

League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Board Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2021 | 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 Members attending: Marguerite Chatelier, Lucy Costa, Wendy Garber, Bonny Nothern, Marlene O'Brien, Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch, Mary Liz Van Dyck.

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

1. Minutes of February 9, 2021

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of February 9, 2021 as written. The motion was carried. **VOTED:** To approve the February 9, 2021 minutes as written.

2. Treasurer's Update – Jenny Zannetos

LWVW's net assets as of February 28, 2021 totaled \$30,181.46. Income and expenses for February 2021 were reviewed.

FY22 Profit and Loss Budget Overview – Jenny presented the Budget Committee's FY22 Budget proposal. The FY22 income and expenditures come to \$14,330.23.

Membership dues for students and low-income applicants was discussed. It was noted that both LWVUS and LWVMA do not charge a PMP for students. Many Leagues also have provisions for low-income applicants. FY'22 budget assumes that we will have 5 members joining at a subsidized or scholarship rate. The matter was referred to the Membership Committee for further investigation and recommendations.

FY22 Proposed Budget- suggested modifications:

Special/Civic Projects – The 2021 Town Election postcard was considered both an effective project and good publicity for LWVW. The project cost \$3,465. The costs were offset by a \$500 grant from the Community Fund for Wellesley and part of the \$1,500 donation from Roche Brothers. In anticipation of repeating this project, \$3500 is allocated to this line in the FY22 proposed budget.

Election Guide - The Board debated the pros and cons of printing the election guide versus promoting the Vote411online election information. It was suggested that a small number of election guides could be printed for posting at each precinct as well as other key locations in town. Board agreed to add \$500 to the "Election Guide/Vote 411" line for a total of \$800.

Handbooks - The "Handbooks" line was reduced from \$300 to \$200 due to an anticipated decrease in the quantity of copies needed in FY22.

Reserves - The suggested changes to the proposed budget amounted to an increase in expenses of \$400. To balance the budget, it was agreed to increase the reserves appropriations line by \$400 to \$2,489.23. The resulting FY22 proposed budget totals \$14,730.23.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the FY22 Proposed Budget as recommended by the Budget Committee as amended. The motion was carried.

VOTED: To approve the FY22 FY22 Proposed Budget as recommended by the Budget Committee as amended.

Legislative Envoy – Tanya Roy

Legislative Session/Bills/Advocacy - There were around 10,000 bills filed in the 2020-21 legislative session of which 530 passed (5%). Of the bills passed, 93 were substantive or 1% of the 10,000 bills filed. LWVMA supported 160 bills some of which were folded into other bills during the legislation process. LWVMA Legislative Action Committee is reviewing the bills filed for the new 2021-22 legislative session and waiting for bills to be assigned to a Committee. Eventually, a list of the selected bills will be posted on the LWVMA website under Advocacy. Lucy Costa has joined the Legislation Action Committee. She noted that the Committee's research form now includes a question asking how a proposed bill will promote equity.

2021 LWVMA Convention - Tanya noted that the convention will take place on June 26 via Zoom.

Voter Service – Erry Johnson & Dana Desnoyers

- a) Naturalization Ceremonies – Erry announced that LWWV has been asked to organize the Lowell Naturalization Ceremonies since by the current Voter Registration Coordinator for Naturalization in Lowell, Eva Rajczyk of the Greater Haverhill League of Women Voter is stepping down. Currently, there is no information from the Lawrence field office about when the Lowell ceremonies will return and if the League will be invited to continue its voter registration activities.
- b) Meet the Candidates Night – The event was held on February 11, 2021 via Zoom and live-streamed on Wellesley Media channels. Eighteen of twenty-three candidates participated. A debrief meeting resulted in such recommendations as:
 - Make clearer which offices are contested and which are not
 - Reinstate the retiree recognition segment
 - Allow candidates to give opening and closing remarks
 - Voter Service will invite town civic organizations to participate in a Town Elections Events Working Group to create a centralized election calendar for the purpose of coordinating candidate forums.
- c) Publications:
 - Erry and Ann Swanson will coordinate descriptions of the various town offices for the 2022 Candidate Handbook and Election Guide.
 - A Development Team was suggested to explore corporate sponsorship of projects and publications.
 - Election Guide: Allot more space for candidates to introduce themselves.

