

League of Women Voters – Grand Traverse Area  
Annual Meeting  
August 22, 2020

President Janice Warren called the virtual meeting to order, and established we had a quorum. Warren noted that the Annual Meeting is occurring late this year, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

**Acknowledgements:**

Ingrid Brophy for taking on short notice the Treasurer's duties from Liz Messing ; the Program Committee (Adler, Crockett, Grover, Naperala, Wagner); Jane Watts for *They Represent You* and distribution of *Voter Guides*; Marcia Koppa and Christina Schlitt for programs in Crawford Co. and distribution of *Voter Guides* there; Anne Montgomery and Peg Townsend for leading the Voter Services Committee; Robin Stott and Kathy Tuckerman for giving us Social Media presence; Nancy Nordfjord for producing the LWVGTA newsletter and Email Blasts, as well as arranging the production of yard signs and "100 Years – Women's Vote" t-shirts; the Vote411.org team of Mary Beeker, Betsy Somsel, Eunice Crockett, and Ann Swaney; Mary Beeker for obtaining and populating our new website; Barbara Berry for coordinating Peg Siciliano's *A Century of Suffrage* article in the Record-Eagle; and to Christina Schlitt for all the support she has given our chapter.

**Annual Meeting 2020 Minutes Readers:**

Anne Magoun, Jane Watts, and Betsy Wilson read and approved the minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting, which were subsequently approved by the LWVGTA Board of Directors. Anne Magoun, Lee Hornberger, and Christina Schlitt volunteered to read and approve the minutes from the current 2020 meeting.

**Review and approval of 2020-21 Annual Budget:**

President Warren presented the budget for 2020-21 and responded to questions. Warren explained any changes to the budget from last year:

The 2020-21 budget is very conservative. The *Parade of Homes*, one of our major fundraisers, will be a virtual event this year, and we anticipate that our wreath sale will not be as robust as in the past since much of our sales take place in community gatherings. We are late in sending out dues renewal notices and will be getting those out in a couple of weeks.

I included an increase in donations to the Education Fund as the money in our fund has decreased over the last few years. Voter Services expenses are less this year because they will be virtual. We are planning to offer several virtual forums with the assistance of Traverse Area Community Media. The *They Represent You* brochures have been printed, thanks to the efforts of Jane Watts. Our expenses are pretty much in line with last year. Hope is to send several members from our chapter to the State Convention in East Lansing next spring.

Lee Hornberger MOVED to approve the 2020-21 Budget, with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathy Tuckerman. Budget approved.

## **Approval of Bylaw Revisions**

President Warren thanked Jean Howard for work on these.

1. Amending Preamble to the Bylaws. New preamble will read: LWVGTA was organized as a provisional chapter in December 1959 ... (new) Crawford County was added as a geographic unit in 2018.
2. Amending Article III, Section 2: Types of Membership. To clarify current types of Member categories, by striking Associate Members.
3. Amend Article V. Section 5: The Treasurer. Adding “by a neutral party,” after the word reviewed and before “at the end of the fiscal year ...”
4. Amend Article VI. Section 2: Dues (b) & (c). Change from “payable by May 31,” to “payable by June 30” of each year. Rest of wording in that section to be deleted. This change to reflect our actual practice.
5. Amend Article VI; Section 4. Budget Committee. Insert “At least three (3) to six (6) months” before the annual meeting.

Schlitt explained that under Article III: Types of Membership, Associate Membership was retained at the LWVUS Convention in June, so we will have to add it back in, because the National Bylaws carry through to local leagues. We will also add “Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as full or part-time with an accredited institution.” The same with Article II – Purpose and Policies: “The League is fully committed to ensure compliance – in principle and practice – with LWVUS’ Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy.

Watt moved to approve amendments, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Berry. No questions. Motion to Approved passed.

## **Election of the League Board of Directors, 2020-22:**

Bonnie Willings MOVED to approve the Slate of Officers and Directors, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jean Howard. MOTION approved. Nominating Committee for 2021 will be member Betsy Wilson along with Board Member Jane Watts.

