

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WINCHESTER**  
**Steering Committee Meeting - Tuesday, February 8, 2022**

ZOOM HOST: Marilyn Mullane

FACILITATOR: Marilyn Mullane

SECRETARY: Caroline Shamu

Also attending: Merry Crowley, Amanda Littell, Jeanette Kolodziej, Michele Nathan

Not able to attend: Tra Evrigenis, Lynne Brodsky, Sonya Rao

Called to order at 7:05p

**A. Monthly Items**

**1. Minutes** from January 11, 2022 SC Meeting--Accepted

**2. Treasurer's Report** - provided by Jean Herbert, Treasurer  
Status of Scharfman Grant (requested \$160.00) – has been approved and check will be sent soon. We have a few new members and membership fees since January. Those in attendance voted to approve the minutes.

**3. Membership report**

We will defer the discussion the LWVMA DEI Task Force until next month.

New membership brochure: Marilyn will follow up with Vicky C, Kim Foley, and Sonya Rao to begin to plan the new brochure

Members: Sonya reported (via email) that, as of January 31,2022, we have 83 active members, 2 Lifetime members, and 2 student members for a total of 87 members. Of the 83 members paying membership dues, 29 paid ONLINE which is 35% of the membership. This is a slight increase from last year (28%), possibly the result of our multiple email reminders encouraging online dues payment. A couple of people renewed online but didn't pay by credit card, so had to be sent an email reminder to pay by check. Some SC members still need to renew, so we encourage you to do that. We had really good response from our 12/30/21 email appeal, receiving 9 renewals and 1 donation. From our 2<sup>nd</sup> email appeal and targeted phone calls we received another 9 renewals so I think our combined end of year efforts were quite productive.

**4. Voter Services**

Upcoming March 19 Town election planning

*Debate update and timeline* – There are many contested offices this year and it looks like there will be four or five debates for contested town-wide offices. Lynne is working with WinCam to reserve debate times and the voter services team is considering Sunday afternoon debate options in addition to weeknight options in early March. As the final candidate lists become available, Lynne will reach out to the candidates for town-wide office to invite them to debate and to work out the final schedule. WinCam will host the debates via zoom and make them available afterward for viewing on the WinCam YouTube channel.

We need member volunteers to help time for the debates and will put out an announcement closer to the debate dates.

Lynne is sending out requests for debate questions and will write a first draft for comment from SC members.

*Planning voter guides* - Caroline and Merry are planning the voter guides. They have most candidate names and email addresses from Mary Ellen Lannon and are working with Lynne to develop candidate profile questions. The request for candidate profiles will be sent out as soon as possible with a deadline of Feb 26, so that the voter guides can be posted on the LWVW website before March 5.

*Banner for spring election:* Michelle picked up banner from WHS after Jan 26 election, and took it to Fast Sign for the new patch for the March election. It should be ready in a week or so and ready to re-hang for the March 19 Town election.

*Lessons learned on January 25th Referendum Vote on funding renovation of the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School:* The referendum passed in the communities in which it was held. LWVW get out the vote efforts were recognized by MEL and the principal of the Northeast Metro Tech High School, who saw our LWVW “VOTE” banner hung on the WHS exterior as he was driving through Winchester.

*Voter Registration Drive* - deferred until the fall

## **5. Communications and Media**

Amanda will publicize the March Open Meeting. The invite will be sent via zoom so that we will get RSVPs and know who to send the meeting link to.

## **6. LWVMA and MetroWest Liaison**

The state would like us to use the LWVMA Data Collection Tool (available on the LWVMA website under “Data Collection” to measure local League impact (started Jan. 1, 2022). Marilyn used it for the Jan 26 Harvard Case Method and found it easy to use. We should use for the debates and voter guides.

Observations from Jan. 8 Metro West Meeting: Merry and Marilyn attended. A topic of the meeting was the situation with local newspapers—there are fewer local newspapers and those that are still publishing are writing fewer local stories. Historically the LWV had an “Observer Corps” of members who attended local government meetings, took notes, and published summaries. Our League should discuss this at a future meeting. The recent MA VOTES Act was also discussed.

## **B. Lessons Learned on Past Event(s)**

The January 26th Harvard Case Method Workshop, led by Jeanette and Marilyn, was a success! Attendance was 67 for the presentation led by WHS teachers Chris Kurhajetz and Anne Marie Edenhofner. Some people tried to register as the meeting was starting/underway and it was difficult to have them join the meeting. Next time we should set a deadline for registration requests (e.g. 24 hours ahead of time). Jeanette and Marilyn met with the teachers on Jan 31 to follow-up: all agreed that the adult participants were very engaged. How to get more student engagement in the event was also discussed—there are many options. Chris Kurhajetz would like to open up the participatory option to more students; this will be discussed with the Harvard Case Study Institute. There is interest in making this an annual event, with different cases each year. It’s possible that moving the event date away from the end of the term might allow for more student participation.

## **C. Reports on Current or Future Events/Programs**

Non-Citizen Legal Resident Voting and Spring warrant. Marilyn reported that this item was supposed to be on the 2021 Fall Town Meeting agenda, but because of many items that were scheduled for Fall 2021 TM, the warrant was deferred, with the idea that it would be on the Spring 2022 TM agenda. Because there will be two new Select Board members by Spring TM, it might be challenging to have the SB add the topic as a warrant in Spring 2022. Thus, it might be a good idea to file a citizen petition too, to have the warrant added to the TM agenda in case the SB does not support that it is added. If we have an educational event around this topic before TM, it would have to occur in late March or early April 2022.

We also decided that the topic of non-citizen legal resident voting might be a good one for the March open meeting. *[After the Feb SC meeting, speakers from VT who can address this topic from the perspective of their experience in their town were invited to speak at the March LWVW open meeting, and the open meeting date was changed to March 15 to accommodate their schedule.]*

Winchester High School Liaison – Trā--Defer  
 Women’s Studies Class – Sonya --Defer  
 Movie - Periodv--Defer

**D. New Business/Announcements**

Feb. 9th WFEE Trivia Bee - cost \$105; deferred to summer planning  
 LWVUS June 23 - 26 Annual Conference in Denver/hybrid: we should consider sending a representative from our League.  
 LWVMA’s heads up on National’s proposal for Program Planning—no news on this yet.  
 Leadership Award: Merry thinks we need to start soliciting names in March; perhaps via an announcement at the March open meeting.

**E. Other Programming Possibilities: To be discussed at later meetings.**

- a. Basics of Government A to Z - Lynne
- b. High Profile speaker at June Annual Meeting
- d. Hot Topics, e.g. TMM Annikka Bergstrom?

**F. Plan for Upcoming Meetings**

Date	Zoom Host	Facilitator	Recorder	Notes
February 8	Marilyn	Marilyn	Caroline	
March 15	Marilyn	Trā?	Sonya	Public Meeting
April 12	Marilyn	Sonya		
May 9				
June				Annual Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.