

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WINCHESTER

Steering Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 7:30p via Zoom

## Board members/Attendees:

Elizabeth Brodbine Ghoniem - present	Marilyn Mullane - present	Robin A. Swan - present
Trá Evrigenis - present	Sonya Rao – absent (see note)	Susan Verdicchio - absent
Kim Foley - present	Caroline Shamu - present	
Marie Lee - absent	Cheryl Shepard - present	

*Note: Sonya stepping down. She has small children and is a full time attorney. Unfortunately, she has big trial in January that is consuming all her time.*

## NOTES TO MEETING

*All notes follow the category agenda items. Notes titles and subtitles are highlighted in red.*

**Meeting called to order: 7:35 pm.**

ZOOM HOST: Marilyn Mullane

FACILITATOR: Cheryl Shepard

SECRETARY: Elizabeth Ghoniem (Changed at last minute and Elizabeth agreed to facilitate November meeting)

## Monthly Items

1. **Minutes** from September 20, 2022 Steering Committee Planning Meeting (Cheryl)
  - a. Discuss where are they currently stored and archived

### Notes:

- **Minutes from September 20, 2022** - approved unanimously.
- **Where stored and archived**
  - Cheryl will send the approved minutes to Caroline, and she will put in the Google drive. All minutes are in a separate doc, not rolling doc in a minutes' folder in the League's Google drive.
  - Cheryl will put the minutes on the website – August and September in the next 24 hours. All minutes, including planning meetings, should be posted.

2. **Treasurer's Report** – provided by Jean Herbert, Treasurer
  - a. Current month's report, through October 12<sup>th</sup>, with any changes since September highlighted in yellow
  - b. Note follow-up from September 20, 2022 SC Meeting re: dues: 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.

**Notes:**

- ***Treasurer's Report***
  - Motion by Marilyn to accept Treasurer's Report. Unanimous approval.

3. **Membership report** - Sonya Rao and Kim Foley
  - a. The new membership brochure – plans and timeline
  - b. New membership drive (began Oct 1) - Status and comment (Kim)
  - c. Status of inactive/old mailing list clean-up (Elizabeth)

**Notes:**

- ***Membership drive***
  - Per Kim:
    - Text went out on Oct 1, 8 renews: 5 online and 3 texts.
    - Will send out another text, tonight or tomorrow
    - Letter will go out after that, followed by email/texts.
    - Jan 31 to report to Federal.
- ***New Membership brochure***
  - Kim has not spoken to Sonya. Marilyn explained that Sonya had to step down because of conflicts.
  - Per Marilyn we really need new pictures so we should hold off on brochure until new pictures.
    - Perhaps some from Jimmy Tingle event
    - Caroline said they have some from the Farmers Market booth.
  - Goal new brochure for Town Day 2023 (June)
  - Sonya might have been the last one to print but she was having problems making changes. Printer might have PDF copy, which could be converted.
  - Marilyn will work with Kim and Vicky Coccoluto and see what they need to do for making/updates the brochure.
  - Agreed that we should table the work until January 2023 since membership and Jimmy Tingle next on Kim's commitment list
- ***Status of inactive/old mailing list cleanup***
  - Elizabeth did not see any contacts beyond a couple that could be eliminated.
  - Kim concerned about friends of League (non-members) getting benefit of membership for free since we send blast emails to these friends of League.
  - Because we are bumping up against the cap for number of emails we can send information to, Elizabeth proposed that in our next blast, we mention that notifications of upcoming events and other shared news will be exclusive to members but we will encourage non-members of the League to join the League to continue to receive these emails as well as explain the additional benefits of membership.
  - Kim said Template 42 (in Wild Apricot) is the renewal membership for the eblasts. Kim sends it out as a reminder several times between October and the end of the year. We send out only ONE hard copy membership letter each year and she will add it to Google

docs. Kim will send member letter to Elizabeth this week, who will draft something for the e-blast (she sent to Elizabeth right after meeting).

#### 4. Voter Services – General (Susan)

- a. Voter Registration activities (see also Current and Future Events) - Oct. 17th WHS registration drive during WIN School period (Susan)
- b. Status, banner patch, override vote re: the Lynch School on Saturday, January 7 (Robin)
- c. Nov 8 State-wide ballot questions. See Section 5.c. below.
- d. WHS/Voter registration initiative and promotion (voted by SC email, received a quorum) to promote LWV Cape Cod Area HS/voter empowerment webinar on 10/25/22 (Susan)

#### Notes:

- **October 17 WHS registration drive**
  - Susan not at meeting so could not get a full debrief.
  - Carolyn ran into her downtown and Susan told her it went well-more engagement with students but a lot of cynicism about voting. Suspect on their votes making a difference. Not a winning success but not a failure.
- **Student led registration like the Cape Cod**
  - We do not know whether Susan sent the letter about the Cape Cod program to principal.
  - Trā believes that the students are disillusioned based on the classes she teaches on women studies and student feedback. The kids are writing op eds but not sure how to get them engaged in voting. Don't feel like they can change the world. Robin believes the students are aware, smarter and not just able to react on demand. Covid could have had an impact. Cheryl – they need to understand they can be part on the solution. Caroline said we should focus on success locally. Cheryl showed her son the Winchester voting results and how close they were by precinct and how your vote does matter.
- **Banners**
  - Robin got approval to hang the November election banner at High School.
  - After the November 8 election, early December, Robin will reach out to the school again for hanging the banner for the January Town Override vote for the Lynch school renovation.
- **Overall action**
  - Since Susan was absent for this meeting, she should report out about the student voter registration during our November meeting.

