

LWVGTA Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
10:00 am via Zoom/Anne Montgomery
Meeting ID: 207 936 8428 Passcode: 966337

Present: Mary Beeker, Barb Berry, Ingrid Brophy, Linda Crandall, Mary Grover, Marcia Koppa,
Anne Montgomery, Cheryl Naperala, Nancy Nordfjord, Ann Swaney, Peg Townsend, Jan Warren,
Jane Watts,

Call to order – 10:07 am

1. Additions to the agenda - Peg T. – Harvard Case Studies
2. Minutes of the January 21, 2021 Board meeting

Swaney

Motion by Anne Montgomery to approve minutes as corrected. See Treasurer’s Report
2nd by Crandall. Motion approved.

3. Treasurer’s report

Brophy

- A. Checking account balance \$13,575.20 January total as corrected \$13,183.33
- B. Ed Fund balance - \$5,505.31

Ingrid was trained via a webinar by State League Treasurer on tracking our volunteer hours every month and reporting how much we each spent “in-kind.” Grover – “this might be useful for grant writing.

4. Membership status

Nordfjord

We have 83 individual members, + 12 household + 1 student = 96 total members. Nancy thanked Cheryl N. for helping to recruit 21 new members, while 7 people did not renew.

- A. Unpaid dues – only 7 unpaid. Nancy sent out letters advising people they can pay in Feb. and it will cover their dues through June, 2022.

- B. LWVGTA’s active members (see LWVMI Active Members list)

We paid PNP for 89 members for 2020-21. Anne M – Nat’l list is only updated once a year.

PayPal– Three memberships were paid on our website through PayPal this year.

PayPal charges each member \$3 but it doesn’t cost us anything extra.

Mary Beeker – Probably altogether 10-15 people have paid using PayPal.

5. Data about usage of our 411 service, and voting information

Townsend

Peg included an attachment from the state 411 coordinator, Megan Chenoweth, “Data for Usage of VOTE411 in Grand Traverse County,” which is at the end of these minutes.

Traverse City totals went from 2649 to 2786 new users. Grand Traverse County climbed to 80,249 registered voters in 2020. More info online at GT Co. Clerk’s office.

Advertising helped increase these VOTE411 totals and Grover suggested for the next election to “Bake [advertising] into our services.”

6. Program Committee

Naperala

Yesterday’s program 2/16 (Nicco Pandolfi) had 100 attending, not counting Channel 189.

March 16th program is 2020 Dark Money, with Simon B. Shuster.

April Program – Redistricting, with Donna Hornberger

May Program – Electoral College, with John Zachman.

Mary G. – asked about expenditures. Cheryl is happy with the funding.

Anne M – asked about decorations on top of our Facebook page. These are by Robin Stott.

7. Establishing an Observer Corps – Held over idea from our last meeting – Linda Crandall.
Jane Watts explained that when we are engaged in religiously observing a governmental body, that group notices and it can make a difference. The league has a long history of doing that.
 - A. Leader(s)? - no one volunteered to lead this project
 - B. Focus? – Suggestions of TCAPS Board, County Gov., Road Commission, & Drug Court.
Voted and narrowed it to the TCAPS School Board and the County Commission.
 - C. Promoting opportunity to the members – A good way for members to get involved.

8. Lame Duck Study (virtual) Grover (& Warren?)
Suggested that the Leelanau League (Trish Denton) already has one planned and we should join them. Marian Kromkowski and Joan Hunault are coordinating, Christie Bardenhagen has the materials for it. Nancy N. will send out an email Blast to our members.
 - A. Subject and scope: “Structure and Process of the Michigan Legislature limited to exploring the ramifications on democracy, if any, posed by lame duck sessions and developing guidelines, if warranted, regarding the type of bills and how such bills should be handled in a lame duck session.” Packet materials are available at https://lwvmi.org/member/mem_studies.html
 - B. Jan suggested that we open the discussion to the public, although answers to the study questions would be limited to members. A response form is due to LWVMI on March 31.

9. LWVMI Convention, May 21-22, 2021 – Discussion/Decisions tabled until our next meeting.
Defending Democracy is the timely theme of the 2021 Biennial Convention. It will be held virtually this year and will run from 6:30 pm Friday May 21, through 5 pm Sat. May 22nd
We still don’t know how many representatives we can have.

10. LWVMI 2021-2022 Program Planning and review of LWVMI positions
 - A. Local League reports are due March 1, 2021.
Mary G. thinks it would be very hard for us to try to do this online.
Not enough time to do that this year, but Mary B. & Anne M. would like us to examine how we would do this online and possibly try it next year.

11. Addition to the Agenda – Harvard Case Studies-- Peg Townsend.

A way of getting students tuned in to the democratic processes. The name has been changed to the Harvard Case Study Institute and is now affiliated with the League of Women Voters. Peg has contacted Tak Ready at TC West H.S. and Paige Paul at TC Central, and they will participate in the 1st session on April 3rd. It will be entirely virtual – Paige & Tak will receive professional development credit for attending. Our obligation is to provide a public venue for the public, with one or both of them presenting.

Next meeting should be on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 10:00 to 11:30 am.
Cheryl Naperala will prepare the March meeting agenda and guide the discussion.

Meeting adjourned – 11:35 am
Respectfully submitted,
Ann Swaney
Secretary - LWVGTA

Data for usage of VOTE411 in the Grand Traverse Area*

Usage	2020	2018	2016
Total users	3771	3607	2960
Total new users	3619	3407	2960
Total sessions	4861	4829	3761

*Note:

For purposes of this study, "Grand Traverse Area" includes Antrim, Benzie and Grand Traverse counties.

- Antrim County includes the towns of Bellaire, Central Lake and Elk Rapids.
- Benzie County includes the town of Frankfort.
- Grand Traverse County includes the towns of Fife Lake, Interlochen, Kalkaska, Kingsley, and Traverse City.

Data about usage in these communities can be provided.

Data for usage of VOTE411 in Grand Traverse County

Usage	2020	2018	2016
Total users	3444	3444	2860
Total new users	3305	3141	2860
Total sessions	4467	4478	3602

Source:

