

League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Board Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2022 / 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Zoom

Attending: Laura Brown-MacKinnon, Marguerite Chatelier, Irene Flint, Wendy Harris Garber, Erry Johnson, Ann-Mara Lanza, Bonny Nothern, Margie Palladino, Ellie Perkins, Ivy Wang, Jenny Zannetos. Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch joined for the final 15 minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President [Wendy Garber](#). A quorum was present. The meeting was held on Zoom and was recorded.

1. Welcome - Wendy

- a. Marguerite read a Land Acknowledgement which she had heard at the Huntington Theater.
- b. Wendy wished Erry a happy birthday. We rearranged the schedule so that she could report in and perhaps leave early.

2. Voter Services - Erry

- a. Voter Services offered free rides to the polls to Babson and Wellesley College students on Election Day this month. They also made an effort to offer rides to the Barton Road community. Erry printed out 25 fliers which were posted around the community, but no one asked for the rides Marguerite had organized. Even if no one needed this service, we agree that it is a helpful message for the community to hear that we are thinking of them and offering support. Erry would only recommend doing this again for the presidential election in 2024. She will also let KC Kato know that if anyone asks for a ride during a town election, for example, she should let us know.
- b. Our next event will be December 7, How to Run for Local Public Office with Mark Kaplan and KC Kato. Erry has prepared fliers and sent them out electronically to her usual mailing list. She and Ann Mara drew up a list of places around town where fliers should be posted before Thanksgiving. Laura and Marguerite volunteered to print copies on their own machines and distribute them. Erry will send each of us a copy to forward to our own networks. It will be placed in the newsletter with a link to a printable pdf on our website in the Voter Services section. Ivy would recommend posting this early in social media, right after Thanksgiving, and then posting a reminder one or two days before the event.
- c. Margie asked if we can see the open rates for notices on our emailed newsletter. Laura says it is available and we are able to access it.
- d. Erry needs to do advance planning for Meet the Candidates Night February 16 because she will be away for several weeks and will need our help. Wendy is organizing ways we will help Erry and is also writing guidelines in anticipation of someone else taking on these roles in the

future. She has tasks lined up for the next four months so that Erry can travel without worrying about Voter Services, including working with Wellesley Media to get events recorded and archived on our website and organizing Zoom sessions, press releases, and invitations to events.

- e. Margie graciously agreed to take over organizing our January solicitation letters for donations from businesses to cover expanded costs for our advertising and postcard mailing. Roche Brothers always donates, but last year we were able to add Babson College and Jarvis Appliances. The postcards have election and Meet the Candidates Night information, giving people something to hang onto.
- f. Erry raised the question of whether it would be useful to conduct exit polling to determine how in-person voters get to the polls possibly as a student civics project). Erry will follow up with KC Kato to see whether the November 8 voting data analytics would support a proposal to the Election Commission to add an early voting site at Barton Road. The Election Commission had tabled such a proposal prior to the fall elections, pending analysis of voting data from the state election.

3. Discussion of Minutes - Ellie

- a. A motion was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of October 11, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.
VOTED: To approve the minutes of October 11, 2022.

4. Treasurer's Report - Jenny

- a. LWVW had a total of \$31,251.37 in assets as of October 31, 2022. Jenny has already collected over \$1000 in dues, although donations seem to be going slowly. Our September 18th Social cost \$189 and the membership mailing requesting dues cost \$190. It is unfortunate to have to mail the expensive hard copy.
- b. Someone has designated a donation to cover one full League membership and Niki has someone in mind who would benefit from this new scholarship. We currently offer five reduced rate memberships at \$20, but no one has ever requested one and we have never discussed how to allocate the funding. Information about the scholarship is on the online Google form and on our website, but it has never been included in membership letters or emails and we will need to include it in the future. Because we were concerned about the unequal nature of the awards we would be offering, Marguerite recommended that we offer three full scholarships this year. Five times \$40, or \$200, is currently in our budget to cover five reduced rate memberships of \$20. Therefore, we are in a position to offer one membership covered by the gift donation and another two from the budgeted funding. Jenny proposed we offer three full membership scholarships for anyone who requests one due to financial hardship. Laura seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Niki will offer this to the person she has in mind. In the future, Niki will have this language in our correspondence, emails and letters soliciting membership

as well as on the web site. We agree that it is important to keep recipients confidential and Niki will be the person who determines the scholarship recipients. We will need to let her know of potential candidates.

