

League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Board Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2024 / 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Warren Building, Room 008

Members attending: Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch, Laura Brown-Mackinnon, Marguerite Chatelier, Irene Flint, Diane Hemond, Ann-Mara Lanza, Bonny Nothern, Ellie Perkins, Rekha Sampath

Visiting Member: Marie Kemmler

Absent: Deb Codispoli, Marlene O'Brien, Rama K. Ramaswamy

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 p.m.

1. Welcome - Bonny Nothern

- a. Bonny Nothern began the meeting with an extemporaneous Land Acknowledgement.
 - Irene mentioned that, while researching their Land Acknowledgement, a church in Brookline discovered that an early minister had owned slaves. They have, therefore, developed a Walking Tour on this history to attempt reparation
- b. Our Summer Planning Meeting will be held on July 30, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. We chose a daytime meeting because fewer members could meet in the evening. The Warren Building is not available during the summer, so Irene Flint has arranged for us to rent a room at the Universalist Unitarian Church.
 - Please send Bonny ideas to add to her list of Planning Meeting Agenda items.
 - We decided to call this our Summer Planning Meeting, a combination of the Summer Retreat and the summer planning meetings held in previous years.
- c. We have reserved Room 008 of the Warren Building for all Board meetings starting in the fall. The Warren Department contact person is Matt Glick.
- d. Nominating Committee Membership: Odessa Sanchez has volunteered to continue on the Nominating Committee. In addition, we need a Board Member who will be willing to serve, as well as another person from the membership. Please send suggestions to Bonny.
- e. Bonny asked for a volunteer to stand-in for her as President in case of her illness or extended absence. Ann Mara volunteered to take on this role.
- f. We need to readopt our Non-Partisanship Policy every year.
 - Irene reviewed our League of Women Voters (LWVW) Non- Partisan Policy. Ann-Mara Lanza moved that we re-adopt the Non-Partisanship Policy as written on Page 20 of our LWVW Membership Guide. The motion was seconded by Laura Brown-Mackinnon and it passed unanimously.
- g. We need to readopt our Local Action Policy every year.
 - Irene, reviewed this policy and the history behind it, explaining that when we took a stand on some past positions difficult discussions ensued. This policy establishes that it is important to listen to everyone's opinion and to make dissenting opinions welcome. No one should drop out of our League because they don't agree with one of our positions or Action Plans. Ann-Mara moved and Diane Hemond seconded that we readopt the Action Policy. The motion passed unanimously.

Moved: To re-adopt the Non-Partisanship Policy as written on Page 20 of our LWVW Membership Guide.

Moved: to re-adopt the Action Policy as written on page 21-22 of our Membership Guide.

2. Minutes of May 14, 2024

Ann-Mara moved that we approve the minutes of our Board Meeting on May 14, 2024. Laura Brown-Mackinnon seconded her motion which was approved unanimously.

Moved: To approve the minutes of the LWVW Board Meeting held on May 14, 2024.

3. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Rama was unable to attend the meeting, but she sent her thanks to all of us for participating in this year's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) education. She welcomes any comments or suggestions on how we would like to go forward with DEI in the coming year. We will discuss this further at our Summer Planning Meeting.

- Ann-Mara recommended a YouTube documentary, "The Barber of Little Rock", an illuminating piece on economic justice.

4. Treasurer's Report

- a. Deb was unable to attend this meeting, but she submitted her report to us via email.
- b. Our total assets are \$ 32,553.93. Our income this month was \$ 64.60 (from interest) and our monthly expenses were \$ 860.00 (for our 4th quarter Per Member Payment to League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS)).
- c. We will discuss the frequency of the Treasurer's Report at the Planning Meeting.

5. Membership - Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch, Rekha Sampath

- a. There have been no recent changes in our membership numbers.
- b. The 2024-25 Membership Guide and Directory is almost complete and Niki asked for volunteers to proofread it. Laura, Irene and Ellie Perkins volunteered.
- c. Niki asked if we wanted to add the LWVUS updated DEI policy to the booklet along with our updated DEI policy and we asked her to do so.
- d. Ann-Mara wondered if we need to have our Political Address listed on Page 2 of the Guide as it could be indicated in the back with our political representatives.
- e. We need to track the date members join the League, because they become Lifetime Members once they have belonged for 50 years. We have 27 members for whom that date is not known. Marguerite and Ellie volunteered to search old directories to try to find the dates.

