

## **League of Women Voters of Wellesley**

### **Annual Meeting Minutes**

**May 25, 2022 | 7:03 P.M. – 8:28 P.M.**

**Virtual via Zoom**

#### **Attendees:**

Katie Griffith, Catherine Mirick, Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch, Wendy Garber, Margaret Palladino, Sharon Gray, Leda Eizenberg, Susan Mangiacotti, Ivy Wang, Anne Turtle, Irene Flint, Helen Stewart, Ellen Gibbs, Virginia Ferko, Lise Olney, Marlene O'Brien, Raina McManus, Kathleen Woodward, K.C. Kato, Melissa Martin, Bonny Nothern, Katherine Kaufmann, Ellie Perkins, Jenny Zannetos, Ellen Korpi, Ellen Hallett, Laura Brown-MacKinnon, Ann-Mara Lanza, Erica Johnson, Mary Gard, Marguerite Chatelier, Elizabeth May, Andrea Lindsey, Wendy Haering.

Treasurer Jenny Zannetos affirmed that there was a quorum in attendance.

### **1. Welcome and Meeting Overview**

Co-President Laura Brown-MacKinnon called the LWVW Annual Meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. She acknowledged the tragedy of gun violence and reminded attendees that the LWV has worked for decades with law enforcement and state officials to educate the public regarding the dangers of gun violence and to provide comprehensive recommendations for legislative reform, and that the work continues. She also listed the LWVMA programming priorities of

- Fostering and promoting civic engagement,
- Improving voting access for elections,
- Addressing the climate emergency,
- Advocating for equitable access to basic human services.

Laura next explained that in order to continue advocating for justice, the LWVW Board of Directors voted in October 2021 to begin each meeting with a Land Acknowledgement. The following is the Wellesley College Land Acknowledgement as found on their website.

We acknowledge that Wellesley is built on ancestral and traditional land of the Massachusett people. We also recognize that the United States' removal, termination, and assimilation policies and practices resulted in the forced settlement of Indigenous lands and the attempted erasure of Indigenous cultures and languages. We further acknowledge the oppression, injustice, and discrimination that Indigenous people have endured and that there is much work to be done on the important journey to reconciliation. We commit to strengthen our understanding of the history and contemporary lives of Indigenous peoples and to steward this land.

We further recognize the many Indigenous peoples living here today—including the Massachusett, Wampanoag, and Nipmuc nations—who have rich ancestral histories in Wellesley and its surrounding communities. Today, their descendants remind us that they are still here, where they maintain a vital and visible presence. We honor and respect the enduring relationship between these peoples and this land, as well as the strength of Indigenous culture and knowledge, the continued existence of tribal sovereignty, and the principle of tribal self-determination.

Co-President Wendy Garber offered an overview of the Annual Meeting agenda, noting that Roberts' Rules of Order will be followed per the LWVW by-laws, with Ellen Hallet acting as the meeting parliamentarian. Wendy listed four action items that will be addressed at this annual meeting:

1. Formation of the Committee of Three to review the annual meeting minutes,

2. Election of FY 2023 LWVW Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee Members with amendments,
3. Adoption of the Proposed FY 2023 Budget,
4. Adoption of the Local Program with amendments.

## **2. Formation of the Committee of Three to review the Annual Meeting Minutes**

Per tradition, a committee of three members will review the Annual Meeting minutes, taken by secretary Bonny Nothern. Virginia Ferko, Erry Johnson, and Jenny Zannetos volunteered to review the minutes.

## **3. Election of FY 2023 LWVW Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee Members**

### **LWV Wellesley Board 2022-2023 (proposed)**

<b>Executive Board</b>			
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Co-President	Wendy Garber	<a href="mailto:whgarber@comcast.net">whgarber@comcast.net</a>	781-248-4589
Co-President	TBD		617-901-5090
Vice President/Programs	Irene Flint	Ireneflint1@gmail.com	508-545-2374
Vice President/Voter Services	Erry Johnson	johnsonerry@gmail.com	617-571-2599
Secretary	Ellie Perkins	eperkins@wellesley.edu	781-235-2461
Treasurer	Jenny Zannetos	jzannetos@yahoo.com	781-237-0030
<b>Elected/Appointed Directors</b>			
Membership	Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch	nofenloch@yahoo.com	617-676-7901

Program	Marguerite Chatelier	chateliermm@yahoo.com	617-283-9016
Program	Ann-Mara Lanza	Ann-mara@comcast.net	781-235-9518
Newsletter/Website	Laura Brown-Mack innon	lbmack98nyc@gmail.com	917-912-2625
Development/Community Outreach	Margie Palladino	mjpalladino@comcast.net	617-686-1897
Event Publicity	TBD		
Social Media Specialist	TBD		
At Large	Bonny Nothorn	bonnynothorn@gmail.com	978-621-6021
<b>Membership Team</b>			
Administrative/Membership	Niki Ofenloch	Nofenloch@yahoo.com	617-676-7901
Data Base Management/Membership	Deb Codispoti	Vcodispoti1@gmail.com	781-235-2316
<b>Voter Services Team</b>			
Meet the Candidates Night	Jenn Fallon	Jenn_fallon@yahoo.com	508-847-5775
Town Meeting Prep	Barbara McMahon	Bmh411@comcast.net	781-431-9546
Election Guide (VOTE411)	Mary Crown	mecrown@lotsoc.com	781-718-4879
	Ann Swanson	Anns완son8@gmail.com	781-254-6908
Vote Sign Wrangler	Barbara McMahon	Bmh411@comcast.net	781-431-9546
Publications/Govt. Handbook	Gig Babson	k.babson@comcast.net	781-235-4081

