

League of Women Voters of Winchester
August 3, 2022 Summer Planning Meeting
via Zoom
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Attendees: Marilyn Mullane (Facilitator), Caroline Shamu (Minutes), Kim Foley, Elizabeth Ghoniem, Marie Lee, Cheryl Shepard, Robin Swan, Susan Verdicchio

Not present: Sonya Rao and Tra Evrigenis

Meeting called to order at 5:31p. Marilyn welcomed everyone.

We reviewed the contents of the **LWVW notebook binders**. These were prepared for new SC members, who picked them up at Marilyn's house before the meeting.

Some discussions were prompted by the materials in the binders:

-When reviewing the Civic Leadership Award description, it was noted that a topic the SC could address in the future is to provide guidance as to who can nominate candidates for the award. Should we formalize that only LWVW members can nominate?

-The 2022-23 budget, provided by Treasurer Jean Herbert, was covered briefly. It was noted that we will plan to hold Jimmy Tingle fundraiser in 2023. Also, LWVW CD matures this fall and we must formally address what to do with those funds.

- SC contact information was verified and phone numbers were requested for Cheryl, Robin, Marie, and Susan. Caroline will update the SC contact list and re-send it to the SC.

- The SC chose a standing meeting time: 3rd Wednesday of the month; 7:30 to 9p; except for September, when we will meet on Tu 9/20 at 7:30p. [LWVW is co-sponsoring an event with the NFSJ on 9/21 in the evening.]

- We assigned **Roles for First Several SC Meetings**

Sept 20: Facilitator- Caroline; Secretary – Cheryl

October 19: Facilitator- Cheryl; Secretary – Susan

As a group, we read together, the Ground Rules, Policies, and By-laws documents in the binders. A few questions and comments arose:

-We need to select a public accountant for our bi-annual audit and carry out an audit this year. An audit was not carried out last year and it is likely that it has been more than two years since our last audit. We also need to add a budget item to cover the cost of the Audit. Kim will follow-up with Jean to ask about (1) why the by-law change required a public accountant and (2) update the budget to reflect the audit. The SC will hire the auditor.

- We need to select the person who will co-sign as authorized signer with the Treasurer for checks over the amount of \$500.

- The question of why the Treasurer is not also Chair of Budget Committee was discussed. Kim will follow-up with Jean on that issue as well.

-Last year, our League had spots for four delegates to State meeting.

- We had a discussion about when it might be appropriate to post information on the LWVW website vs. sending out email blasts to members to make announcements. Relating to sponsoring and co-sponsoring activities with other organizations, Susan noted that the Affordable Housing Coalition is developing a glossary of terms relevant to affordable housing. Once it is ready, the AHC will ask the League to post the glossary on our website. This would be consistent with League policies around co-sponsored programs. It was agreed informally that the League should probably not offer to send email blasts about non-LWV activities that we do not sponsor or co-sponsor. However, we could advertise on our website under “Also of Interest” per our Co-Sponsoring/Supporting policy.

- In the September meeting, we will confirm that the new SC members are receiving emails from LWV US and LWV MA, and from the [League Leaders] discussion forum.

Discussion of the **LWV US 2022 Convention Update** was postponed until a later meeting, when Tra is present. Marilyn provided a brief update from LWV US about how the logistics of dues payments will change in 2024 or thereafter.

The following **LWVW roles** were discussed and assignments were confirmed:

a. Membership - Kim Foley and Sonya Rao—[Kim reported that we now have 102 members; 10 new since Jan 31, 2022; the 2022-23 membership drive starts in mid-September] Kim will look into any LWVW members who might qualify as lifetime members and will report back to the SC.

b. Banner - Tra is storing the banner currently. Robin Swan volunteered to help take on this role, to organize patching a new date and arranging for it to be hung at the rotary or WHS before for Sept 6 primary and other elections. Marilyn will connect Robin to former SC member Jeannette Kolodziej, who was responsible for the banner previously.

c. Website and Social Media - Cheryl willing to take this on; Caroline will connect Cheryl to former SC member Amanda Littel for a tutorial.

d. The LWVW Shared Google Drive was described by Caroline. All current SC members have been given access.

e. Communications: Elizabeth is willing to take on responsibility for sending email blasts to members and for sending emails publicizing activities in other Leagues that arrive via League Leaders emails: Caroline will connect Elizabeth to Amanda at the same time she introduces Cheryl.

f. Voter Services/Debates -Elizabeth suggested that this role be separated into two roles:

f.1: Voter Services would include voter registration drives at WHS and other neighboring communities, and coordinating with Mary Ellen Lannon re: Winchester-specific voter issues and elections. Susan volunteered to take this on.

f. 2 Debates: Former SC member Lynne Brodsky is happy to continue to play a role in organizing LWVW-sponsored debates, but will be transitioning away from leadership. Marie and Robin are willing to take on this responsibility. Caroline will help, especially with the production of Voter Guides for the annual Town elections

g. Spokesperson - Marilyn

h. DEI - Patty Shepard

i. **Liaison with State activities**, including Council, Conventions, Consensus Studies, etc. - Marilyn

Fundraising – Marilyn noted that we can wait until January to begin to plan the Jimmy Tingle fundraiser for spring 2023.

The following **Programming** was discussed for 2022-23, starting with events that we have done regularly:

a. **Farmer's Market - August 6th**—This event is ready to go; Marilyn and Caroline will meet to organize pamphlets and display materials for the both. 100 copies of the LWVW pamphlet were printed for 2022 Town Day. These will be used this fall as well.