6. Vote16 Study Committee

Irene will be the chair of the Study Committee and Rekha Sampath will be the secretary. The Vote16 Study Committee will consult with the LWV Maine who have a position on this issue.

7. Program - Irene Flint, Ann Mara Lanza

- a. In reviewing this past May's Annual Meeting, it seems as if the timing seemed to be bad, perhaps causing the worst attendance ever. May is a difficult, busy month and even the day of the week conflicted with rehearsals and meetings. Perhaps the last week in April or the first week in May would be better. A potluck may be a bad idea, perhaps dessert would be better. People like to socialize, so time needs to be available for that, but we could streamline the timing. Earlier notification of the date would help us line up the number of attendees we need for a quorum. The President should not be continuing to worry about these numbers while she is greeting members and running the meeting. According to the recent Parliamentary Training, we could change the required number of attendees for a quorum.
- b. Ann-Mara gave us her Notes from the Program Brainstorming Meeting and asked us to review them and let her know any suggestions we have. She will distill this down to a smaller list for the Planning Meeting. We might ask the membership for suggestions in the Newsletter.
- c. Niki mentioned that the School Committee is looking at school holidays and considering how many would be a sustainable number. Perhaps we could hear from them at an early fall coffee.

8. Newsletter - Laura Brown-Mackinnon

The deadline for our June Newsletter is Sunday evening June 16, 2024. Please let Laura know if you would like her to include anything. She will reach out to Board members concerning items to include.

9. Voter Service - Diane Hemond

- a. There is a contested race between the incumbent member of the Governor's Council, Marilyn Petitto Devaney, and Mara Dolan. Stephan Bader from the Concord League is spearheading a Candidate's Forum in which we will be able to participate. Once we hear his plans, Marguerite and Diane will get in touch with him about our participation.
- b. Diane would like to set the date for Candidates Night today: February 13, 2025.
- c. Marguerite and Diane have divided our schedule of programs and Diane will be in charge of National Voter Registration Day. She has been in touch with KC Kato and feels it might be better to schedule How to run for Public Office in November rather than December, perhaps the week after National Elections are held. Jenn made a video last year that should be helpful.
- d. We are still considering making available an electronic version of the Town Government Handbook.
- e. For Candidates Night in February, in the past we have solicited questions prepared by a committee and also those sent in from the public. Marguerite and Diane feel, however, that priority should go to those who attend the meeting in person, in the dead of winter. Certainly, their questions should not be relegated to the end of the evening.
- f. KC wanted us to know how much she appreciates our help with elections and how important we are to their efforts. We need to let our membership know that the Town will need help in the fall elections. The Primary will be September 3, 2024: the last day to register is August 24th and early voting is from August 24th to 30th in the Main Library. For the November 5th, 2024, Presidential Election, the votes will still be counted for about the following ten days to accommodate mailed ballots postmarked on time.
- g. KC noted that a number of registered voters from The Nines, after moving, are changing their drivers license addresses and automatically being registered to vote by the Registry of Motor Vehicles.
- h. On December 4, 2024, nomination papers for the Town Election will be available.

10. Closing Comments - Bonny Nothern

- a. Bonny handed out our awards at the high school ceremony and was sorry that the awards did not go to our student members. In the past the Social Studies Department selected the candidates, but this year it was done by the Guidance Department. Irene said the school makes sure a variety of students receive awards. Bonny has arranged for them to accept our input in the future.
- b. Ellie will update the electronic version of our letterhead.
- c. The executive committee, Bonny, Ann-Mara, Irene, Marguerite, and Diane will get together to discuss the Summer Planning Meeting.
- d. Bonny tabled the remaining Agenda items.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Our next meeting will be our Summer Planning Meeting on July 30, 2024, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 309 Washington Street.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Perkins, Secretary