

**Leagues of Women Voters - GTA
Board of Directors Meeting
March 9, 2016**

Present: J. Sheard, J. Watts, A. Geht, L. Crandall, I. Brophy, J. Warren, M. Orr, B. Berry, B. Newson, P. Townsend, B. Berry

Agenda: The agenda was revised with the addition of an update on the Common Cause initiative and a 10:00 A.M. start time for the Annual Meeting breakfast buffet at the Country Club. Donna moved and Linda seconded that the agenda be approved as changed. The motion carried.

Minutes: Ingrid moved and Joan seconded that the minutes be approved as read. The motion carried.

Programs: Ingrid shared information about the program ideas being considered. She contacted Munson Healthcare concerning new health initiatives and the possibility of having a program related to them. Two new directors have been added to run these new programs. Kim Speese is the new executive director of population health management. Dr. Whelan is the new medical director of population health management. They work with community members and local medical staff to determine community needs such as education about obesity or access to healthcare.

Ingrid checked with Dr. Whelan about presenting information about the new initiatives on April 27 from 5:30 - 7 P.M. Since a dialogue program about voting rights, transparency, and other concerns has been scheduled with Rep. Larry Inman and Sen. Wayne Schmidt for April 28 from 7 - 8:30P.M., concern was expressed about having the programs two days in a row. After discussion, the group requested that Ingrid contact Dr. Whelan again to see if he would instead consent to being our guest speaker at the Annual Meeting on May 14. The Board greatly appreciates the effort and time Ingrid and her committee continue to put forth to secure relevant and interesting programs for the membership and the community. Ingrid will report back on Dr. Whelan's availability at our next board meeting.

Donna received a request from Dr. Brad Lyman, a retired professor from Maryland, that LWV-GTA have a program about Michigan school funding. He feels that more needs to be done to educate Michigan citizens about how our educational funding system works. Over the last 6 to 7 years, school funding has been more of a problem. Bev felt it would be helpful to include information about how other states handle school funding. Donna and Bev volunteered to meet with Dr. Lyman to discuss the direction the program should take. Board members indicated much interest in such a program.

Annual Meeting: Bev updated plans for the Annual Meeting. It will be on Sat., May 14, at the Country Club. Registration will start at 9:30A.M. with brunch at 10A.M. and the program to follow. The time and day change is an attempt to see if members find it more convenient and to see if attendance might increase.

Bev suggested that the ticket price be \$25 which would give LWVGTA a \$4 per person profit for our general fund. The price will be lower than previous years which may help attendance also.

Jan suggested having a guest speaker on the area wide heroin problem if Dr. Whelan is unable to be our speaker. Ingrid has several suggestions for speakers on that topic. Jan will also pursue finding that speaker if needed.

Ann offered the idea of looking to speakers who gave TedX presentations on community engagement. That idea for the Annual Meeting will be held in reserve.

A discussion about raising our local dues resulted in a decision not to raise them. Our education fund has around \$6300 in it so a raise doesn't seem necessary.

A revision to By-Laws was discussed. Our By-Laws state that there will be four programs per year. We may need more flexibility in that area. By-Laws were last updated in 2012. Jan suggested taking more time to study what may need to be changed.

The Nominating Committee headed by Linda has started to work on recruiting.

Invitations to the Annual Meeting need to be sent out. Linda volunteered her home to get the invitations ready to mail. The date was set for Wed., April 13, after the scheduled noon Board Meeting. This date will put the invitations in the mail by April 14, a month before the Annual Meeting. (The date has subsequently been changed to Monday, April 11, for both the Board Meeting and the mailing bee.) Thank you Linda for volunteering your home and for lunch. We are a lucky Board!

Annual Awards to be given at the Annual Meeting were discussed. Aaron Olson from TADL was suggested for the Making Democracy Work award. Aaron has been of tremendous help when we've had forums, programs, or meetings at the library. He helps LWVGTA carry out its mission of educating voters. Donna moved and Linda seconded that Aaron receive the award. The motion passed.

The suggestion that Mary Lee Orr be nominated for the Outstanding Service award was enthusiastically received. Mary Lee's work with the Benzie unit, her dedication to environmental causes, and her work for LWVGTA are so appreciated and so highly regarded. Donna moved

and Linda seconded a motion to select Mary Lee for this award. The motion passed. Barb will contact Pat Laarman about presenting the award to her.

Status on LWVCA, host of LWVMI, LWVGTA, and other Michigan Leagues' websites:

LWVCA has been paid to create the hosting websites (League Easy Web), but it hasn't been working well. They have asked for money to fix it. LWVUS has said they will not pay any more money. LWVMI said the problem is being worked out.

They Represent You: Jane has distributed the brochures. She planned and distributed so that there are a few left. 3000 were printed. Parsons Law Firm sponsored the Grand Traverse Area printing and Coding Products of Kalkaska sponsored the printing for that area. Jane reminded us to point them out at any meetings we sponsor or attend and to mention the type of information the brochure contains. Joanne Ewing set up the brochure, and the Copy Shop printed them.

Jane asked where the LWVGTA's education fund is housed. Jan explained that it is held by LWVUS. Jane shared her concern about LWVUS's level 1 rating on Charity Navigator, which is the lowest rating.

LWVMI Spring Workshops: Jan reminded the Board about the two workshops offered. Jan and Peg plan to attend the "Defending Democracy by Making Democracy Work" on April 30.

Request for Budget Amendment - LWVUS Convention:

Jan and Donna plan to attend the LWV national convention. The cost to attend is quite high, particularly since it is being held this year in Washington DC. They asked for a larger stipend to help cover more of the costs. Jan indicated that the \$1,000 amount budgeted had not been changed for many years. Bev moved and Mary Lee seconded that the budget line be increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000. The motion passed.

New Business: Peg and Jan gave an update on the Common Cause meetings which they attended. A small group (More people are always welcome.) has been meeting to discuss ways to increase voter registration/ participation as well as how to influence policies that would make government and its policies more reflective of what citizens support and want. Presently, the group is seeking information and doing research to help it make decisions about how to be an effective change maker.

Mary Lee shared that Benzie had a successful meeting at Storm Cloud Brewing Co. The program was an update on what FLOW (For Love of Water) is doing.

Respectfully submitted by, Peg Townsend