

LWVGTA BOARD MEETING – WEDNESDAY February 9th - NOON – 2:00 – Approved Minutes
Present: Barb Berry, Ingrid Brophy, Linda Crandall, Marcia Koppa, Anne Montgomery,
Donna Moore, Cheryl Naperala, Nancy Nordfjord, Becky Somsel, Robbin Stott, Ann Swaney,
Peg Townsend, Jan Warren, Jane Watts

1. **Welcome** and any additions to the agenda – Cheryl
Annual meeting schedule
Lake Michigan Region League representative
2. **Secretary report** approval of January minutes - - Ann
Motion to approve with two corrections, Jan. W, 2nd Ingrid. January minutes approved.
3. **Treasurer’s report & approval– Ingrid**
Checkbook balance - \$15,161.51. Ingrid asked we send invoices when requesting reimbursement.
Ed Fund (\$6,294.53) problems, one check still not cashed. Ingrid will meet with State League Treas.
on 2/22
Treasurer’s report approved – Motion, Jan. W., 2nd Peg T.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **LWVMI report** – Jan
The Michigan League filed suit against the Redistricting Committee’s Hickory Map for State House Districts. It favors Republicans - will be reviewed by the Mich. Supreme Court.
 - b. **Michigan and National League positions** & program planning for State League – Jan
Promote the Vote ballot proposal would be a Constitutional amendment to supersede the voter suppression activities that would occur if **Secure the Vote** proposal is successful.
Could start circulating **Promote the Vote** petitions in March. Leagues are expected to present a program using materials & PowerPoint provided by LWVMI. Suggestion that Peg discuss this at next Voter Services meeting.
 - c. **DECISIONS TO BE MADE -- Planning for Program Management for the next 2 years, 2022-2024**
 1. **Focus on make democracy work:** voting rights, improving elections, money in politics, redistricting. State is asking us to support these above initiatives and not add any others of our own. Jan **MOVED** we support the 4 LWVMI positions, Marcia, 2nd. All approved.
Also an opportunity to add another position – financing Health care. See under d.)
 - 2 **Review our current positions** – renew or not renew?
We need to review our current positions to see if we want to renew all of them.
 3. **New positions out of Observer Corps.** The National league now has over 50 issues.
We need to update our position on County Government. We would update this and/or add new positions in early 2023, and open this process up for membership participation.

***** Cheryl will send Jan the list of programs we have already conducted**
Including our forums, Making Democracy Work zoom presentation,
Voter Registration drives at NMC and F&M Park, also Kirtland College
and at the January 6th Remembrance Rally.
Michigan Campaign Finance Network – Simon Schuster.
 4. **How our work will impact Making Democracy Work** – Jan will write this.
 5. **Identify LWVUS positions** that we intend to use in education and lobbying.
By the end of December 2022, we need to have an active committee to choose and revise our positions.
 6. **Apply DEI lens** -- work with the E-3 group in Traverse City, and DEI programs at TCAPS & NMC
 - d. **Recommend concurrence at LWVUS convention** to update LWVUS healthcare position and include statements about financing health care. Originally from the NY League. LWVMI is supporting this request. – Jan

To be brought up at our next National Convention. The Michigan League has already adopted it. Our delegates would vote their own conscience. Since it's by concurrence, we wouldn't have to undertake a full study ourselves. MOTION by Swaney, 2nd by Crandall to not support it at the next State Convention.

e. LWVMI adopted a Climate Emergency resolution on January 8th and is urging local Leagues to adopt it and to advocate with local governments to adopt "Climate Emergency" declarations.

Jan – DECISION – State league would like us to adopt this.

Donna M. asked how we would go about this.

Answer: By asking candidates at our forums and on the Vote411 questionnaire how they feel about this issue. We deferred this decision to our March meeting, so Jan can do further research.

f. **Non Partisan Policy** - Jan

This primarily pertains to our President, Voter Services Chair or Co-Chairs of these.

We cannot have our banner there if we are doing Voter Registration activities with other organizations.

Other organizations could join us though, in circulating petitions.

g. **Changes to Bylaws** -- Jan

Our nominating committee will search for potential candidates to be the spokesperson in a Co-Presidency.

See Section V of our Bylaws, which would need to be changed if the above idea works out. The nominating committee will report back in March. A suggestion made to contact Charlotte Kreiger, a new member, with leadership experience, along with other new members. They were adopted at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

We reviewed the amendments to our Bylaws.

h. **Report on meeting with Woman 2 Woman** – Anne & Peg – Possibility of more collaboration, more letters to the Editor, support of women candidates – more big events to introduce candidates.

Peg Townsend met with leaders of Woman to Woman – an incredible organization and the women understand that League members need to appear non-partisan. They mostly wanted to know what we do as a league. Realize we cannot partner with them.

i. **Policy on coordinating with Jan 6 Vigil Group** – Cheryl - **DECISION**

This group is asking us to join an umbrella group they are forming under a new name. This alliance would endorse candidates, so the LWVGTA cannot join. Unanimous vote to decline joining, as many of the partners endorse candidates.

Cheryl asked if she can still attend and bring back information. **Answer is Yes**

j. **Policy on publicizing events of other organizations.**

While we can't publicize the programs of other organizations, we can still share information with them about our programs.

k. **LWVUS convention June 23 – 27** – Denver – virtual and in person - Jan

This will be a virtual training and we have money for our members to attend.

l. **Other:**

- Ann S. voted in as our representative to the Lake Michigan League.
- Annual Meeting to be a brunch at the Country Club -- First Saturday in June. We want to vote in person and think \$25/person is a reasonable amount to charge. Barb B. is working on the awards for Making Democracy Work and our Outstanding Service Award.
- Committee Reports – were turned in & circulated to us. All well-written.
- Anne Montgomery will take over checkbook responsibilities while Ingrid is in Florida.

Next Meeting -- Wed. March 9th, 3-5 pm. still over zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Swaney, Secretary, LWVGTA