Publications/Candidates Guide to Run for Office			
MTCN Questions Team	Erry Johnson	johnsonerry@gmail.com	617-571-2599
<b>Off-Board Specialists</b>			
Nominating Committee	Susan Ryan	29ryans@gmail.com	617-872-3930
	Ellen Gibbs	efgibbs@gmail.com	781-235-7471
	Board Appointee		
Legislative Envoy	TBD		
Special Project/Videos	Ellen Gibbs	efgibbs@gmail.com	781-235-7471

VOTED: to accept the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee and the current LWVW Board of Directors, with the addition of Ivy Wang as Director of Social Media.

Laura thanked the Nominating Committee members Susan Clapham, Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch, and Katie Griffith for their work. She thanked both the new and the returning board members for their willingness to participate in the important work of LWVW.

A request was made to the membership to step forward to fill the open positions of Co-President, Event Publicity, Voter Services - Candidates Guide Editor, and Legislative Envoy.

#### **4. Adoption of FY 2023 Budget** - Irene Flynn, Erry Johnson, Ann Rappaport, Jenny Zannetos.

- Projected income: \$14,895.75 from dues, donation, fundraising, investment income, and Phonathon proceeds.
- Projected expenses: \$XXXX including Per Member Payments (PMP) to national and state Leagues, operating costs such as

venue fees and other program costs, Voter Services costs such as outlays for participation in naturalization ceremonies, website fees and other publicity costs.

VOTED: to accept the FY 2023 LWVW Budget as presented.

## **5. Adoption of Local Program**

Niki proposed amending the Local Program wording to reflect the Town of Wellesley's change from Board of Selectmen to Select Board.

VOTED: to accept amending the Local Program wording to reflect the Town of Wellesley's change from Board of Selectmen to Select Board.

A brief explanation of the purpose and importance of the Local Program was offered.

VOTED: to accept the LWVW Local Program as amended.

## **6. Highlights From Annual Reports**

### **Voter Services**

Erry Johnson offered thanks to the following:

- the Vote411 Team of Ann Swanson, Marguerite Chatelier, Ann-Mara Alanza, and Mary Crowne.
- Barbara McMahon for organizing the Town Meeting Prep sessions and managing the lawn signs
- Gig Babson, editor-in-chief of the Town Government Handbook
- Marjorie Freiman for writing a new section of the Town Government Handbook about the town committees
- Jenny Zannetos and Wendy Garber for editing the Candidates' handbook

- Irene Flint for providing historical information about the League of Women Voters and the LWVW.

Erry further acknowledged that FY 2023 will be challenging due to the mid-term elections in November 2022. She reminded the membership that LWVW will co-sponsor candidate events in down-ballot races with other local Leagues. She reported that LWVUS will consider a by-law change at the up-coming national conference in Colorado which would eliminate the age restrictions around being a voting member of the League. They will discuss prioritization of a position that was adopted 52 years ago supporting the abolishment of the electoral college. She also outlined the FY 2023 Voter Services calendar. Wendy highlighted the recent consolidation of the Voter Services Steering Committee.

## Programs

Marguerite Chatelier and Ann-Mara Alanza reviewed the following FY 2022 events:

- Opening Meeting featuring speaker Margaret Beuker, professor at Emmanuel College speaking on her research in immigration and citizen involvement.
- Three coffees addressing education, environment, and social issues including the debt exclusion vote for the elementary school building projects, the town water issues regarding PFAS and ground water run-off, and the role of land acknowledgements in recognizing the injustices done to Native Americans.

## Video Project

Ellen Gibbs described the video series project which is part of voter education under Voter Services. The first video, “Why Town Government Matters”, is in production. It is being

produced by Rama Ramaswamy, and filmed and edited by Wellesley Media. The goals of the project include:

- improving voter literacy regarding Wellesley town government,
- increasing civic connection, empowerment, and engagement,
- and promoting more active participation in town government and elections.

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

There was a discussion of what responsibility LWVW has for fact checking candidates' self-reported credentials. The LWVW candidate events are not debates but are rather opportunities for the public to hear the candidates speak and to become educated about the information the candidates provide about themselves. The consensus was that no fact checking is planned at this time but a disclaimer will be emphasized regarding the role of the LWVW in providing a platform.

Appreciation was expressed for LWVW's support for the recent successful Accessory Dwelling Unit by-law initiative.

## **8: Closing Remarks**

Wendy Garber offered a memorial tribute to recently deceased LWVW member Catherine Johnson. Catherine was described as a beloved member of the League community who acted as a one-person Observers Corps providing updates on the activities of the Wellesley Planning Board, as well as providing much-valued counsel to the LWVW.

## **9. Adjournment**

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

The next Board Meeting will be in-person and virtual on June 14, 2022  
12:30 - 2:30 P.M. at the home of Wendy Garber.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonny Nothern, Secretary