

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WINCHESTER

Steering Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 7:30p via Zoom

In Attendance: Marilyn Mullane (Zoom Host), Caroline Shamu (Facilitator), Kim Foley, Elizabeth Ghoniem, Marie Lee, Cheryl Shepard (Minutes), Robin Swan, Susan Verdicchio, and Trā Evrigenis.

Unable to Attend: Sonya Rao

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm.

### A. Monthly Items

1. **Minutes** from August 3, 2022 Steering Committee Planning Meeting were presented by Caroline for comment and review. Note: an updated LWVW contact list was sent to all members on August 10, 2022.
  - The minutes were **approved as is**. Kim stated she will post on the website.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – provided by Jean Herbert, Treasurer
  - a) The committee reviewed the current month's report, with any changes since June called out in yellow
  - b) Note that the SC approved via email (late August) to expend \$105 to rent a table, canopy, and two chairs for our Sept 17 booth at Stoneham Town Day.
  - c) Note that a proposal to re-invest the LWVW CD was put forth online and approved by a quorum of SC members in an online vote on September 11, 2022. Specifically, it was agreed to allow automatic rollover of the LWVW CD that will mature on September 19 to a 12- month CD at the prevailing interest rate (estimated to be ~0.75%). The amount that will rollover to the new CD will be ~\$7557. There is currently ~\$10,000 in the LWVW checking account. This seems like a reasonable amount given that there will likely be expenses for the planned fundraiser that will need to be paid in advance of ticket sales.
    - Susan asked for more details about the Jimmy Tingle fundraiser, especially cost and expected revenue. Marilyn offered to review details and the budget from 2020 and add to discussion at next meeting.
    - Cheryl noted that the National and State dues were lower than estimated, and SC members commented on the timing of the payment as well—each League reports membership in January and members thought that 2021-22 membership payments should have been paid well before June 2022. [Caroline followed up with Jean to ask why payment of membership dues appeared in this September budget report. Jean replied that Per Member Payment (PMP) requests from LWVUS and LWVMA are typically sent over the summer (July or August) and paid in September by our League. Thus, the dues payments noted in the September budget report were for LWVW 2021-22 PMP obligations.]
3. **Membership report** - Sonya Rao and Kim Foley
  - The new membership brochure – plans and timeline—were not discussed in detail and can be discussed in a future meeting.
  - 102 members to date. Last new member joined in August.

- New membership drive begins Oct 1 with a standard letter; we will also mail people who did not renew last year. After that, reminder emails through the fall, final communication with national as of Jan 31 to record official membership numbers.
- Kim asked whether we could spend more money for our Wild Apricot to expand the number of contacts we can preserve and therefore use in our database. [*See “Communications,” below, for a review of costs and ensuing discussion.*]
- Elizabeth will go through mail delivery failures to weed out old emails and find others not active to make some room for new/interested contacts.
- Kim also noted that Gloria Legvold qualified as a lifetime member; Kim contacted her, and she was very gratified. Our League now has 3 lifetime members.

#### **4. Voter Services-General (Susan)**

- a. Voter Registration activities (see also Current and Future Events) were held today at WHS. HS administrative seemed supportive, tables and laptops at HS. They also announced in morning announcements, but students were not engaged. Principal Mahoney told League volunteers we could not engage with students as this was their down time. He instead suggested setting up during WIN block on another date in October, but seniors don't have to stay in school for that block. The registration deadline is Oct 29<sup>th</sup>. SC members are willing to try a session in WIN block but not sure if will be worthwhile. Need banner, poster with QR code, and some incentive (facts, candy (??), etc.). It was also suggested to get help from students, peer to peer like student council, social justice club, etc. Marilyn to reach out to other league leaders to see what works in other schools.
- b. VOTE Banner – just a reminder that Kim has general LWVW banners for events, always reach to her if needed. Robin has two: one with voting date information and one announcing National Voter Registration Day. Robin has already arranged for the patch for the Nov 8th general election and confirmed it could be hung at the high school. Susan indicated that the registration day banner was hung at the transfer station because the high school wanted to hang a banner welcoming the students back. It should be noted that we hung the VOTE banner at the high school for the primary.
- c. Note that there will be an override vote re: the Lynch School on Saturday January 7 (need a banner patch for this!) - Robin to arrange.
- d. Nov 8 State-wide ballot questions. See Section 5.c. below.

#### **5. Voter Services—Debates, Voter Guides (Marie, Robin, Caroline)**

- a. Debate for State Senate 5<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District race (Jason Lewis-D, Ed Dombrowski-R) – sched/covered by consortium of cable access news and will do one, no date yet (maybe Oct 17<sup>th</sup>?), not sure who moderator is
- b. Debate for MA 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (Kathrine Clark-D, Caroline Colarusso-R, Washington Blask-I) – no debate planned because Clark declined.
- c. Referendum Questions - Marilyn Mullane
  - i. Additional Tax on Income Over One Million Dollars - league leaders do not have a position on Questions 1-3. LWVMA has scheduled a meeting on September 22nd regarding ballot questions 1 - 3 where local Leagues will divide and take one question and present pro/con. (Lexington already presented this one.). Marilyn was unable to attend the meeting.
  - ii. Regulation of Dental Insurance – we could do this one or Q3, need a credible moderator and pro/con people. Marilyn to look into, ask Pat Jehlen.
  - iii. Expanded availability of licenses for the sale of Alcoholic Beverages
  - iv. Eligibility for Driver's Licenses – league has a position of yes. Cheryl to post information about the Sept 28<sup>th</sup> LWVMA advocacy forum. LWVMA's position was posted as well.

