

# League of Women Voters of Wellesley Board Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2023 / 7 - 8:30 p.m.  
Zoom

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Wendy Garber. The meeting was held on Zoom and was recorded.

## **1. Welcome - Wendy Garber**

Wendy began by reading the Land Acknowledgement used in orientation by her Alma Mater, Bates College where both her children are studying. Wendy was impressed that students beginning their studies were asked to realize they weren't the first on that land.

## **2. Nominating Committee - Bonny Nothern**

- a. Bonny asked us to consider what qualities we would like to have in our co-presidents; which words would describe the leader we are looking for. She will send us an email with a partial list of potential adjectives.
- b. Jenny is also planning to leave her position but would consider transitioning over the next year and serving with an assistant treasurer. Her position is busy when dues come in in the fall and again in March producing the workbook. She will try to assess hours per month for us.
- c. We have room to enlarge the board by one, according to our by-laws. A position like Erry's could/should be split. Would we consider a candidate only agreeing to serve for two years?
- d. We will let people know we have board vacancies in the newsletter and in an email blast to membership. Interested people and those with candidates to suggest should let the Nominating Committee know and they will vet potential candidates.

## **3. DEI - Bonny Nothern and Marguerite Chatelier**

- a. Marguerite has been attending LWVMA meetings on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and she is now on a State DEI committee. Our tasks: First, we should define the term, to be in agreement. Second, we need to become comfortable talking about this and consider the various roles we could play. Third, we will eventually need to make an action plan.
- b. We should spend a quick ten minutes at every meeting discussing some aspect of DEI and consideration of DEI should be in every part of our work. We have strengths on the Board: Laura is a DEI trainer at the Episcopal Church and Marguerite has moderated a number of DEI discussions.
- c. Wendy would like us each to have material to consider as we prepare to have these discussions. Question for next meeting: Why is DEI important for our LWVW? Also, based on the work of the town DEI Task Force, how should we be supporting the town and how will the town support us?

- d. March 10, 2023, DEI Task Force Coffee at the home of Barbara McMahon: Initially the DEI Task Force was under the impression that we had expertise and resources for training the town in DEI sensitivity. Wendy let them know that our role could only be to help in educating the town once they have decided what they want to do. This coffee will inform us of their decisions.
- Erry pointed out that the Phase One Report of the DEI Task Force recognizes the role of the LWVW in educating Town Meeting Members (TMMs) and voters. The DEI Institutional Structures Subcommittee that Lise Olney chairs is planning a workshop on March 14 at 7 p.m. to “provide foundational awareness of the importance of DEI efforts and to support the proposal to Town Meeting.” They “envision the League of Women Voters as a partner for the workshop”. The training session would be for TMMs and open to the whole community. This would be a co-sponsorship or partnership, similar to our collaboration with other leagues in candidate forums. As in Town Meeting Prep, our role would be passive, we would provide material, we would make information and education accessible and help spread the word.
  - Erry feels it would be a mistake not to support this. She recommends that we vote on this tonight so that planning and publicity can begin. The State and National Leagues’ websites list their Impact Issues and their objectives are very closely aligned with ours on DEI. Additionally, about five of the people on the committee are league members. The workshop would bring in a consultant to conduct the training and they are looking into grant funding. This would be a very important first step for the town, the beginning of an ongoing process.  
**Voted:** Bonny moved that LWVW cosponsor the Town workshop and lend any resources we have to that process. Erry seconded the motion and all approved.

#### **4. Discussion of Minutes - Ellie Perkins**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the December Board Meeting Minutes.

**Voted:** To approve the December 13, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes.

#### **5. Treasurer’s Report - Jenny Zannetos**

- a. Our assets total \$35,537.37. The only additions were \$800 in dues and \$466 in donations and our only expense was the second quarter PMP to the LWVUS.
- b. Following up on the possible DEI funding discussion, Jenny suggested that we could apply for a Sharfman grant in April, after the DEI coffee and once we are sure of our expenses at that time.
- c. Following up on the Early Voting banner we had discussed last month, Jenny checked with KC Kato who pointed out that we won’t have early voting again until the March 2024 Presidential Primary. There is never early voting for the town elections. And, because there will be renovations at Town Hall, it isn’t clear where voting will be held. Therefore, we will need to ask KC next year.

