

**League of Women Voters of Wellesley**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**May 15, 2019 | 7:45-9:00 p.m.**  
Home of Helen Stewart | 116 Winding River Road, Wellesley, MA

Members present: Anne Rippy Turtle, President; Jean Childs, Susan Clapham, Kathie Clay, May Ann Cluggish, Irene Flint, Ellen Hallett, Ann Hile, Erry Johnson, Ellen Korpi, Ann-Mara Lanza, Kim Maire, Melissa Martin, Richard McGhee, Raina McManus, Janie Penn, Ellie Perkins, Tanya Roy, Katherine Ruffin, Joan Savitt, Heather Sawitsky, Helen Stewart. Ann Swanson, Jenny Zannetos. Guests: Charlotte McGhee & Manie Balch.

The meeting was called to order by President Anne Rippy Turtle at 7:45 p.m. A quorum was present.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Anne Rippy Turtle, President, welcomed members and guests to the meeting and thanked Helen Stewart for hosting the meeting. Each person introduced herself/himself.

**2. Appointment of Committee of Three**

Ann Swanson, Joan Savitt and Tanya Roy volunteered to serve on the Committee of Three, which will review the annual meeting minutes.

**3. Fifty-year Members Honored**

Two members were presented with an award for their 50-year membership in the League of Women Voters.

*Anne Rippy Turtle* related that her mother was a League member and that she first joined the League in the 1960's in Bloomington, IN. After her retirement, she became more active in the League and is completing two years as President of the LWV Wellesley at this meeting. Anne is also a long-time Town Meeting member.

*Mary Ann Cluggish* credited her engagement in the League as the "path" that led to her current leadership position as Vice Chair of the Massachusetts Libraries Board of Library Commissioners. She recounted her journey in civic engagement beginning with marching for the Equal Rights Amendment in 1975 to membership on and leadership positions in a number of town boards and committees including: Trustee of the Wellesley Free Library for twelve years, Chair of the Wellesley Natural Resources Commission, member the Advisory Committee, Recreation Commission, Permanent Building Committee and Town Meeting member for over 30 years.

**4. Treasurer's Report – Jenny Zannetos**

Jenny reported on the FY19 account balances, income and expenses as of April 1, 2019 as well as on the current status of LWVW memberships. Additionally, the final FY18 Budget to Actual spreadsheet was included in the meeting workbook.

The LWVW accounts as of April 1, 2019 are as follows:

- Total income year-to-date is \$10,991.72
- Total expenses year-to-date is \$7,877.38 resulting in a surplus of \$3,114.34.
- Total assets (checking, savings & two CD's) are \$29,666.49

Jenny reviewed income and expenses. Given the status of current accounts, it is not expected that LWVW will need to use reserves this fiscal year.

The current LWVW membership totals 122 members up from 101 last fiscal year. There are 104 individual members, 10 household members, 3 students and 5 Lifetime members.

## Treasurer's Report – (continued)

*Discussion:* A question was raised about the fundraising/recruitment letter sent after the March 5, 2019 town elections to those who ran for Town Meeting and Board offices. That mailing resulted in six new members, one returning member and \$210 in donations. Other years more donations and fewer memberships resulted from such mailing. A question was asked about whether the annual Finance Drive, which targets non-LWVW members, would take place this year. Jean Childs headed the successful drive last year. She asked members to send her names of potential donors for the Finance Drive.

### *Proposed Budget for FY20*

Irene Flint, Board Director and Budget Committee member, presented the proposed FY20 budget. The Budget Committee included President Anne Rippey Turtle, Treasurer Jenny Zannetos, Vice-president/Voter Service Erry Johnson and Irene. The proposed FY20 budget totals \$11,791.50.

Irene reviewed the following:

- Income from dues, fundraising, interest, sponsorships & donations and reserves appropriation
- Expenses including: fundraising, meeting expenses, operational costs, programs & advocacy, voter service, special/civic projects and website.

She noted that the amount in the six-month and thirteen-month CD's is projected to increase from a total of \$10,000 this year to \$15,000 next year. It was suggested that the purchase of additional vote signs may need to replace those lost. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the FY20 budget as proposed by the Budget Committee. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**VOTED: To adopt the FY20 Budget as proposed by the Budget Committee.**