- d. Voter Services Chair Position – need to fill this position, Caroline and Marie volunteered to co-chair
- Reminder that early voting runs from Oct 22 – Nov 4

## **6. Communications and Media (Cheryl and Elizabeth)**

- a. Transition of Communications duties – a bit slow. Cheryl and Elizabeth had one meeting with Amanda, and while they understand basics of how to do an email blast and update the website, many of the administrative functions (such as items “b” and “d” below in this section) were not covered. Cheryl to reach out to Amanda to schedule another meeting to review these items and determine next steps.
  - b. Forwarding from League email addresses such as “candidatequestions@lwvwinchester.org” (via GoDaddy) – to be covered in a follow-up meeting with Amanda
  - c. Access to LWVW zoom account – asked Marilyn to see if we can get back-up credentials for a second person
  - d. Security upgrade for our LWVW site – not secure. Shukong Ou offered to help. Cheryl to speak with Amanda first then reach out to Mr. Ou.
- The group discussed whether to move to the next tier with Wild Apricot (WA) in order to maintain more email contacts. Cheryl investigated WA pricing. Our current platform pricing allows for 250 contacts for a cost of \$54/month or \$648/yr. Note we are at contact capacity now. The next tier would take us to 500 contacts, but at a cost of \$99/month or \$1188/yr, a delta of \$540. The SC felt this was a big jump in cost and did not agree to pursue at this time. Some concern was raised about how we would promote big events such the Jimmy Tingle fundraiser, for example, but we will discuss when/if we launch that effort. Also, Elizabeth will purge all e-mail addresses that bounce which may provide additional space.
  - Motion to place LWVMA Ballot Q4 advocacy session on 9/28 and position, the 9/21 town event about affordable housing and community well-being, and the information about the Winchester Climate Solutions Week (9/24-10/2) on the website – approved.
  - Marie to find out who the moderator of Jason Lewis debate will be and SC will decide whether to post based on that.

## **7. LWVMA and MetroWest Liaison (Marilyn)**

- Everyone on SC is receiving [leagueleaders] emails from LWVMA

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

- a. Civic Leadership Award: Shall we specify in the LWVW bylaws that only LWVW members can send nominations for this award? SC decided to take up discussion at next month’s meeting on 10/19
- b. Ideas from August 6 Farmers’ Market: Voter Registration online tools/iPad to allow searching and easy online registration worked well. It was noted that it was good to keep our presence in the community.
- c. Stoneham Town Day successful, consider reaching out to other communities for participation in various events. We had a great location and did get some names and e-mail addresses. Kim Foley, our lead on this event, recommended doing this event again.

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

- a. LWV US 2022 Convention update (Tra) – address at our October meeting
- b. Sept 10 Community Fair Booth and Sept. 17 Booth at Stoneham Town Day – see “B. Lessons Learned” above.

- c. Sept 20, 2022 Voter Registration Drive on National Voter Registration Drive at WHS – “A. Monthly Items, #4/Voter Services” above.
- d. Sept 21, 2022 Health Begins at Home affordable housing event (Town Hall, 7p) – Susan participating and representing LWVW will explain how we reach positions and grass roots aspect of the chapters. Promotion added to LWVW website
- e. Planning for Moveable Feast (Dec 2022) – address at our October meeting
- f. Winchester High School Liaison; period products – Trā (Trā asked if Susan can speak with principal Mahoney, as the initiative is not being supported)
- g. Note that we will address ideas for 2023 programming at our November SC meeting

**D. New Business—we did not discuss and will address these in our October meeting**

- a. Update re: selection of accountant for audit of LWVW finances (could do a swap with another league?)
- b. We need to select the person who will co-sign as authorized signer with the Treasurer for checks over the amount of \$500.

**E. Upcoming Meetings**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Host</b>
<b>Wed Oct 19, 7:30p</b>	Cheryl	Trā	
<b>Wed Nov 16, 7:30p</b>	Trā	Susan	
<b>Wed Dec 14</b> (Open Meeting)	Susan		

**NOTE:** Moved date of open meeting to Dec 14 from the 21<sup>st</sup>

**F. Agenda items designated for future meetings**

- a. Continuing role for LWVW with Winchester Housing Coalition
- b. November SC meeting: begin to plan events and programs for 2023:
  - Jimmy Tingle Fundraiser
  - Others, based on priority topics from 2022 LWVW membership survey results
- c. MetroWest Meetings, Day on the Hill
- d. WHS Partnership and Case Study Program March 15, 2023 (Jeanette and Marilyn)
- e. Planning for 2023 Civic Leadership Award
- f. 2023 Booths/Table: Town Day (June 3), Farmers Market, Stoneham Town Day?
- g. advocating for a national equal rights amendment – added to agenda for future meetings by Susan
- h. MLK Day – do a table at the HS as part of the event they hold (Trā proposed)

Motion to adjourn approved at 9:04pm.