#### **6. Membership Report - Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch**

- a. Currently we have 151 members: 112 Primary, 14 Additional in Household, 8 Lifetime, and 17 Student Members.
- b. The renewal process needs to be updated by January 31, 2023, and we still have 13 members who haven’t renewed. Niki will approach them once again by using the LWVW email account.

## **7. Programming - Irene Flint**

- a. Wendy asked if we all got her Evite to the Michael Reidy coffee, as few have responded.
- b. The Michael Reidy Coffee will be January 20 at 9:30 a.m. at Susan Clapham's house, 3 Atwood Street. Susan will take care of all the food and details, but we will need a solid head count for her.
- c. The Alice Peisch Coffee will be February 4, from 11a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on the legislative process and how to advocate for policy change. The registration link was embedded in our newsletter at the beginning of the year. Ivy will try to get our student members there and is planning to get the word out on Instagram. We should also get the information to Wellesley College's student Committee for Political Engagement. Perhaps Ann-Mara would be able to create a flyer for these purposes and for Facebook and What's Up Wellesley. Wendy has LWVW meeting supplies: water urns, tablecloths, etc.
- d. The Barbara McMahon Coffee on the Community Preservation Committee will be on February 10th from 10 to 11 a.m. on Zoom.
- e. The DEI Task Force Coffee will be on March 10 at 10 a.m.
- f. The World of Wellesley (WOW) Book Read is on March 21st at 4 p.m. at Wellesley College: Give Us the Ballot: the Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America, by Ari Berman. The author is requiring that various town groups support his presentation, although WOW will cover his fee. Irene made a motion that we cosponsor the Book Read with WOW, Wendy seconded the motion and we all were in favor. We will need to publicize this with a blurb in the newsletter.

**Voted:** To cosponsor the WOW Community Book Read on March 21, 2023.

## **8. President's Update - Wendy Garber**

- a. The Council on Aging asked for our help in offering a Meet the Candidates Night for Select Board candidates. While we would be unable to cosponsor such an event, we would be happy to offer guidance and the benefit of our experience.
- b. A previous inquiry about the Frances Perkins Traveling Exhibit has resurfaced. Wendy will follow up and report back to us later.
- c. Wendy has offered to host our February 14 Board Meeting at her house.
- d. It seems that the evening meetings haven't ever worked for students and now will be difficult for Ann-Mara. Perhaps we should consider not having evening meetings.
- e. Additional meetings coming up: Jan 11, LWVM Town Hall (Irene will attend); Jan 28, Metrowest Field Service Meeting 10 to 12 on Zoom. (Margie will attend).

## **9. Voter Services - Erry Johnson**

- a. Margie and Marguerite will be soliciting sponsorships and will get any checks to Jenny by the February 5th deadline.
- b. Marjorie Freiman is editing the Town Government Handbook. She is an excellent editor and is giving it a significant overhaul this year. It will be ready to go to the new Town Meeting Members shortly after the election.
- c. Thanks to the Election Guide Team everything is in order and KC has been updated.
- d. The Questions Committee for Candidates Night is very impressive and exacting in selecting topics and phrasing questions. We are all encouraged to think about possible questions, especially once candidates and contested offices are known.
  - Remember, if we are involved in a campaign, we can't offer questions for a related campaign.
  - Also, it is being debated whether the candidates should know the text of the first or first three questions, or at least the topics, in order to reduce anxiety. If you have thoughts, let the committee know.

- e. We can have candidate signs in our yard, but not along with LWV signs. Lucy Costa is the new vote sign coordinator.
- f. If there aren't many contested voters, should we acknowledge retiring officials at Meet the Candidates Night or later with a write-up in The Swellesley Report? Erry may mention their names at the event and note that they will be honored later.

**10. Website/Newsletter**

Laura needs our information for the newsletter by Thursday, the 12th.

**11. Other**

We are up-to-date with data collection and are awaiting new guidelines from the State League for the coming year.

**Reminder:** Our next meeting will be from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. on February 14, 2023, at Wendy Garber's, 3 Garden Road.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellie Perkins  
Secretary