

LWVGTA BOARD MEETING – WEDNESDAY JANUARY 12TH NOON – 2:00

Present: Mary Beeker, Barb Berry, Ingrid Brophy, Linda Crandall, Marcia Koppa, Anne Montgomery, Donna Moore, Cheryl Naperala, Nancy Nordfjord, Becky Somsel, Robbin Stott, Ann Swaney, Peg Townsend, Jane Watts, Jan Warren

1. Welcome and any additions to the agenda – Cheryl
Anne Montgomery – Woman to Woman requested a meeting.
Jan W. – Talking about the Bylaws and promoting the National Convention.
2. Secretary report – approval of October 13 minutes, November 10 minutes, & December 13 special meeting – Ann
Nancy N. asked Nov. mtg., under Membership Report, to delete that the online membership report would be converted to a directory. Also that Arlene Dean’s name be deleted from the names of those who had not paid their dues.
MOTION to approve with above corrections - Anne M., 2nd by Peg T. Minutes Approved.
3. Treasurer’s report– Ingrid
Current Balance \$14,648.51 Still have to pay Copy Shop – need to get tax charge dropped.
Made several thousand dollars from Holiday Wreath Sales. Special appreciation to Jane Watts.
Treasurer’s report accepted.
4. Reports
Making Democracy Work Grant – Peg T.
Ended up printing 450 sets of flyers for approx. \$518.
Kathy Tuckerman & helpers put flyers in libraries, and other non-governmental spots.
Still have approx.. 25 sets of flyers available for placement
Reporting for Grant – Nancy N. turned it in. Clerk engagement program part of grant fulfillment.
Ad for paper – Cheryl & Linda – Holding off for now, based on response from Christina.
Membership report – Nancy
106 regular members, plus 3 from Crawford Co. 17 household members + 1 student member.
Current Directory update and discuss how to handle 11 non renewals. - Nancy
Nancy is finishing up the roster. It must be turned in by January 31. We pay State & Nat’l total of \$55 for each regular member. Bylaws should be included in the new directory, including ones about DEI and Associate Members. Nancy will send the Bylaws she has to Jan, to make sure they are the latest version. When completed, maybe Mary B. can post on our website.
Jan W. will work with Jean Howard on final wording. We need to get them approved soon, especially the section about the new leadership approach, so can have for the annual meeting.
New member orientation report -- Anne Montgomery
Very successful. Committee Heads spoke about their work. We should have an orientation for the five new members soon. Perhaps this could eventually be a Membership Comm. function.
Anne called new member Teresa Scollon back to tell her of opportunities for new members who work days. Teresa wondered if being a member of LWV precludes her ability to join other political organizations. Answer: No, except for League President & Voter Services Chair.
Media Team – Robbin
Website – Mary B.
Will be getting a new website in the coming year. Price will be more expensive but it is necessary we upgrade to a better site than our current one. Mary has researched and the one used by the league in California has gotten poor reviews. Mary will get back to Christina for advice about what other leagues in Michigan are using.

Twitter – Have 28 followers. Sept. to Dec. showed increase in impressions from 207 to 995.

Top tweet in January was one about the Vigil. Top tweet in Dec. was about the Jan.18th mtg.

Facebook - Robbin.

In the last 30 days, there were 215 Facebook engagements and our posts reached 1277 people. One comment about the Vigil was totally filled with lies. Robbin reported the comment and then was able to delete it. How handle untrue comments in the future?

Vote411 – Becky Somsel

A recent overhaul of Vote411 – should be available soon from LWVMI. It will give us an opportunity to have more than one person working on it, which will be helpful to Becky. Also instead of having candidates send in long answers to a set of questions, we'll be able to use a scale question, which should be more effective.

Example: 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___

Some discussion about expanding our reach to cover township candidates in the future, as we had done in the past – If there is competition. Also possibly races in Antrim or Kalkaska.

Voter Services - Peg

We need to go forward to figure out what forums we'll need for this year. Next VS mtg. is Jan. 20, 1-3pm.

Programs – Cheryl – Cheryl's goal to coordinate our Programs with what the Observer Corps is finding.

January – Climate, with Lisa Del Buono

February – Clerks Bonnie Scheele & Ben Marentette.

March – Redistricting, or maybe Dark Money.

April – Incarceration – Tom Bousamra

May – Repeat of Dark Money or Redistricting of Districts.

Observer Corps – Donna M.

Donna stressed that everyone is doing an excellent job. Some of the new people and their responsibilities are Charlene Krygier (Long Lake Township Board) and Donna Stein-Harris, who will take over Donna's observations in March & April.

Donna spoke with Steve Horn about possibly observing the training given to poll workers.

There is a need for someone to observe what's going on with the Senior Center.

There are currently 11 or 12 observers at work. Betsy Wilson needs a new job as she was observing redistricting.

Crawford County – Marcia Koppa

Marcia submitted our Forum article and it was published in the *Crawford Co. Avalanche* and *Up North Voice*. There was also one in the *Avalanche* about climate change.

LWVMI monthly meeting report – Jan Warren

Program planning – Jan and Feb

It's time to do program planning. Focus is on National's programming themes this year.

The LWVUS wants us to continue with "Making Democracy Work," including Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Money in Politics, and Redistricting. Jan can lead a discussion about this at our Feb. mtg. Do we want to focus efforts on Making Democracy Work? We need to submit a report to National by March 1st. All position with the National League are on their website.

Identify LWVUS positions that we intend to use in education and lobbying with policies of our own.. Possibly identify issues through the Observer Corps, LWVMI may be putting something together on putting a DEI lens to our efforts

Publicity – Linda

Reaching out to new venues – including the Traverse City & Leelanau Tickers and *Northern Express*. Since they haven't room for a zoom link, we can include our website address for further information.

Already Linda sends to Stephanie Shomin at the *Record-Eagle*, Amy at the *Leelanau Enterprise*, IPR & Peter Payette, and she is considering the *Petoskey Review*. Because of Marcia, we have publicity in the *Up North Voice* and the *Crawford Co. Avalanche*.

Anne M. mentioned that the new member (Susan Betts-Barbus) in the Cadillac area might want to use our ads there, with hopes of eventually establishing a Cadillac league.

5. Policy on accepting other organization's information/newsletters and putting in our newsletter and/or distributing through eblasts - All discussion on this issue is being tabled for now. Consideration of caution in being affiliated with other groups. We need to educate about our non-partisan policy - (will review again at Feb. mtg.) and emphasize our ability to conduct forums. Mary B. will ask NMC's *White Pine Press* if they will accept our Forum article for their paper.
6. Report on January 6th vigil.
Reports that it went well with good attendance (approx..200), despite the cold. The planning group of original sponsors is now meeting weekly, and Cheryl will continue to attend.

Annual Meeting -- Ingrid will set up a brunch for the first Saturday of June at the TC Country Club.

Meeting adjourned, 1:45 pm

Next meeting – Wednesday, February 9th via Zoom at Noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Swaney, Secretary LWVGTA

