

Present: Barb Berry, Marcia Koppa, Anne Montgomery, Cheryl Naperala, Nancy Nordfjord, Robbin Stott, Ann Swaney, Jane Watts, Jan Warren

- I. Welcome and any additions to the agenda – Cheryl
Jan – Making Democracy work final report.
Virtual membership meeting tonight
 - II. Secretary report & approval of February minutes - - Ann
MOTION to Approve with corrections– Warren, 2nd by Koppa. February minutes approved.
 - III. Treasurer’s report & approval– Ingrid. Checking acc’t - \$13,949.96. Ed Fund - still at \$6,294.55
According to bylaws must present any increase in dues to LWVGTA members one month before annual meeting.
MOTION by Warren, 2nd by Nordfjord, to increase annual dues to \$65 (individual), \$95 (household), Student dues will remain at \$5. Nancy will write up rationale for the annual meeting. Jan & Ingrid will get together to work on next year’s budget.
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
- A. LWVMI Report – Jan
 1. LWVUS convention June 23 – 27 – Denver – virtual and in person – Jan
Cost is \$475 for registration, \$209 / night at hotel. Charge for remote delegates is \$300.
Jan reported that at the Presidents meeting on Feb. 15th, there was a recommendation to get the reservation in soon, and to solicit people to attend. We get one delegate per 50 members. The MI State league will have a zoom meeting beforehand. Cheryl suggested that she as Program Chair, Anne M.(Voter Services) and Donna Moore (Observer Corps) will personally contact the membership in those groups and encourage them to attend the Nat’l Convention.
 - 2 Update on Lawsuit – No Update.
 3. Update on Petition Drive - We have seven volunteers who have offered to circulate petitions. Hope to have petitions available in March.
 - a. Update on a Program related to Petition Drive. No news yet.
 - b. Update from Voter Services on coordinating petition drive – no Peg report.
 4. Climate Resolution – Jan – LWVMI passed a resolution on January 9 and want local leagues to follow up with local resolutions of their own. An Intergovernmental Panel report on Climate Change found that the change is even more of an emergency than previously thought. Jan spoke with Amy Shamroe & Ben Marentette, and she will try to sit in on their next meeting. We may want to adopt the City Commission Resolution as presented to them by FLOW (that water & sanitation are basic human rights). Jan will let us know if it’s worth proceeding with adopting this same one. Cheryl will put it on the April Agenda, and Anne M. says it could possibly be presented at the next monthly township clerk’s meeting.
 - B. LWVGTA Positions – Form committee to study and recommend by February 2023 – (Barb Berry)
Barb chairs the committee and will ask folks from the Observer Corps to help identify positions.
DEI -- Update position on County Govt – Cheryl will send Barb local newsletters and information from the DEI Committee.
Possibly also look at positions on Make Democracy Work -- Voting Rights, Money in Elections, Improving Elections, and Redistricting.
February 2023 goal is to have them ready for the 2023 annual meeting.
 - C, D, & E – nothing recorded about these.

F. Annual Meeting – Coordinator & MC – Anne Montgomery, mentored by Jan.

Anne will put a notice in the Voter advertising for the meeting and soliciting volunteers.

1. Invites – Have to go out by May 1st. Barb B. will scan what we've sent as an invitation in the past and send it to Jan.

We'll need volunteers to sit at the tables and hand out nametags, collect dues, etc.

Cost of brunch will be raised to \$30, to cover expenses.

2. Awards – Cheryl will write up the award for Matt Kern; Barb will write up the other award.
3. Program – Magoun & Swaney -- Inspiring new members to participate in our activities – because we can make a difference in our community.
4. How to motivate members to step up and help us save democracy? Unanswered. See #3 above for a very partial answer.
5. Announcement about dues increase?? Also, Paper Directory -- Nancy

Discussion about having a paper directory available to members by the time of our annual meeting. We agreed we'd all like one. Later addenda would list new members.

MOTION by Jan that we pay to have a printed paper directory, which would include Lists of Members, Officers, Positions, Bylaws, Non-Partisan Policy, Past Presidents, and Award Recipients. 2nd by Anne Montgomery. Motion approved.

G. Nominating Committee report – Linda Crandall, Mary Grover, Jane Watts

Committee will get together and have their suggestions ready for the April meeting.

Jan recommends we try to find president. If no luck, then we continue doing as we are and then revise our bylaws for the annual meeting in 2023.

Cheryl suggested we need a strategic plan to mentor our new people, so we can fill offices in the future. Jan agreed and said we may need to pay some professionals to help us do that.

For Elections at the Annual Meeting:

2nd VP – Linda Crandall's term ends in 2022

Treasurer– Ingrid Brophy term is up in 2022. We voted for her in 2020 & 2021 but

Treasurer should stagger with Secretary, so Cheryl thinks 2021 was not necessary.

Directors are one-year terms according to our bylaws. Leave bylaws as they are for now.

Include this in our strategic plan.

Director and Voter Services Co-Chair – Anne Montgomery term is up.

Director – with emphasis on program – Cheryl Naperala – term is up.

Director and Membership Chair – Nancy Nordfjord – term is up

Director and Voter Services Co-Chair – Peg Townsend – term is up

Director and webmaster Mary Beeker was elected in 2021

What about new Directors- Donna, Marcia, other Leadership Management Team

Membership and we have a new Voter Registration person (Voter Services??) taking Anne's place.

And by-laws say we have Six.

President – vacant – but term is 2021 to 2023

Secretary – Ann Swaney- term is 2021 to 2023. (Looking for an Interim, 2022-23)

H. Bylaws – Jan & Jean Howard – See under nominating committee report.

I. **Reports.** (Please see written reports which are attached. Comments/questions if time allows

Make Democracy Work- Any Action taken during January and February on the grant? – Nancy Jan will forward the form to Nancy to include in the 2021 – March 2022 Final Report This is due on March 28th and will be sent to Christina, as our award goes through March 2022. It will then be sent on to National. We can also include our Clerk Engagement program in the Report, as it was part of the grant.

Membership report – Nancy.

New member orientation report - Anne Montgomery

Media Team - Robbin

Voter Services & Make Democracy Work Grant - - Peg
Program – Cheryl

Observer Corps – Donna

Crawford County report- Marcia

IV. New Business

a. Spokesperson for Crawford County? For League?

Marcia wonders if she should be the spokesperson, or if there should be someone else to do such things as refute opinions in the *Avalanche*. Christina says that since Crawford Co. is a Unit, they will need a spokesperson from the LWVGTA. Her other advice is to possibly not respond, that might encourage the writer to spread further misinformation. On the other hand, if it's information about the League and what it does, that misinformation deserves a response. Jan will prepare a letter to the Record Eagle about the difference between petitions for *Secure the Vote* and *Promote the Vote*. Marcia will forward the *Avalanche* article to Jan to see if it warrants a response.

b. What committees are at state level for which we need liaisons?? e.g., Camilla Davis membership committee? Are there others??? Donna attends state observer corps. Jan and Marcia attend Presidents' meeting. Others???

Peg & Marcia- attend Voter Services meetings.

Ingrid attends the Treasurers' Committee.

Marcia & Donna M. attend Observer Corps meeting.

Anne Montgomery will now be on the list to receive emails from the Membership Leaders Network. Tonight's meeting is on DEI.

c. Jane Watts reported that she has the first proof for *They Represent You*, which she will proof again and send back to be printed. 1500 for Kalkaska Co. (funded by Coding Products) and 2000 for Grand Traverse Co. (funded by Parsons Law Firm in TC).

NMC will post both of these pamphlets on their website.

Next meeting April 13 at noon

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Swaney, Secretary