Treasurer's Report was accepted, however, clarification is needed regarding annual and monthly fees. Amanda thought the increase was likely due to our option for paying online. Merry to follow up with Jean for an explanation. The following was provided by Jean: *The \$1090 Wild Apricot expense in this year's budget occurred because reimbursement for two years of fees was requested this year:*
June 2020 - May 2021 = \$540.00
June 2021 - May 2022 = \$550.00
The Wild Apricot monthly fee is charged for each individual online payment. The \$120 is what we expect the total will be for the year. The figure changes each month in the budget I present based on how many online transactions have taken place that month. Last month there were two online transactions for a fee of \$3.46, changing the total to date for the year from \$29.93 to \$33.39.
b. WinCam Renewal Letter and Application - the Steering Committee voted to renew its membership to WinCam and Marilyn agreed to be the point of contact.
3. a. Membership report – Sonya Rao submitted her report by e-mail before our meeting. In summary, we now have a total of 73 members (70 renewed, 2 lifetime and 1 student). Numerous follow-up by e-mails have been made. Sonya, Kim and Jean will now make follow up calls to meet the LWVUS deadline of January 31, 2022. It was requested that all SC members renew before the deadline.
b. A student interested in becoming a member tried to do so online and was unable because the online form had no entry for student membership. Lynne to follow up with the student or her mother. Caroline also had a problem changing from a regular membership to a sustaining one. Amanda will try to resolve Apricot issues with Kim and Sonya.
c. Kim Foley, from Membership, proposed that we designate Joanne Morgan as a lifetime member. The Steering Committee voted unanimously for this designation.

Marilyn indicated that she would let Membership know.

d. Membership will also be asked to report for their next report to track non-renewals and the reason why, if possible.

4. Voter Services – (Caroline, Merry, Lynne, Jeanette)

a. January 25th Referendum Vote - Vocational School (Marilyn, Merry) - after much discussion, the SC decided to focus on a “get out the vote” for the January 25th Special Election and share information about our polling place, the Wakefield vocational school upgrades, and links to the District-Wide Referendum and Election Warrant. Merry and Caroline to prepare something for our website.

b. Upcoming March municipal election and timelines (Lynne) - this year’s local election will be on Saturday, March 19th. She will know by February 5th all open and contested seats. Lynne and her team will wait until after the Special Election and Case Method Workshop before reaching out to our membership for candidate forum questions. She will start planning the candidate forum (reach out to WinCam, etc.).

c. Possible Voter registration event (Jeanette) - given the pandemic and difficulty setting up a voter registration drive in person at the high school, she will instead arrange for an announcement at the high school prior to our town election. She will also announce that February 25th is the last day to register to vote at the January 26th program. It may be best to wait for the fall elections to host a voter registration drive.

d. Banner (Michelle) - Michelle reported that the banner for the January 25th Special Election has been hung at WHS.

e. Planning voter guides (Caroline, Merry) - will work this again this year.
<https://lwnnewton.org/2021/10/lwvn-2021-voters-guide-is-here/>

5. Communications and Media

Update on Communications/social media (Amanda) - deferred until February meeting.

6. Liaisons to LWVMA and Metro/West – (Marilyn, Merry) - deferred until February meeting.

Measuring Local League Impact begins January 1

Meeting January 8, 2022

LWVUS Annual Meeting June 23 to 26 in Denver is hybrid

B. Reports on Current or Future Events/Programs

1. Non-Citizen Voting Update (Marilyn) – according to Town Clerk Mary Ellen Lannon, a special town meeting on Waterfield will likely occur in June after the spring town meeting. She recommended reaching out to the Select Board to ascertain whether they still planned to submit a Select Board petition. Marilyn and Phil Coonley from the Network for Social Justice reached out to Select Board Chair Susan Verdicchio. She indicated that she would

put it on the Select Board's agenda. Her sense was that it was a go. She will get back to Phil and Marilyn. Marilyn mentioned that the recent developments in NYC will launch non-citizen voting in 2023. There are two towns in Vermont also doing this and worth reaching out to. It was noted that some on the SC may not be comfortable with expanding voting rights in this manner. Next step, if it is indeed part of the spring warrant, will be to host an educational session of what this means to the town of Winchester.

2. Harvard Case Method Workshop –(lead Jeanette, Marilyn) - we are in good shape for our January 26th program. We have three adult participants - Vicky Coccoluto, Harris Gibson and Urban Larson as well as three co-sponsors including the Winchester Library, Winchester Historical Society and the Harvard Club of Boston. We will be meeting with the WHS history teachers on January 12th to fine tune their end of the program. Marilyn will keep track of all requests to attend through the hot topics e-mail address and arrange for the Zoom link to go out. Jeanette's press release was sent by Lauren Costello to the Woburn Times (subsequently Caroline reported that the Times ran it), Winchester Star, Wicked Local, etc. She and Marilyn are now working on a flyer that can be posted on our website, shared with our co-sponsors, and shared more broadly by the SC. Lastly, it was also recommended that this event be posted on the town calendar.
3. Winchester High School liaison (Trā) – deferred until February meeting.
 - Women's Studies Class (Sonya)
 - Civic engagement and possible LWVW membership of WHS seniors
 - Movie - Period
4. VOTES Act - (see A6) – Bill passed in Senate waiting on the House vote - deferred until February meeting.

C. Other Programming Possibilities - deferred until February meeting.

1. Other Programming Possibilities for LWVW for the second half of the year
 - a. Basics of Government A – Z (Lynne)
 - b. Updating Membership Brochure (early 2022): Marilyn, Sonya, Vicki, and
 - c. High profile Speaker at Annual Meeting-
 - d. Annual Book Read -
 - e. Hot Topics –
 - f. Winchester topics - Annikka Bergstrom (WHS member of Town Meeting)

D. New Business

1. **Request from LWVMA for Volunteers: Justice and Equality/Civic Engagement**
LWVMA is seeking volunteers to join the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Membership Task Force (Lynne) - Sonya volunteered.

- Scharfman Grant** deadline January 17, 2022 (Marilyn) - Marilyn will ask our Treasurer to submit one on our behalf for banners given the unexpected expense for two Special Election banners.

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Zoom Host	Facilitator	Recorder	Notes
January 11	Marilyn	Merry	Marilyn	
February 8	Marilyn	Marilyn	Sonya	
March 8	Marilyn	Sonya	Tra	Public Meeting
April 12	Marilyn	Tra		
May 9				Happy BD Lynne
June				Annual Meeting