

League of Women Voters of Wellesley

Board Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2022 | 12:36 P.M. – 2:36 P.M.

Virtual via Zoom

Attendees: Board members Laura Brown MacKinnon, Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch, Marguerite Chatelier, Irene Flint, Wendy Garber, Ellen Gibbs, Erry Johnson, Bonny Nothern, and Jenny Zannetos attended. League members Margie Palladino and Ellie Perkins also attended. Ann Rappaport, Ann-Mara Lanza and Tanya Roy were absent. A quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order at 12:36 P.M. and the following Land Acknowledgement from the book Braiding Sweetgrass, page 384, by Robin Wall Kimmerer, was read by Co-President Laura Brown MacKinnon.

The moral covenant of reciprocity calls us to honor our responsibilities for all we have been given, for all that we have taken. It's our turn now, long overdue. Let us hold a giveaway for Mother Earth, spread our blankets out for her and pile them high with gifts of our own making. Imagine the books, the paintings, the poems, the clever machines, the compassionate acts, the transcendent ideas, the perfect tools. The fierce defense of all that has been given. Gifts of mind, hands, heart, voice, and vision all offered up on behalf of the earth. Whatever our gift, we are called to give it and to dance for the renewal of the world.

In return for the privilege of breath.

1. Secretary's Report

There were no corrections to the minutes of the April 12, 2022.

VOTED: to accept the 04/12/2022 board meeting minutes.

2. Treasurer's Report and Updates – Jenny Zannetos

Total assets as of April 30, 2022 were \$33,256.87. This amount reflects the addition of interest. No membership payments were received. There were no expenditures.

A discussion followed regarding how to thank Rama Ramaswamy and Kristina Horner for helping Ann-Mara and Marguerite host the book event on May 1,

2022. Laura will send them each a Wellesley Bookstore gift card in the amount of \$50.

After discussion, the consensus was that LWVW will donate either \$300 or the amount of the Phonathon check, whichever is greater.

Jenny explained the breakdown of state and national dues: \$32 per individual member goes to LWVUS and \$23 per member goes to LWVMA. The remainder of each paid dues membership is kept by LWVW for expenses. Jenny took the opportunity to explain that the LWVW roster that was submitted in January of 2021 contained a duplicate, which resulted in an unexpected dues billing for an individual on both the state and federal level. When the error was discovered, LWVMA dropped the charge, but LWVUS did not respond to our request to do the same. LWVUS does state that the PMP figures on January 31 cannot be modified.

3. Membership – Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch

There are 125 members, including 102 primary members, 11 additional members, 7 Lifetime members, and 5 student members. One of the new student members is Wellesley High School sophomore Ivy Wang who is also a Town Meeting Member. Erry Johnson reported that she sent congratulations to Ivy.

Invitations to join LWVW will be emailed to all Town Meeting Members and candidates for town-wide office. During the discussion, it was affirmed that LWVW membership is not conditioned on agreement with LWVW positions.

Niki thanked the board for feedback on the draft Membership Directory. She reported that some pages have been realigned. She also requested opinions about reconfiguring the Non-Partisanship Policy grid on page 6 that describes the functions of various entities. She proposed streamlining the table entries to eliminate redundancies. Irene explained that this could be done in time for the new board to approve at the June board meeting. A brief discussion followed regarding the use of gender-neutral pronouns. No decision was made. There will be an amendment to change “Board of Selectmen” to “Select Board” proposed at the annual meeting. The suggestion to change formatting of bulleted text in the Local Program section for the purpose of consistency was tabled.

The suggestion to change Board of Selectmen to Select Board was accepted, along with corrections to the officers’ titles of Vice President of Program and Vice President of Voter Service

The Membership Directory Committee included Niki, Susan Clapham, Ann, Marguerite, and Irene.

4. Annual Meeting Planning – Laura Brown MacKinnon and Wendy Garber

The LWVW Annual Meeting will be held virtually on May 25, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. A quorum for the annual meeting requires 10% of the general membership, not counting board members. All board members are encouraged to contact members to encourage them to attend. Attendees must register to receive the Zoom link. Laura will send a reminder closer to the meeting date. The board was reminded that Covid emergency protocols that allow for virtual meetings will expire as of June 1, 2022 and all future Annual Meetings may need to be in-person.

The present secretary will be responsible for taking the minutes, to be reviewed by a committee of three members. Laura will add a land acknowledgement to her introduction and will read an In Memoriam message for member Catherine Johnson who passed away in the spring of 2022. Niki will present the 2022-2023 slate for a vote. Irene and Jenny will present the 2022-2023 Budget to be voted on. Irene will present the Local Program to be voted on. Highlights from the Annual Report will be presented by Erry for Voter Service, Marguerite and Ann-Mara for Program, and by Ellen Gibbs for the special video project. The Directions to the Board portion of the meeting will be open to members who would like to present ideas and suggestions. The Co-Presidents will offer closing remarks and adjourn the meeting.

The Annual Meeting Workbook will be sent out with the invitation to the membership tomorrow.

5. Calendar and Program – Irene Flint & Marguerite Chatelier

MetroWest Field Service Meeting Saturday May 21, 2022: Volunteers are needed to represent LWVW.

LWVW Annual Meeting May 25, 2022: virtual meeting 7-9 P.M.

Senior Award Ceremony: There was a discussion of what book will be given to students, resulting in a consensus that The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation by Anna Malaika Tubbs will be given to the award winners. Laura will order the books from the Wellesley Bookstore.

Board Meeting June 14, 2022 12:30-2:30 P.M.: Wendy offered to have the meeting on her patio.

Summer Board Retreat: Marguerite will see about using a library conference room. Wendy requests that board members send her their summer vacation schedules.

6. Voter Service – Erry Johnson

Beacon Hill update: The Votes Act is now in joint conference. LWVW members are encouraged to contact our representatives to express our support. This bill includes permanent voting by mail and electronic registration online. The members of the committee are equivocating about same day voter registration, which LWV strongly supports. The deadline to register for the September 6 primary will be affected. Another issue is that the secretary of state has not implemented automatic voter registration with driver's license registration.

Town clerk KC Cato reports that there is a potential local election and the first day to take out nomination papers is December 7. She suggests scheduling How To Run for Public Office for 12/1/2022. The annual town election is March 7, 2023 and it is not advisable to hold Meet the Candidates Night during school vacation so it will be scheduled for 2/16/2023.

7. Special Projects - Ellen Gibbs

The video project "Why Town Government Matters" is proceeding, with the producer Rama Ramaswamy setting up interviews with 7 people suggested by the LWVW project team. Jen Fallon, Paul Criswell, Barbara McMahon, Liu Shi Li, Niki Ofenloch, Heather Sawitski, and Ivy Wang are the proposed interviewees. Laura and Wendy will be filming an intro to the video series.

8. Newsletter & Website – Ann Rappaport

Ann is on vacation.

9. Co-Presidents' Closing – Laura Brown MacKinnon & Wendy Garber

Wendy expressed her thanks to outgoing Co-President Laura for a wonderful year.

The next Board Meeting will be virtual on June 14, 2022 12:30-2:30 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonny Nothern, Secretary