- **September 10th Organizational Fair** (\$15 per table)—The SC approved that LWVW will participate in this event. The goal will be to recruit new members, promote voter registration, and meet others in Town in Community organizations. Kim will organize the table; Marilyn will connect Kim to Fred; we will use same materials as for the Aug 6 table.

- **Stoneham Town Day - September 17th** from 11 - 4 PM (\$125 per booth NLT Aug. 31) The SC approved that LWVW will participate in this event. The goal will be to recruit new members and promote voter registration. Kim will sign up with Stoneham, organize the table and will reach out to Lynne to participate, as Lynne has been interested for some time in working with Stoneham residents. Marilyn and other SC members will help as well.

b. **September 20th National Voter Registration Day**: We will combine this event with the **WHS Voter Registration Day**, and plan to hold a voter registration drive at WHS on Sept 20 (Tuesday). Will need to update the LWVW National Voter Registration banner, too. Marilyn will work with Robin and Jeannette to locate the banner etc.

c. **November 8th General Election debates**

(1) Candidate Forum for 5th District U.S. Rep - Katherine Clark and Caroline Colarusso - Belmont League leading with Framingham, Lexington, Weston and Wellesley—Marilyn will connect Marie and Robin to Lynne, who has already been in touch with the Belmont League about planning the debate.

(2) Candidate Forum for 5th Middlesex State Senator - Jason Lewis and Edward Dombroski Jr. Robin and Marie and Robin will work with Lynne on this.

(3) Ballot Question Re: Tax on Income Above \$1 Million for Education and Transportation: We discussed how to provide the Pro and Con information on this. It's hard to have a forum on one question, but Lexington addressed the question recently at their Annual meeting. Marilyn will check with State to see if they are they putting out a statement, or whether we might work with other Towns to develop a pro/con informational statement. Susan to work with Marilyn on this. Marilyn will report back via email re: what she hears from State and other Leagues.

(4) Note that there are three other possible Ballot Questions (not yet confirmed therefore, no position statements needed yet)

(a) Rewriting worker status and benefits for app drivers

(b) Spending limits for dental insurers

(c) Updating alcohol licensing limits to bring back happy hour

d. **Moveable Feast** – This will happen in December; Merry will help with this. We will plan a date for this event at our Sept or Oct meeting.

e. **Metro West Meetings**—We need to wait until we get the schedule to make any plans. We will discuss at future SC meetings.

f. **Day on the Hill**—to be set up by State League.

The following events will be discussed later in the year:

- h. **2023 Day at the Races/Debates** –occurs in the Spring
- i. **Town Day** - June
- j. **Civic Leadership Award** - occurs in the Spring
- k. **Annual Meeting** - June

The following **Additional 2022 - 2023 programming options** were discussed. To introduce this topic, Marilyn reviewed the annual survey of LWVW membership that asked members to prioritize topics for League programming.

2022 Survey Results; the numbers in parentheses indicate topics chosen as fourth or lower priority topics by members who ranked more than three priority topics:

1. Educate and Advocate for Affordable Housing in Winchester - 10 (1)
2. Advocate for stricter Gun Safety Laws - 9
3. Advocate for Reproductive Choice - 8 (1)
4. Empower Voters and Foster Civic Engagement - 7
5. Address the Climate Emergency - 6
6. Advocate for Honest Elections and restoring our Democracy - 5
7. Educate about the separation of Church and State - 3 (1)
8. Advocate for Racial Justice - 3 (1)
9. Advocate for same-day voter registration - 2 (2)
10. Advocate for Criminal Justice - 1 (1)
11. Advocate for Immigration Reform - 1
12. Advocate for Gender Equity - 1
13. Explore and advocate for expanded safe and reliable Public Transportation - 1
14. Advocate for ERA Ratification pursuant to S2415 - (1)

b. We are already committed to:

1. **Affordable Housing Coalition** – Caroline and Susan to keep in touch with the AHC; LWVW will co-sponsor with NFSJ an event at Town Hall on Sept. 21.
2. **Harvard Case Method Civic Workshop on Campaign Finance** with WHS History department: Topic is Campaign Finance, date: March 15, 2023 7-8:30p; Marilyn and Jeanette are coordinating this and will re-connect with the WHS teachers in January.
3. **Updating Membership Brochure**—Kim, Sonya, Vicky, and Jean will work on this. New pictures of our members and activities are needed! Related to membership, the SC agreed that it's OK to not require that members provide telephone numbers on membership forms.

c. **Other possibilities—we will revisit these options, as relevant, in our November meeting.**

1. Basics of Government A – Z—relevant closer to Town elections
2. Hot Topics—discuss later in the year
3. High-profile Speaker at Annual Meeting--yes
4. Winchester 2020 Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update—LWVW had a presentation at the March 2022 open meeting; this topic could be repeated in a future year.
6. Annual Book Read or film (Period) - Tra
7. Phonathon - Made \$465.50 in 2020, skipped 2021; propose to skip 2022, too.

Marilyn reminded everyone that organizers of events need to complete the LWVMA Impact Data Collection Forms for their programs.

Other Business:

- a. The SC approved the May 10, 2022 Minutes as submitted.

Adjourned at 7:34 pm .

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Facilitator	Secretary	Host
Tu Sept 20 7:30p	Caroline	Cheryl	TBD (zoom?)
Wed Oct 19 7:30p	Cheryl	Susan	
Wed Nov 16 7:30p			