

**League of Women Voters-GTA
Board of Directors Meeting
January 10, 2018**

Present: J. Warren, L. Crandall, M. Grover, M. Beeker, I. Brophy, D. Hornberger, J. Claybour, A. Swaney, M. Koppa, L. Messing, P. Townsend

Minutes: Donna moved and Mary G. seconded that the Nov. 18, 2017, minutes be accepted. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A \$243.42 Ed. Fund reimbursement has been received from LWVUS which receives all LWV Units Ed Fund money and then reimburses it to them. The wreath sale profit is \$1759.42. A \$150 donation was received from Riverview Terrace in appreciation for LWVGTA members running their annual election. \$1410 was donated and designated to the Ed Fund via the Holiday Open House. Another \$335 was donated at the Holiday Open House. Since those donations weren't designated for the Ed Fund, that money will be deposited into our LWVGTA general fund. The Ed Fund has an approximate total of \$5918.23. The TBA Credit Union balance for LWVGTA is \$12,498.80.

Holiday Open House expenses were \$356.02 plus food. Thank you, Liz, for the time and effort you put into keeping our LWVGTA accounts accurate and up to date.

Membership Report: Donna reported LWVGTA's present membership is 92 which includes 14 households. The Grayling Unit has 6 current members which includes 2 households. 1 Gaylord person has become a member and may join the Grayling Unit. By Jan. 31, there will be 99 members associated with LWVGTA.

Thank you, Donna, for the incredible amount of work you do as membership chair. It is greatly appreciated.

Donna cited a problem that occurs when a person sends in their application for membership and their dues for LWVGTA to LWVUS. That person does not become a member of LWVGTA because GTA is not notified. Donna serves on an LWVMI membership committee that is working on a new membership process to take care of that problem.

Donna requested that any membership directory changes be emailed to her.

Feedback on Holiday Open House: Jan noted that attendance needs to be kept track of at the Open House next year. It was estimated that 50+ people attended the 2017 Holiday Open House.

Voter Services: Peg noted that a new Voter Services co-chair will need to be nominated. She and Donna will brainstorm some possible candidates to bring forward at the February Board Meeting.

Marcia Koppa will be added to the Voter Services email list. A Grayling member may be tied into candidate forum planning so that she could be mentored to set up forums for Grayling.

Peg, Jan, and Liz will man a voter registration table at Workshop Brewing Company in connection with the Women's March on January 20, 2018.

VOTE411: Mary B. explained what she does with the VOTE411 program. She believes that VOTE411 has worked well to help candidates get their messages out to the public. She would like to do more for townships, but she will need help in order to make it possible to cover candidates for those positions. Mary suggested that a committee to do contact work with candidates is one way to accomplish this task. They could recruit candidate participation through phone calls. Mary would continue to do the “back end” technical work of setting up the program for the elections and help candidates having trouble accessing or using VOTE411.

Mary will put together a description of the kinds of work that others could do for VOTE411. She can also offer scripts for volunteers to use. She will provide this description to Ann G. so that it can be in the Jan. The Voter.

A suggestion was proposed to rent a billboard to advertise VOTE411 during the election season. It has been tried in other places and seems to have received positive feedback. Voter Services will explore the possibility. The Ed Fund could be a source of funding for the billboard rent.

Status of Voters Not Politicians ballot proposal: It will take three months for certification of the signatures collected and to put the proposal in a 100 word summary. Approximately 400,000 signatures were turned into the Secretary of State’s office. The LWVMI board voted to support the proposal. The limitation on state and local advocacy efforts is \$500 in direct and indirect costs.

The LWVMI, ACLU, and the Center for Public Policy is working to form a coalition with VNP. Negotiations have been difficult. The coalition will need help to raise at least \$20 million to run a successful campaign.

The redistricting lawsuit presently in the court will affect the 2018 election depending on the lawsuits’ outcome. If the VNP’s proposal passes, it would not affect elections until 2022 because it will be connected to the result of the 2020 census.