Second Vice-President – Linda Crandall  
Treasurer – Ingrid Brophy  
Director & Voter Services Co-Chair – Anne Montgomery  
Director, with emphasis on programs – Cheryl Naperala  
Director & Membership Chair – Nancy Nordfjord  
Director & Voter Services Co-Chair – Peg Townsend

## **Retention of Current Local league Positions**

President Jan Warren reviewed the present positions and said they are listed on the LWVGTA website. We have taken positions in six areas – Advocacy, Education, Natural Resources, County Government, Public Libraries, and School Libraries. Barbara Berry MOVED to retain our current positions, 2<sup>nd</sup> in support by Christina Schlitt. MOTION passed with unanimous approval.

## **Voter Services’ Committee Report**

Anne Montgomery –

\_\_\_\_\_Anne Montgomery CoChair Voter Services Committee Report: A VERY BUSY TIME!

Our committee has three focus points: Registration and Absentee Ballot voting, promoting VOTE411.org, and providing Candidate Forum Debates.

Registration and Absentee Ballot applications.

LWVGTA provided information, advice and materials at many locations: Traverse City Health Clinic, The Septic Forum at Hagerty Center, National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) promoted at NMC on campus in 2019 where 75 students were registered and will be offered again September 22, 2020. Because of Covid-19 our activities at local high schools have been curtailed but Betsy Wilson has contacted each school to offer materials which could be distributed by Social Studies classes. Nancy Nordfjord and Cheryl Naperala have concentrated efforts to contact Senior Living Facilities to promote registration/absentee ballot applications. Often Seniors when moving from a home location to a new Senior Living facility have to "change their address" and/or apply to absentee vote. Letters were sent to multiple senior living locations to offer forms and advice.

Election Inspectors: We will promote "Election Inspectors" applications among the college and high school students especially those that have not been able to return to their college campuses either in Michigan or out of state because of the pandemic. The Polling locations are in great need of Election Inspectors to work on Election Day as poll workers or ballot counters.

Nancy Nordfjord took on the project of having yard signs printed which promoted Voting by Mail and Being informed by using VOTE411.org. 100 signs were printed and sold as a fund raiser. It has been very successful.

We have actively promoted on Social Media our programs, information and materials. Our Facebook page has been managed by Robbin Stott and Twitter by Kathy Tuckerman and our Web Page by Mary Beeker.

Crawford County Unit: Our sponsorship of the Crawford County Unit has provided candidate information for the August 4<sup>th</sup> Primary Election and is working currently on updating the data for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election. Marcia Koppa held a virtual candidate FORUM debate for the two candidates for Crawford County Clerk which was well supported.

Peg Townsend –

Thanks to those who helped in the past.

Scheduling a meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup>, where Peg will explain jobs related to the forums where volunteers are needed to organize and schedule forums, including GT County Commissioner Candidates Forums which will include Districts 1,3,4,5, and 6 as well as the NMC Board of Trustees and TCAPS Candidates Forums.. Peg has sent out invites already to candidates for 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District; 104<sup>th</sup> Michigan House District; Grand Traverse Co. Sheriff. Still to be invited are GT Co. Commissioners races that are competitive (5 of 7), along with the NMC & TCAPS Boards of Trustees. Once informal invites have been accepted, Peg will start assigning dates for virtual forums. Optimally, she'd like to schedule Forums Sept. 15,16,17, 20, 21, or possibly very early October. A big challenge will be advertising, so people can sign up to receive a link to access them virtually. Peg & crew will be working with Matt Kern from Traverse Area Community Media, who will set up a

practice session. Since LWVGTA is a member, there will be no charge to us. Peg found questions specific to an elective office on the LWVMI website. They could be possible questions to ask if there are not enough audience questions.

Barb Berry – Peg Siciliano will have two more articles about League History in the Record-Eagle in October.

Anne M. – LWVGTA joins Woman2Woman at Open Space on 8-26 to celebrate 100 years of Woman voting.

Christina – Update on lawsuit – Mich. League is lead plaintiff - Vote valid if postmarked by election day.  
Encouraged people to attend public meetings about redistricting, will need “fair” census info.

Annual Meeting Adjourned. Motion by Mary Grover, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna Moore.

Respectfully submitted by  
Ann Swaney  
Secretary, League of Women Voters, Grand Traverse Area