VOTED: To offer three full membership scholarships based on financial need.

5. Programming - Irene

- a. Wendy noted that our coffees and Opening Meeting were all very interesting. Although we had a decent number of registrants for Opening Meeting, a number of them did not attend. Ann Mara wondered why the one with Deb Brown was so well attended, in comparison with the others. She also wondered whether the different timing in the past made them more appealing. They used to be held at noon on Friday and often attracted 20-40 attendees. Being held at members' houses might have added to the social appeal. In response to Margie's question, Laura looked at the data online: 99 recipients opened the first email notice of the meeting which was sent to about 135 people. The reminder email only went to those who had signed up. Margie and Laura will look into the timing of emails. Margie also suggested that we each commit to getting three people to attend, pulling names from those who consistently open our emails. The recording of Opening Meeting is being archived by Wellesley Media and will be linked to our website. Jenny reported that our \$100 donation for this event in honor of our speaker, Wendy Parmet, has been sent to the Health Policy and Law Fund at Northeastern University.
- b. Margie said that Alice Peisch has agreed to come to a coffee to discuss the legislative process and how a bill becomes law. Saturday, January 28 would be a good day for her and she asked us to invite Weston's League. This would need to be held either in a larger home or a library space. Maybe it will be good to try a meeting on a Saturday, given our attendance questions. Ivy thinks Saturday might be easier for students.
- c. Wendy plans to send an Evite for our January 20 coffee with Michael Reidy which will be in person at Susan Clapham's, 9:30-10:30 a.m..
- d. Wendy will need someone to run the Zoom coffee on February 3, 2023, because she has a conflict. We will try to change the date to the 10th.

6. President's Update - Wendy

- a. Wendy will speak at a 5th grade Girl Scouts meeting on November 20. The girls have been working on their government patch and they've been to town hall, seen ballots and some of early voting. Wendy will talk about the history of the League, when women got the right to vote, the importance of educating people, looking at all sides of issues in a non-partisan way, differences in the House of Representatives and the number of women there currently vs when Wendy was ten years old. Wendy will bring swag for them: vote buttons, necklaces that she found in our storage boxes. In researching, Wendy found that one Ohio league programs an annual day to teach girls about voting....food for thought.

- b. Last year, the state League asked us to report data on our events (the number of attendees at each event, which groups of people were interested in attending, etc.) Tanya Roy said the data is used and that she would be willing to collect it for us going forward.
- c. Wendy verified with Laura that she uses our entire membership list when she sends out our newsletter or an email blast.
- d. Wendy reported that someone registered for our last coffee without giving any information, so we didn't know who was present (their name said "xyz"). Ann Mara tried to email the individual, but got no response, so they purposely didn't want to be known. As this usually comes from ulterior motives, Ann Mara was ready to mute if anything went wrong. We decided that in the future our policy will be that registrants must identify themselves by name to be admitted.
- e. Ivy will be holding an info session about local government tomorrow. She's hoping to get a few more students interested in Town Meeting so that they can have a League of Women Voters High School Club and give out goody bags for registering to vote. Wendy asked if students think the League is just for women, but Ivy said that boys are interested and events are described as gender neutral. We will be reimbursing purchases of snacks for her future events. Ivy said that she is grateful we held this meeting at a time she can attend and she is looking forward to our upcoming events
- f. Bonny reported that there haven't been many legislative envoy events this fall.
- g. Ann Mara verified that we should all be receiving the League Leaders emails. It's helpful for us to hear what other leagues are doing.
- h. On behalf of the nominating committee, Bonny asked us to think about potential people to recruit, especially for president. Susan Ryan is head of the nominating committee and should begin to join our meetings in December. Susan and also Ellen Gibbs should be added to our distribution lists.

7. Membership - Niki

- a. Forty-eight people haven't yet renewed. After Thanksgiving Niki will send us the list, we'll pick people we know and remind them to renew.

Reminder: Our next meeting will be December 13 at 12:30-2:30 p.m. at Niki's house. We usually consider this a holiday meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Ellie Perkins](#)

Secretary