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

- a. New/Upcoming Initiatives (Caroline, Marie)
- b. Recap, Oct 17<sup>th</sup> debate for State Senate 5<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District race (Jason Lewis-D, Ed Dombrowski-R) – note the LWVW SC voted via email quorum to publicize this debate
- c. Referendum Questions (Note that league leaders do not have a position on Questions 1-3 and are hosting informational forums for the public to present pro/con on each ballot question. The LWVMA has a position of yes on ballot Question 4.)
  - i. Recap, Oct 13<sup>th</sup> informational forum on Question 1: Additional Tax on Income Over One Million Dollars, sponsored by LWV Boston
  - ii. Recap, Oct 17<sup>th</sup> informational forum on Question 2: Regulation of Dental Insurance, sponsored by LWV Sharon-Stoughton, LWV Needham, LWV Salem, LWV Andover/N. Andover, and LWV Newton.

- iii. Forum for Question 3: Expanded availability of licenses for the sale of Alcoholic Beverages – also presented in same forum as Question 2, see 5.c.ii., above.
- iv. Recap, Oct 12<sup>th</sup> LWVMA advocacy forum on Question 4: Eligibility for Driver's Licenses

**Notes:**

- ***New/upcoming initiatives***
  - Will not do anything around Lynch school override since there will be other groups that will take this on.
  - Action: Susan should send a note to Principal of HS to make sure students register so can vote on Lynch Override in January.
- ***Future debates***
  - Per Robin, Lynne does not want to oversee the debates, but Robin does. Marie is also interested in helping with this.
  - Caroline clarified that Lynne does not want to lead it but does want to stay involved, especially around the questions for the debate.
  - Per Marilyn, we need to be proactive. There is a lot to coordinate (get an outside moderator, work with Town on dates, secure candidates, secure location, etc.) and Marilyn will reach out to get Lynne's detailed guide on how to organize and run a debate. She will also reach out to the Town to get the dates for the local elections, e.g., when are nomination papers are available and when do they have to be submitted. Voter guide effort also to consider.
- ***Referendum questions***
  - Can we post the all the referendum forums on the websites? Cheryl will try to post again; she tried but was not initially successful.
  - Marilyn saw the forum for question 4 and thought they did a good job. Questions were good.
  - Caroline wondered if we could consolidate the links, so folks don't have to scroll. Cheryl will try to consolidate removing all the graphics from the individual forums.
- ***Get out the vote postcards that Lynne shared***
  - LWVWinchester was asked to share the Get Out the Vote postcards with members. Don't really have enough information and especially who is supporting it and why. Concerns about partisanship. It would be different if the request came from League Mass or League National. It was decided, League would not move forward with sharing.

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

- a. Forwarding from League email addresses such as [candidatequestions@lwvwinchester.org](mailto:candidatequestions@lwvwinchester.org) (Cheryl)
- b. Access to LWVW zoom account (Marilyn)
- c. Security upgrade for our LWVW site (Cheryl)

**Notes:**

- ***Security Upgrade for our LWVW site***
  - Two ways to make our site secure. Can do on server side, through GoDaddy, at a cost of about \$200/year or through Wild Apricot (WA) and they will provide an SSL for free. If through WA all you must do is provide them their requested information and WA will set it up but according to Shukong Ou, League member who has offered to help it seems that Amanda did this in past and got no response. Cheryl will try again.

- Also, WA has different, new modern templates and Cheryl will look at new templates and might propose a change.
- **Forwarding from League email addresses**
  - There are different League emails that go to different places, such as membership@lwvwinchester.org.
  - Cheryl will compile a list of these emails and who is getting them. It was decided that the recipients should be current board members and she will try to make the adjustment and let us know.
  - Kim's name was against the membership email, and she wondered how she gets them. They are forwarded to someone's personal email. Caroline sent an email to the membership email address copying Cheryl and indeed Kim received it and will be using that email in her membership requests instead of what she was originally doing, which was her personal email.
- **Access to Zoom account**
  - Per Marilyn this was fortuitous because the subscription renewing October 21 for \$149.90 per year. Marilyn asked Zoom about having 2 people but would cost more. Per Caroline, Winchester Swim shares password among 3 people. Caroline said we should do that, and Marilyn will come up with that password. In addition, other people have Zoom accounts so we could use their accounts as backup. Only concern was the all member events or similar, that should be hosted using the official League account.
  - Elizabeth moved that we approve the renewal of the subscription at \$149.90 per year and unanimous approval was given.

