

**League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Board Meeting Minutes**

**September 8, 2020 | 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Via Zoom**

Board members attending: Susan Clapham, Laura Brown-MacKinnon, Irene Flint, Ellen Gibbs, Ellen Hallett, Erry Johnson Ann-Mara Lanza, Ann Rappaport, Tanya Roy, Anne Rippy Turtle, Jenny Zannetos.
Absent: Dana Desnoyers. LWVW member guest: Andrea Barnhill at

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Co-president Susan Clapham. A quorum was present.

1. Minutes of July 30, 2020

The amendment to the minutes of June 9, 2020 was clarified. A motion was made and seconded to approve the July 30, 2020 minutes.

VOTED: To approve the July 30, 2020 minutes.

2. Treasurer's Update – Jenny Zannetos

LWVW net assets total \$27, 746.65 for FY2021 as of August 31, 2020. Jenny reviewed significant expenses on the Budget vs Actual - July 1 through August 2020 spreadsheet. The national and state PMP expenses have been paid as well as the subscription renewal for iContact.

3. Co-Presidents Update – Susan Clapham & Laura Brown MacKinnon

State Senator for Norfolk, Bristol, Middlesex District Candidate Forum: Both candidates - Democrat Becca Rausch and Republican Matt Kelly - initially agreed to participate in a candidate forum scheduled for September 30, 2020. Subsequently, the Kelly campaign cited concerns about impartiality since Senator Rausch is a member of LWV and requested that the forum be held in-person and further that candidates receive the questions ten days prior to the event. The LWVW made clear that it is not holding in-person events this fall due to the pandemic and does not reveal questions in advance. We are waiting for a response from the Kelly campaign. There will be a forum with the two candidates sponsored by the TV North station.

September 1 Primary Election Debrief: The Wellesley Board of Selectmen Virtual Candidate Forum was held on August 6th with all three candidates participating. The event went smoothly and was recorded by Wellesley Public Media. Erry listed several take-aways from that experience: 1) be aware that the session starts precisely on time to the minute, 2) the chat function must be specifically requested 3) it is critical to plan for a rehearsal to check that everyone knows how to mute, lighting is appropriate, etc.

Opening Meeting Update & Future Events: The keynote speaker for the Opening Meeting on October 8 will be Juliette Kayyem, international security expert, Harvard Kennedy School Lecturer and best-selling author. Her suggested the title of her presentation is "COVID: The Road Ahead". The board discussed asking her to broaden the topic to include the elections. Ms. Kayyem has agreed to have her presentation recorded and posted to our website pending the opportunity to review it first. The board also discussed publicity for the event.

Vote Signs: Andrea Barnhill, who is coordinating the distribution of vote signs this fall, joined for this portion of the meeting. She informed the board of the current inventory -18 Vote by Mail signs. Four signs have "disappeared". The board discussed printing more signs for the upcoming General Election. Beth Sullivan, helped secure grant from Wellesley Covid-19 Relief Fund to underwrite the printing of the Vote by Mail signs for the September 1 Primary. She offered to help secure a second grant if more signs are needed for the General Election. Susan and Andrea will assess the situation and determine the need for additional signs.

4. Program/Calendar – Ann-Mara Lanza & Irene Flint

Library exhibit: LWVW had reserved two display cases in the main library for the month of September to highlight the dual 100th anniversaries of the 19th amendment and the founding of the League of Women Voters in 1920 as well as providing voting information for the upcoming General Election. Susan has been in touch with the library about the feasibility of staging an exhibit during the phased reopening of the library. Laura and she and possibly others will work on the displays in cooperation with the library's plans at this time. A QR code to the LWVW site and reference to the Secretary of State's website were suggested.

2020-21 Tentative LWVW Calendar: Irene walked the board through the tentative events planned for FY2020-21 to date including:

September 25 - Coffee with Town Clerk KC Kato. 9:30 to 10:30 AM. Via zoom. A discussion about the Primary voting process and plans for the General Election will be featured. Ann R. will note this event on the website and in the September newsletter.

October Town Meeting Prep Sessions: The first day of the Fall Town Meeting is scheduled for October 26. The board discussed the practicality of holding a Town Meeting prep session. Barbara McMahon and Heather Sawitsky will be consulted. A zoom meeting with Barbara, Heather Mark Kaplan TM moderator, Megan Jop, Wellesley Executive Director and KC Kato, Town Clerk to coordinate planning with the town was proposed. It was noted that there are many important town issues that remain to be considered.