Programs/Calendar – Ann-Mara Lanz & Irene Flint

- a) Virtual Housing Study Unit Meetings – Ann-Mara gave an overview of planning for the two Housing Study Unit Meetings. On March 12, 10AM-12PM, the Diversity Subcommittee will present its research and recommendations. The following week, March 19, the Sustainability Subcommittee will present. Susan Clapham will moderate both sessions. Jenny will be the Recorder for Diversity and Ann R. for Sustainability.
- b) Lunch with Dr. Charmie Curry, Wellesley Public Schools Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, April 16, 12-1 PM via Zoom. Plans have been confirmed.
- c) Town Meeting Prep Session via Zoom – Erry and Susan will reach out to Heather Sawitsky and Barbara McMahon, who traditionally organize this event, about plans for

the April 26 Town Meeting. They typically decide upon which warrant articles to focus on with input from the Town Moderator and Town Clerk.

- d) Virtual State Legislators Forum – is tentatively scheduled for May 4 at 11AM -12 PM. Senator Cynthia Creem and Representative Alice Peisch have confirmed. Senator Rausch's reply is expected soon.

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

- a) Meatless Monday with Chef Dave Becker. March 29. Susan gave an overview of the event. This event is a fundraiser for the Wellesley Food Pantry.
- b) Letter - LWVW has been asked to support a letter written by Sustainable Wellesley to Mass. House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities & Energy opposing revisions to the Renewable Portfolio Standard regulations proposed by the Mass. Dept. of Energy Resources and specifically incentives for biomass power plants. It was decided that we will contact LWVMA to assure Sustainable Wellesley's proposal is in alignment with LWVMA positions.
- c) LWVW Member survey – Susan will review the survey results with the Board.

Marketing & Publicity – Ellen Gibbs

The board discussed how to keep the momentum going towards the trend of increased voter participation in elections and town government. An important message is to emphasize that people from all walks of life are needed and that serving on town committees/boards is manageable. It was suggested that LWVW could engage WHS students – perhaps from the Bradford – to interview town officials for publication in local outlets. Or, encourage the students to produce a video on How Town Government works. Presentations on town government and how to get involved could be given to groups such as PTOs. LWVW could coordinate with the Scouts on their civics badge projects.

Newsletter & Website – Ann Rappaport

Around 50% of members open the monthly Newsletters. Ann will post an explanation of the sign-up procedures for accessing the Members Only section of the Website. She noted that the monthly briefs that Tanya writes about activities at the State Legislative and LWVMA actions is a draw for new members.

Membership – Anne Rippy Turtle.

Anne reported that there are 126 current LWVW members.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The executive Session started at 2:47 p.m. with board members only in attendance.

Proposed Slate of Nominees of LWVW FY2021-2022 Board Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee

Officers of the Board/Executive Committee:

Co-President	Laura Brown MacKinnon
Co-President	Wendy Garber
Vice-President, Program/Calendar	Irene Flint
Co-Vice-President, Voter Service	Erry Johnson
Co-Vice-President, Voter Service	Lucy Costa
Secretary	Bonny Nothern
Treasurer	Jenny Zannetos

Elected Directors:

Program	Marguerite Chatelier
Program	Ann-Mara Lanza
Publicity/Marketing	Ellen Gibbs
Newsletter/Website	Ann Rappaport
Legislative Envoy	Tanya Roy
Membership	Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch

Nominating Committee:

Susan Clapham
Katie Griffith

A motion was made to approve the LWVW Nomination Slate for FY22 as recommended by the Nominating Committee. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

VOTED: To approve the LWVW Nomination Slate for FY22 as recommended by the Nominating Committee

Nonpartisanship/Elected Office

In compliance with the LWVW Non-Partisanship Policy, the Board considered whether a current LWVW Board Officer, Ann-Mara Lanza, Vice-President/Programs, who was recently elected to the Wellesley Select Board may continue on the LWVW Board. Ann-Mara recused herself from this part of the meeting. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that Ann-Mara could remain on the LWVW Board as a Director, but not as an Officer of the LWVW Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Hallett
Secretary