LWVMI lawsuit to end gerrymandering/redistricting in Michigan: All articles about the lawsuit are on the LWVMI’s Facebook page so that members and others can learn more about it. A link to the Complaint is on the front page of the LWVMI website. A Federal District Court Judge assigned the lawsuit to a three judge panel which the LWVMI board sees as a very positive sign for the lawsuit. This lawsuit will not impact the VNP ballot proposal.

Program Planning Input to LWVUS: LWVUS recommends no new national studies for the 2018-19 biennium. A Continuing Campaign for Making Democracy Work (voter protection, election reform, campaign finance/money in politics, redistricting) is the focus. It has reported a request from the Peninsula/San Pedro CA League to add a study on Artificial Intelligence and one on adding a League position on abolishing the Electoral College as a national focus.

LWVUS has invited each League to prepare a report on the activities that it has undertaken between 2015-2017 which is due to LWVUS by March 1. The LWVGTA Board can use the invitation as a review of what activities occurred over that time period. Jan suggested the Board complete the report during the February 14, 2018, Board meeting. It will require some thinking ahead of time along with review of LWVUS positions and review of LWVGTA activities from 2015-17.

Concurrence on updated study of Section 1.B. LWVMI Agricultural/Seasonal Farm

Worker Position: The concurrence is due April 1, 2018. The new language proposed for the position

follows: ***A person should be allowed to apply for or secure and renew a driver's license or obtain an identification card regardless of immigration status.***

A general membership meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018, at 11:30a.m. in the Dennon Museum's Janis Room. Information about the meeting will be on the LWVGTA website. The date, time, place, and purpose for the general meeting will be in the January "The Voter". Copies of the Agricultural/Seasonal Farm Worker Position and the proposed change to it will be available at the meeting. After discussion, a vote on whether to support or not support the changed wording will be held. The result will be forwarded to LWVMI.

Report from Riverview Terrace Resident Council election: Mary G., Donna, Linda, and Jane reported that the election went smoothly and said that the residents took their responsibility as voters very seriously. The residents expressed their appreciation for the work the four had done for them. The Traverse City Housing Commission donated \$150 to LWVGTA as a "thank you" for organizing and running the election. Many thanks to Mary G., Donna, Linda, and Jane for taking responsibility for this League activity.

LWVUS Convention - Chicago, June 28-July 1, 2018: LWVGTA can send two representatives to the convention. The Board suggested that new representatives go. The convention offers a great place to network with other Leagues' members. LWVGTA will have two votes at the convention. Peg and Ann G. volunteered to attend.

Donna moved to increase the budget for two attendees to \$2000. Ingrid seconded. The motion passed.

President's absence from February 14 and March 14, 2018 meetings: A Board member will be needed to run each meeting. Mary G. volunteered to lead the Feb. 14 meeting. Jan listed what items should be on the agendas.

Nominations need to be made for the offices of 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, and Mary Beeker's and Inara's seats on the Board. Also, the date, time, location, and speaker for the Annual Meeting need to be determined.

Before the Annual Meeting, two members need to be chosen to assist the Treasurer in creating the 2018-2019 budget. Selections for Making Democracy Work and Outstanding Service Awards, if appropriate, should be discussed. Also, the Board needs to brainstorm ideas for a speaker at the Annual Meeting.

Jan has the template for the Annual Meeting invitation. She will be back in time to update it and have it printed for mailing. Invitations have usually been mailed 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Ingrid will check with Bev as to whether she will make arrangements for the Annual Meeting.

Report from Benzie Unit: Jill reported that the Benzie Unit would not meet until Jan. 12, 2018, so she wouldn't have an update until the February Board meeting.

Report from Grayling Unit: Marcia reported that Mary B. and she worked to set up a Grayling website. She also said that an article about LWV-Grayling was in the local paper, The Avalanche.

A Grayling version of "They Represent You" is under creation. In addition, the Unit will sponsor a debate conducted by high school students on a current topic.

Donna will attend the Grayling Unit's next meeting to answer questions about the League of Women Voters. She will explain that it works in a non-partisan manner and answer questions that may arise.

The next Board meeting will be held on Wed., Feb. 14, in the Dennon Museum's Janis Room after the 11:30a.m. general membership meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,
Peg Townsend