## **5. Program Re-adoption**

Ann-Mara Lanza, Vice-President/Programs, explained that each year the membership reviews and votes to re-adopt or modify the LWVW Local Program. The Local Program consists of LWVW positions on local issues and is printed in the annual LWVW Membership Guide & Directory. Two years ago, the Local Program was updated. The Local Program must be consistent with national and state League positions. Positions are taken after a thorough study has been conducted on a given issue. Once a position is established, the LWVW may advocate for it. Ann-Mara read the various LWVW Local Program categories on which LWVW has positions, e.g. Advisory Committee, Town Government, Budget Process, Assessment Procedure, Long-range Planning, Natural Resources and Land Use, Education, and Social Policy. A motion was made and seconded to re-adopt the LWVW Local Program. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**VOTED: To re-adopt the current League of Women Voters of Wellesley Local Program.**

## **6. FY2019-2020 Nomination Slate**

Jean Childs, member of the Nominating Committee, presented the FY2019-2020 Nomination Slate as follows:

### Executive Board:

Co-President	Susan Clapham
Co-President/Secretary	Ellen Hallett
Vice-President/Programs	Ann-Mara Lanza
Vice-President/Voter Service	Erica Johnson
Treasurer	Jenny Zannetos

### Elected Directors:

Program/Calendar	Irene Flint
Publicity/Marketing	Kim Maire
Newsletter/Website	Ann Rappaport
Legislative Envoy	Tanya Roy
Membership	Anne Rippey Turtle

### Nominating Committee

Marlene O'Brien  
Ellie Perkins

A third member of the FY20 Nominating Committee will be appointed by the Board from among the board members as stipulated in the bylaws.

FY2019-2020 Nomination Slate – (continued)

Hearing no nominations from the floor, a motion was made and seconded to approve the FY2019-2020 Nomination Slate as recommended by the Nominating Committee. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**VOTED: To approve the FY2019-2020 Nomination Slate as proposed by the Nominating Committee.**

## **7. Directions to the Board from Members**

Irene and Ann-Mara asked members for suggestions of people/issues they would like to hear about. A session with the new Director of Public Works, Dave Cohen, was suggested.

Heather Sawitsky stated that the Hunnewell/Hardy/Upham (HHU) elementary schools project will likely be a very expensive project and that an LWVW observer to the School Building Committee would provide an independent voice to help residents understand the issues involved. In the past, LWVW had “observers” who would attend town board and committee meetings and report back to the membership. Observers are neutral and do not play an advocacy role when observing on behalf of the LWVW. With live streaming through Wellesley Media now available, meetings can be “attended” at home and transparency thus enhanced. How best to disseminate the information about town issues was raised. A forum or column in the local paper was suggested.

Ann-Mara invited members interested in affordable housing in Wellesley to join a group that is starting to explore the matter.

## **8. Remarks from the Co-Presidents**

Susan Clapham and Ellen Hallett presented flowers and cards to the outgoing President, Anne Rippy Turtle, for her two years of dedicated service to the LWVW. Not that her service is over, as Anne will remain on the board as Director of Membership.

Susan noted that the town is facing a number of major projects such as the renovation of Town Hall, 40B housing issues, the HHU project, etc. LWVW can play a role in helping to educate residents on these matters in a non-partisan way. She invited members to attend board meetings, which are always open to members.

Ellen noted that the coming year will include celebrations of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment as well as the buildup to the national primaries and 2020 elections. LWVW has expanded its voter registration activities both in Wellesley and beyond. Last year, for the first time Mass Bay Community College was added to WHS and Waterstone Wellesley as sites where LWVW held voter registration drives. Further, through the efforts of Vice-President/Voter Service Erry Johnson, the LWVW Voter Service team assisted in voter registration drives of new citizens at Naturalization Ceremonies in Lowell.

Erry noted that about 18 LWVW members volunteered to assist at four Naturalization Ceremonies during the last fiscal year to date. She stated that about thirty thousand people become naturalized citizen in Massachusetts at 12 sites around the state per year. Lowell is one of the largest such sites. LWVW’s collaboration came about when Erry asked the LWVMA where the greatest need for voter registration volunteers was. She is currently working with LWVMA to explore a state-wide plan to have LWV volunteers hold voter registration drives at the Naturalization Ceremonies across the state in cooperation with the U S Citizenship and Immigration Service. Erry also solicited volunteers to assist in editing the *Town Government Handbook* and *Candidate Handbook* over the summer.

A question was asked about the League's involvement in issues surrounding the 2020 census. Tanya Roy, LWVW Legislative Envoy, stated that the LWVMA is monitoring the situation. Tanya offered to connect the LWVW with Legislative Envoys, each of whom is a subject specialist and can provide current information on the status of bills in the MA legislature as relates to their specialty areas.

Joan Savitt asked if anyone would like to help with the Voters' Guide. Ann-Mara added that members interested in helping on the Voters' Guide should contact her.

## **9. Adjournment**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. The motion carried on a voice vote.

**VOTED:** To adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Hallett  
Secretary