Other possible "Brown Bag" events were suggested including an event with the Health Dept., Library and later in the year with Dr. Charmie Curry, Wellesley Public Schools Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion.

Housing Study: The Housing Study Committee meets once a month. The meetings are open. It has two subcommittees – one on sustainability and the other on diversity. A Google Drive folder has been created to keep Housing Committee and Subcommittee documents. To update the membership on the study, Ann-Mara will provide a short description of the Housing Study Committee activities to date for the Newsletter.

5. Voter Service – Erry Johnson

Voter Registration Update. The naturalization ceremonies are proceeding around the state in small groups. Erry arranged to have voter registration forms sent to Lowell for inclusion in the naturalization ceremony packets since League members are not able to be present at these events to promote voter registration due to restrictions resulting from the pandemic.

Wellesley High School: Erry created a flyer with voter registration information for WHS students. It will be distributed by WHS to students 16 years and older.

Draft Proposal for a Voter Service/WHS Internship. Erry presented a proposal to strengthen the relationship between WHS through the creation of an unpaid internship for WHS students. Interns would participate in LWVW voter service activities such as: assisting with publicity for LWVW events, working on special projects, engaging in student debate teams and helping to edit LWVWs publications. Each student would have a mentor. The proposal also suggests ways to publicize the internship. Erry suggested that a first step might be to meet with Emily Giddings who is teaching a course on electoral politics this fall at WHS. Erry noticed WHS students' interest in current issues as evidenced by current and former WHS students who organized the "Wake Up Wellesley" series this summer. She also referred to the Wellesley student who had attended the *How to Run for Public Office* event last December. One opportunity for collaboration with WHS students might be to work with students on their senior projects in spring. A concern was raised about starting an internship program during COVID-19. It was suggested that Voter Service contact the appropriate person at WHS for their broader view about how LWVW could

collaborate with WHS students and teachers in a way that is both meaningful and relevant for their courses. Establishing a liaison with WHS was also suggested.

Candidate Forums for the 4th Congressional District and for Norfolk County Sheriff and Commissioners are in planning stages in collaboration with other local Leagues.

State Senate Candidate Forum with Becca Rausch and Matt Kelly is currently a work in progress.

How to Run for Public Office This annual event has been confirmed with KC Kato, Town Clerk and Mark Kaplan, Town Meeting Moderator for December 2, 2020.

Meet the Candidates Night: Determining a date for this event will be challenging given the town election on March 2, candidate registration deadlines, voters guide publication timeline, and uncertainty about possible early voting. TBD.

Ballot questions. LWVMA has no position on ballot question #1. It supports ballot question #2 - Ranked Choice Voting, which was the subject of our Opening Meeting in October 2019. If a program on ballot question 2 is determined to be appropriate and possible, Erry and Ann-Mara will work together on it.

Erry reported that Janet King was starting a voter registration program for people in shelters.

Erry presented a *job description* for Vice President and Co-Vice President of Voter Service. Further, she shared a *detailed operational spreadsheet* for Voter Service activities.

6. Legislative Update – Tanya Roy

The legislature has extended its session to the end of the year. While hearings on various bills are ongoing, the legislature is primarily focused on the budget and COVID-related legislation at this time. The League continues to advocate for bills under consideration. In response to a question about the status of the economic recovery bill, Tanya recommended contacting our representative Alice Peisch or Senator Creem's office for updates or the office of the chair of the committee where the bill is currently being debated.

7. Membership – Anne Rippy Turtle

Membership. Two new members have joined LWVW. The annual membership letter will be sent by the end of September.

8. Publicity & Marketing – Ellen Gibbs

Ellen is focusing on publicity for the opening meeting. In addition, she is working on a general piece about LWVW that will describe who we are and what we do. The idea is to get the word out about our league as well as to broaden our reach by increasing awareness that we are an active group in the community. Photos are useful in this regard. Ann R. offered to set up a photo library to which members can contribute photos that Ellen can use for publicity. The board discussed capturing email addresses from events. Ellen noted that strengthening our follow-up from events is important.

The meeting ended at 3:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Hallett
Secretary