

League of Women Voters of the Grand Traverse Area  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Attendees: Jan Warren, Ingrid Brophy, Linda Crandall, Liz Messing, Marcia Koppa, Anne Montgomery, Barb Berry, Donna Hornberger, Mary Grover, Bev Newson, Jane Watts

**Minutes** to be taken by volunteer Anne Montgomery

**MOTION:** approve the minutes of the October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting.  
Donna Hornberger so moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mary Grover. Corrections made by Jane Watts  
Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer suggested that an audit be initiated since it is common practice and has not been performed in many years passed. No action taken on this suggestion.  
Education Fund: \$4994.23 (Voter Services expenses not taken out)  
Operating Fund: \$11,000 plus

**Membership:**

**Corrections to 2018-2019 calendar requested**

**Directory printing and delivery:**

EBlast sent to membership to solicit corrections to the directory.

Directory will be printed and delivered at the December Open House. Members not attending will receive the directory by mail.

**Non renewals policy.** Member will be kept in the Directory for one year after not renewing and then dropped if renewal has not been received.

**New Member from Petoskey** will be integrated into directory until a decision is made if Petoskey (Emmet County) will become a Unit as is Crawford County

**New Membership Chairman**

Nancy Nordfjord has accepted the position of Membership Chairman. Donna Hornberger will resign Membership Chair and as a voting member of the Board, because of position as Secretary in Grand Traverse Democratic Party but will continue to attend meetings. .

**MOTION:** To appoint Nancy Nordfjord as a voting Director of the Board to fulfill the unexpired term of Donna Hornberger Membership Chairman. Beverly Newson so moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ingrid Brophy.

Motion carried.

**VOTER editor** has been found – Donna Hornberger will take over where Ann Geht left off. Marcia Koppa turned over the materials given to her by Ann Geht. Donna will work to get a *Voter* published shortly.

### **Voter Services Report:**

**Voter Registration:** 6 Very successful events on National Voter Registration Day September 25<sup>th</sup> in Kalkaska, Antrim and Grand Traverse Counties. Northwestern Michigan College held Voter Registration on September 25 – 26 in cooperation with the LWVLC. LWVCC held an event at Kirtland Community College September 5 and 6<sup>th</sup>. September 29<sup>th</sup> a Voter Registration Drive was held at the Bellaire Harvest Festival sponsored by LWVGTA.

### **Ballot Proposal Education Advocacy Event:**

September 25 an event sponsored by LWVGTA was held to educate and advocate for the ballot proposals Prop 1 Legalize Marijuana, Prop 2 Redistricting Commission creation, Prop 3 add voting rights to the Michigan Constitution.

### **Forum Event:**

LWVGTA planned to hold 5 forum events to present candidates for election. Forums to hear the candidates for **Michigan Senate District 37 and Michigan House District 104** were scheduled but cancelled by the Republican candidates due to “date conflicts”. Each cancelled in advance which kept the “empty chair” policy from applying and the events cancelled. **1st Congressional District Forum** was not scheduled due to conflicts with dates by both candidates.

Forums for the **Grand Traverse County Commissioners** race was scheduled and all 15 candidates scheduled but at the last minute 6 of the Republican candidates cancelled in protest to the CEO of the LWVUS protesting the Judge Kavanaugh appointment to the Supreme Court. The remaining candidates 7 Democrats, 1 Independent, and 1 Republican carried out the Forum as planned.

**Forum for the TCAPS Trustees** was also held with 10 candidates invited. 8 attended that night and 2 notified us that they could not attend scheduling conflict.

A considerable amount of publicity was generated in the media about the lack of Republican involvement in the LWVGTA Forums. Christine Minervini’s Northern Express Opinion piece was discussed as favorable to the LWVGTA and praise of our LWVGTA President was applauded.

### **Empty Chair policy discussion**

A committee was formed by D. Hornberger, M. Grover and B. Berry to study the policy for “Empty Chair” situations for our LWVGTA organization. Will report at the January Board meeting.

### **Response from LWVUS regarding position on appointment of Judge Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court**

A discussion followed. Mary Grover was asked to write a letter to the LWVUS stating that the protest held by the LWVUS at the Judge Kavanaugh hearings had a profound effect on our local situation. We will request that more consideration be given to national league activity and the effect on the local level when LWVUS takes action at the National Council.

**Fundraising:**

**Wreath Sales:** Ingrid Brophy and Liz Messing once again took on the huge task of organizing the annual Wreath Sale from which we receive funds to conduct our voter education events.

Sales to date \$2542. recorded

Preliminary total sales may be \$4200 plus when the extraordinary efforts of Jane Watts' totals are recorded

Wreath delivery will be November 17

**Holiday Open House Education Fund Fundraiser**

**Sunday December 9, 2018 2 to 4pm at Brenda & Al Quick's home**

The time period is a change from the past when it was held for 3 hours

Board members were asked to volunteer as food preparation team,

Entrance Greeters and Directory delivery team and of course the best of all  
CLEAN UP

**Programs**

Suggestions

1. Opiate addition MAT treatment suggested
2. Trauma: Adverse Child Events (ACE) presentation
3. Dark Money – Michigan Campaign Financial Network Craig Maugar
4. The Two Managers: Marty Coburn City Manager and G.T. County Manager - goals  
Anne Montgomery will investigate the Dark Money for January 2019  
and the two managers to be held February or March

**Other:**

a) Will need a program for the Annual Meeting.

B) Bev Newson suggested we have a By-Laws Review. Jean Howard was suggested as the perfect candidate for the job.

**Crawford County Unit Report Marcia Koppa**

- a) waiting VOTE411 usage report for CC
- b) Updating "They Represent You" with new officials
- c) New member is the newly elected Sheriff
- d) Membership is falling off as different factions follow divergent goals
- e) Ask that the LWVGTA web site have separate TAB for the LWVCC
- f) Program: would like to share Dark Money program and have the presenter come to CC as well as T.C.

Respectfully submitted,

November 14<sup>th</sup>

Anne Montgomery as substitute for Peg Townsend, Secretary