

League of Women Voters of Wellesley
Board Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2022, 6:30 pm - 8:00 p.m.
Zoom

Attending: Laura Brown MacKinnon, Marguerite Chatelier, Irene Flint, Wendy Harris Garber, Erry Johnson, Ann Mara Lanza, Bonny Nothern, Margie Palladino, Ellie Perkins, Jenny Zannetos

Absent: Niki Brinkman-Ofenloch, Ivy Wang

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by President Wendy Garber. The meeting was held on Zoom and was recorded.

1. Welcome - Wendy

- a. Wendy welcomed everyone and explained that she would move the meeting along briskly so that we would be able to close a bit early, by 8 pm.
- b. Our Land Acknowledgement was read by Marguerite. It was written by Wellesley College and repeated by the Class of 2022, Wellesley High School.

2. Discussion of Minutes - Ellie

- a. The minutes of our Summer Retreat were approved with one correction; moved by Margie and seconded by Laura.
- b. Wendy stated our intention of getting minutes out very soon after each meeting with the expectation that everyone will read them through entirely as soon as possible, so that we can work with them quickly.

3. Treasurer's Report - Jenny

- a. The balance sheet shows current assets of \$30,580.49

4. Legislative Envoy - Margie

- a. There is an email chain from LWVMA leadership discussing the possibility of leagues coordinating Zoom informational sessions on the state ballot questions that will be voted on in November. Many town leagues have indicated interest, offering varying degrees of support.
- b. Erry said if we have a position on a question, we would be able to hold an advocacy forum. If we have no position, we could have a forum presenting both sides of the issue. She has worked with groups of leagues in the past and cautioned that it is very time consuming.
- c. The state league might be planning to do something on Ballot Question #4, as they did lobby to pass the law allowing undocumented persons to obtain a driver's license.
- d. If a league has already produced a video, we hope we would all be able to share it. However, everyone seemed to agree that it would require more time than we have available to research and present any such forum.

- e. There will be a state league Town Hall on September 21 at 7 pm entitled “Nonpartisanship: What does it look like in these hyper-partisan times?” which Margie and others are interested in seeing.
- f. Margie noticed in the Summer Retreat minutes that we would like her to be a touchpoint for other areas we are working on and she wants us to feel free to reach out to her.

5. Voter Services - Erry

- a. Wendy thanked Erry for all her efforts over the summer and recommended that we all take a look at Ivy’s “fabulous” and informative video on the Governor’s Council.
- b. We are about to hold the fourth of our voter registration events at the High School for National Voter Registration Day on September 20. The first VR event was held at Waterstone and gained 20-21 registrations. Another was held at the housing on Washington Street, and one at Barton Road, but each garnered only one voter registration.
- c. KC has said that the unregistered residents in town are mainly at Wellesley and Babson Colleges. We have a good relationship with past chairs of Political Engagement at Wellesley College. The new chair is a “dynamo”, so that is promising.
- d. It seems that we should focus on new residents. Although the Newcomers Club has disbanded, the Wellesley Mothers Forum might be a possibility.
- e. We offered rides to the polls with limited success: one ride.
- f. Erry worked with 30 other leagues on three cosponsored Midterm Election Candidate Forums August 24th and 30th; both are available online. An additional forum will take place, tbd, for Norfolk Co Commissioner: Peter Collins (Democrat)/Matt Sheehan (Independent).
- g. Barbara McMahon will run our Town Meeting Prep via Zoom on Thursday, October 20.
- h. We need to recruit a volunteer Yard Sign Coordinator to manage placement, permissions, ordering and distribution of signs. Typically signs go out a week to ten days before the election, but we may want to change this due to early voting, maybe aiming instead for the third weekend in October.
- i. We have two publications to prepare for printing in mid-November: the Candidate Handbook for next year’s elections (Jenny and Ellie are working with Erry on this); the Town Government Handbook which will be ready for newly elected town officials in March.

6. Programming - Irene

- a. Our next event is the Social on September 18th, 4-6 pm, at Marguerite’s house. She has been given a budget of \$200 and plans to serve food she had at a Sikh temple. So far we expect around 25 people.

- b. Our first coffee will be Friday, September 30th 10–11 am, with Mary Beth Martello, head of the Climate Action Committee talking about electrification. Megan Jop will join us Friday, October 14th, 10-11 am, in preparation for the Town Meeting asking for funds to renovate Town Hall. Exploring our concern about our disappearing local newspapers, on Friday, November 4th, Deb Brown from the Swelllesley Report will let us know what they see as their role in the community.
- c. Future coffees will include the DEI task force, Alice Peisch, lunch with our legislators, civics education at the high school, update from the chair of the Community Preservation Committee, Barbara McMahon.
- d. Our Opening Meeting on November 9, 7-9 pm on Zoom will feature Professor Wendy Parmet from Northeastern University speaking on “Constitutional Contagion: How the Supreme Court Is Making Us Unhealthy”. She is an expert on the Constitution and on health care law and will address what she feels is most important for us to hear. A donation will be made to a fund at Northeastern on her behalf.
- e. Ann-Mara announced that there will be no debt exclusion vote this year, as they voted last night to fund the Town Hall work with cash.

7. President’s Update - Wendy

- a. Our board meetings will alternate between day meetings, from 12:30 to 2:30 in person, and evening meetings, from 6:30 to 8:30 on Zoom, in order to avoid hybrid meetings altogether. We expect Ivy to be able to make most evening meetings. Wendy is open to revisiting this timing.
- b. We discussed various options for a theme for the year and agreed on “Engaging in Democracy”.
- c. Wendy will be inviting us to small group gatherings with her once or twice a year so that we can talk more in depth about our common interests. Look for her invitation emails.
- d. The state league’s Annual League Leaders Event will be held on September 17, from 9-10:30 am on Zoom:” Voter Education, Local Journalism and You.”

8. Membership Report - Niki

- a. Niki’s Membership Report lists total membership at 140: 114 primary members, 13 additional members in a household, 7 lifetime members, 6 student members.
- b. The week of September 19, email renewal notices will go out; the week of October 3, paper renewal letters will go to those who have not yet renewed; the week of October 24, additional email reminders will go out; the week of November 7, personalized reminder emails will be sent. We may be asked to help with personal outreach.

9. Additional Comments

- a. Marguerite is working on two books that we may be interested in reading. First, she is hoping we will collaborate with WOW and cosponsor the

community book read: "Give us the Ballot" by Ari Berman. She also suggests that our league read Jill Lepore's This America: the Case for the Nation with group breakouts to discuss the issues.

- b. Ann-Mara suggested we start a new tradition by beginning each event or program with one member introducing herself for about three minutes so that we can get to know each other better. It could be a few people at each event or one person at a board meeting. One topic to speak on might be "Why do you league", using league as a verb. At the social this Sunday, we will launch our pilot attempt.
- c. Erry wanted us to know about Diane Hemond, recommended by both Laura and KC because she was interested in volunteering for voter registration. Diane was head of social science at Wellesley High and taught civics. Erry convinced Diane to join the league this week and hopes we can involve her in our future program on civics education at the high school.

The meeting was adjourned at at 7:59 pm.

Reminder: Our next board meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct 11, 2022 , from 12:30 to 2:30 pm at Jennie Zannetos', 6 Monroe Road.

Respectfully submitted,

[Ellie Perkins](#)

Secretary