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

- a. LWVMA Data Collection Form for Sept. 16th WHS registration drive and Sept. 21 Health Begins at Home affordable housing event

#### **Notes:**

- Not discussed. Discuss at future meeting

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

- a. LWV US 2022 Convention update (Trā)
- b. Accessory Dwelling Unit Forum: October 19, 2022 at the Jenks Center – SC voted yes to promote this community event on our website
- c. Planning for Moveable Feast (Dec 2022)
- d. Winchester High School Liaison; period products – (Trā)
- e. Note that we will address ideas for 2023 programming at our November SC meeting
- b. Civic Leadership Award: Shall we specify in the LWVW bylaws that only LWVW members can send nominations for this award?

#### **Notes:**

- **Accessory Dwelling Unit**
  - Per Caroline, there will be an article on the town meeting warrant for a new zoning bylaw allowing ADUs. Caroline attended a meeting 10 days ago with the Winchester Housing Coalition and asked them if they were supporting. This proposed bylaw is improvement over what we have now. An ADU must have a kitchen and currently

Winchester does not allow 2 kitchens (however there are some properties which do have 2 kitchens, technically against zoning).

- Caroline shared the slides from the meeting which were prepared by Brian Szekely, Town Planner. One slide did a comparison of Winchester's proposed zoning change to other communities. The only difference is that Winchester's proposed change requires that the ADU be zoned for 62 years of age or older or disabled. While not perfect (there was opposition by some on unrestricted ADUs), the Coalition will support this warrant because better than used to be and for many seniors and disabled it will help. Per Elizabeth, the warrant could be amended at Town Meeting and that restriction removed. Caroline wants board to vote on whether we support and can add League's name.
- Caroline moved that the League support the warrant and send out letters to our town meeting members when we have the specific details. Unanimous approval was given.
- ***Moveable Feast***
  - The Moveable Feast was started by Judie Muggia after 9/11 to show appreciation to town employees. Feast held early December.
  - Per Marilyn this feast does not cost the League a lot of money but brings a lot of goodwill. Food comes from D'Agostino's with a cake from Stop and Shop. Marilyn agreed to manage this event and will reach out to Town to make sure they will still allow it.
  - Even during covid, it was held. Slightly more costly because first year did boxed lunches for all who signed up and last year was down in Town Hall auditorium and needed special take away wrappings, etc. This might change for this year since restrictions have been lifted.
  - Called Moveable feast because it moves from one town building to another, but perhaps we consider having in a central location, but this can be decided later in conjunction with Town.
  - Marilyn needs a shadow because her term will be ending for 2024. Elizabeth agreed to work with Marilyn since she did this in past when on the Board before.

#### **D. New Business**

- 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.

#### **Notes:**

- ***Selection of Accountant to review League's books***
  - Cheryl asked about when this needs to be done. Per Marilyn, last time Elizabeth did it (per Elizabeth's record, the audit was done in 2014 and covered years 2011 through May 1, 2014), and as stewards, we are past due in doing an audit. Marilyn said other leagues are swapping services. Marilyn will reach out to Jean H to see if she would be willing to do an audit for another League in exchange for that League auditing ours and then would reach out.
- ***December membership meeting***
  - Cheryl asked whether we need to add anything on the November meeting agenda for the open membership meeting in December.

- Marilyn suggested having a speaker for this event.
- Elizabeth suggested that perhaps we can do a forum on running for town offices and other boards. Perhaps Susan V or Jennifer Wilson (Board, school or finance committee) or Ruth Trimacki, Stephanie Zaremba (Town Meeting member). More to discuss in November.
- **Co-sign on account for checks over \$500**
  - Elizabeth agreed to co-sign with Jean H.
  - Marilyn moved and unanimous approval given.

**E. Upcoming Meetings**

Date	Facilitator	Secretary	Host
Wed Nov 16 at 7:30pm	Elizabeth	Susan	Marilyn agreed to host if we meet in person
Wed Dec 14 (Open Meeting)	Susan		

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

**Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.**

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

1. LWV US 2022 Convention update (Trā)
2. Winchester High School Voter Registration Debrief (Susan)
3. Winchester High School Liaison; period products – (Trā)
4. November SC meeting:
  - a. Planning for Moveable Feast (Marilyn)
  - b. December 2022 plan for member open meeting
  - c. Begin to plan events and programming for 2023
    - Jimmy Tingle Fundraiser
    - Others, based on priority topics from 2022 LWVW membership survey results
5. Continuing role for LWVW with Winchester Housing Coalition
6. MetroWest Meetings, Day on the Hill
7. WHS Partnership and Case Study Program March 15, 2023 (Jeanette and Marilyn)
8. Planning for 2023 Civic Leadership Award
  - a. Civic Leadership Award: Shall we specify in the LWVW bylaws that only LWVW members can send nominations for this award?
9. 2023 Booths/Table: Town Day (June 3), Farmers Market, Stoneham Town Day?
10. Advocating for a national equal rights amendment – added to agenda for future meetings by Susan
11. MLK Day – do a table at the HS as part of the event they hold (Trā proposed)