

League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Board Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2022 / 12:30-2:30 p.m.
3 Garden Road and Zoom

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

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:35 p.m. by President Wendy Garber who stated that the meeting was being recorded on Zoom.

1. Welcome - Wendy

- a. Land Acknowledgement, selected from Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- b. Wendy thanked our outgoing board members for their contributions this year: Laura and Bonny who will both stay on the board to take new board positions, and Ellen, Ann and Tanya. We will be making a donation to the LWVMA at Council in honor of Ellen, Ann, and Tanya and in memory of Catherine Johnson.

2. Discussion of Minutes - Bonny

- a. Minutes of Board Meeting, May 10, 2022. Because several questions or changes to the minutes were suggested, approval was postponed.
- b. We will try to record future meetings and will continue to offer a hybrid meeting with a Zoom option. Minutes will include the meeting location and indicate whether it also or only took place on Zoom.
- c. Annual Meeting minutes will be initially reviewed by the board and then by a committee of three, therefore there will be no need to approve the minutes at a subsequent meeting.
- d. We discussed the land acknowledgement and decided to invite board members to select various versions; Marguerite will bring one for the next board meeting; likely the WHS Class of 2022 statement.

3. Treasurer's Report - Jenny

- a. Balance and Budget Sheets (see attached) We are in good shape for the year.
- b. Our Mutual One CD matures on June 19, at \$10,404 and will need to be rolled over within 10 days. Jenny has found a 13-month CD with a rate of 1.25%, (very high vs. .045%) and proposes to go with that. Marguerite wondered if we, as a not-for-profit, might be able to buy a Treasury Bond at 9%. After discussion, Margie moved that Jenny renew the CD at a higher rate of 1.25% next week if it is available. Otherwise she will buy the .045% CD. However, if she finds out that we are able to buy a T Bond,

she will instead bring that to us for a vote next week. Jenny seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

- c. LWVMA Gift: We had voted in May to send \$300 or up to the Phonathon total, but the Phonathon check will not arrive until later this summer, so she will just send \$300 to LWVMA.

4. President's Update - Wendy

- a. LWVW Award Recipients: we make four awards, two to seniors and two to juniors at the High School. Wendy attended Senior Awards the previous night and enjoyed learning about our talented awardees: Leigh Einbinder and Claire Perry. She hadn't yet attended the Junior Class event, so those names were still secret.
- b. We need to elect a board member to our FY'23 Nominating Committee to join Ellen Gibbs and Susan Ryan who were decided on at the Annual Meeting. Bonny volunteered to join the committee.
- c. Each year we need to adopt the Non-Partisan Policy and the Action Policy listed in our 2021 Membership Guide on pp. 6-9. After discussion, Irene moved and Laura seconded that we adopt the Non-Partisan Policy as written on pp. 6-7. Wendy moved and Irene seconded that we adopt the Action Policy as written on pp. 8-9.
- d. Each year we need to determine the Delegation of Presidential Authority, p. 20 in our Membership Guide. Anyone on the board is eligible and Laura agreed to run our meetings in Wendy's absence.
- e. We need to determine our FY'23 Board Meeting Schedule and it will be complicated given that Ivy is in school during our usual meeting time. We discussed possibly varying our schedule every other month. Niki will create a Doodle for us to coordinate schedules so that we can consider alternative meeting options.
- f. Our Planning Retreat on July 20 will be hybrid, but we are aiming to be in person as much as possible. We will need about three hours and decided to meet from 10:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Margie Palladino generously volunteered her house, so we will meet there and bring our own lunch - brown bag.

5. Membership Report - Niki

- a. The Membership Directory will be mailed this month with a surprise cover color due to supply chain issues. Thanks to Irene and Jenny for editing.
- b. Our total membership is 134 with 108 primary members, as well as 13 additional (second in household), 7 lifetime (50 years or more), and 6 student members (student status to be checked).
- c. The Meatless Monday event raised \$2460.97 for the Food Pantry: \$1492.97 from ticket sales and \$968 from additional donations.
- d. The outreach to Town Meeting Members who were not yet members of LWV garnered 9 new members and 3 maybes.
- e. The position of Legislative Envoy has not yet been filled, but both Bonny and Margie are interested in it. We decided that they would both fill this

position. Bonny will no longer be designated At Large, but Margie will continue to hold her other board position on development.

6. Programming - Irene

- a. Irene said that the committee hasn't yet met at length, but she had an idea of focusing on the Charles River Dam, either for Opening Meeting or for a coffee. They are looking for ideas for speakers who wouldn't be expensive, would be relevant, not explosive and non-partisan.
- b. Erry mentioned that the League is not taking a position on any of the ballot issues this year.
- c. Wendy noted that last year we had no coffee with our legislators and mentioned that Ellen Hallett has resources to share if we would like to arrange such a meeting.
- d. Additionally, Lise Olney from the Select Board and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force asked Wendy and Laura if we would be interested in collaborating in some way with the Task Force in educating Town Meeting Members and people on town boards on these initiatives and best practices. This wouldn't fit into the prep sessions we offer as they are packed with information already. The Select Board was hoping we'd be interested in being involved and we are. Perhaps Task Force members will come for a coffee with our members and share what the committee is doing in the town. The national LWV website has info on DEI that many social justice groups are already using according to Marguerite. She also verified that the World of Wellesley is involved in this.
- e. Jenny asked if we could get someone like Dan Kennedy, journalism professor from Northeastern, to talk about the state/demise of local papers. Swellesley Report spoke at a Service League meeting recently.
- f. Ivy said that the middle school has a class on how to filter media and news and the teacher might be interested in speaking with us.
- g. Margie suggested having our legislators talk about redistricting and/or how bills are created and travel through the legislature.

7. Special Projects Updates - Wendy

- a. Our video should be out soon and it will be shared.
- b. We need to discuss Ivy's social media and marketing and address ways we can coordinate her efforts with the newsletter and website.
- c. We need to bring more people into the group and we should keep informing interested people of our activities in the hope that they will become more involved.
- d. In Voter Services, Erry discussed the Votes Act as it is now going to passage. She has a number of dates for the fall calendar, both for our events and state election dates and deadlines.
- e. Wendy thanked those who participated in the MetroWest Council Meeting 6/11. She also mentioned the LWVUS Convention 6/23-6/26 in Colorado.

- f. Laura will be asking for a few sentences of introduction from each of us for the newsletter.
- g. Wendy thanked Margie for volunteering her house for the July 20th Planning Retreat and brainstorming session.

8. Reminder: Our next meeting will be our Planning Retreat on Jul 20, 2022 , from 10:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at Margie Palladino's house, byo brown bag.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellie Perkins

Secretary