

League of Women Voters-GTA

Board of Directors Meeting

October 14, 2015

Present: J. Warren, I. Kurt, D. Hornberger, A. Geht, M. Orr, L. Crandall, B. Newson, B. Berry, P. Townsend, I. Brophy

Agenda: The meeting agenda was approved with the addition of “website update” under new business.

Sept. 9 Minutes: Jan checked and found that sales tax had been added to the annual dinner bill. She also explained that the Directors’ Organizational Liability Insurance which will be used is through the LWVMI. Inara moved and Linda seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. Corrected minutes approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Jan recommended moving the LWVGTA checking account from Chemical Bank to the TBA Credit Union. TBA requires its members to have at least a \$10 savings deposit. Our only other expense would be the cost of checks. Joining TBA would reduce our banking costs. The new account requires three signatories. Peg moved and Ingrid seconded the motion to make TBA our bank and to appoint Bev Newson, Jan Warren, and Liz Messing as our signatories. The motion was approved.

It was suggested to make reimbursement vouchers available on the local user section of the LWVGTA website. Mary Beeker will add a download of the voucher along with the policy for reimbursement to the website. The completed voucher would then be given to Treasurer, Liz Messing.

Membership: Donna updated the Board on paid 2015-16 memberships. We have 7 new members since May.

LWVUS still doesn’t have an updated membership list. Because of that, Donna will continue to send out e-blasts from National. She will also need to put in membership expiration dates for local members once the National website is running.

Donna reported that the LWVGTA directory is almost completed.

Donna requested to pass on the task of keeping up the local calendar to someone else. Ann G. suggested putting the yearly calendar in The Voter and then highlighting upcoming events in it. That idea was favorably received.

Programs: The Board discussed the Sept. 23 program on redistricting which Donna presented. The local AAUW co-sponsored the event and had several members present. Future co-sponsorships would be welcomed. The program was quite well attended and favorably received by the audience. Many questions were asked and comments shared. Donna will be presenting the same program to other groups.

A study session related to reaching consensus on the LWVUS Amending the Constitution Study will be held on Nov. 4 from 10a.m. – 12p.m. in TADL’s Thrilby Room. Ann will ask her husband Jan if he would

facilitate the study session. A meeting determining our local consensus on the topic will be held on Nov. 18 from 10a.m. – 12p.m. in TADL's McGuire room. The local consensus is due to National in 2015.

A consensus on LWVUS's Money in Politics study is due Feb. 1, 2016. To prepare for that, a study session will be held on Jan. 6, 2016, 10a.m. – 12p.m., at TADL with the location to be determined. Consensus will be reached at a meeting on Jan. 27 from 5:30 – 7:30p.m. in TADL's McGuire room.

The Board decided to ask the Manistee League if they would consider showing Iron Jawed Angels at the Vogue Theater in Manistee in the spring. We previously asked to co-sponsor the movie.

Voter Services: Inara explained that the Chamber of Commerce, co-sponsor of the City Commission/Mayor Candidates' Forum, needed an invoice for the \$50 they paid toward the Record Eagle ad for the forum. The ad cost \$190 and appeared in an even larger size than Linda had requested. All agreed it was well done. Thank you, Linda, for all your publicity work for the forum.

Inara called each candidate twice to remind them of the forum date, Oct. 15, and to confirm their attendance. She briefly reviewed the moderator format with Bill Froehlich to be sure he was familiar with how League forums are run. The work assignment sheet for the forum was also reviewed.

Inara asked the Board to email her any questions or suggestions they might have for use at the forum.

A "meet and greet" with the candidates will be held at the forum's end (8:30 -9p.m.).

A voter registration table was manned by LWVGTA in the NMC library on Nov. 21 and 23. Computers were available, courtesy of the library, for people to check to see if they were registered or to help answer other questions. 25 students asked for information during the two days the table was manned. 3 people were registered. Inara worked both days while Peg, Bev, and Jean Howard assisted during parts of the days. Mary Beeker, who works with NMC student government, also had the Secretary of State's office voter registration mobile unit on campus on Nov. 22, National Voter Registration Day.

The Leelanau League has asked if we want to work together on an NMC voter registration drive next year. The Board's preference would be for a fall 2016 drive. Inara will check with Mary B. about when NMC would be willing to hold another registration drive. Jan also suggested doing a registration drive at a Health and Human Services agency office.

Inara shared a call she received from a city resident who had questions about Traverse City's Proposal 1 which is on the Nov. 3 ballot. The proposal concerns a conservation easement on the State Hospital grounds. The resident was confused by the ballot language and thought it might be tied into the proposed roundabouts on Division St. Inara called the city for information about it to share with the resident. Jan was called about the same concern and also checked with the city. Their questions seemed to alert the city to the confusion that may be associated with the proposal. Inara called the resident to let her know what she found out which was that the proposal does not relate to the roundabouts. The Board was happy to know that our League is one that residents can and do turn to for information connected to their government.

It was brought up that the League outdoor signs need to be redone for next year's forums.

Jane Watts is working on *They Represent You* pamphlets. She has had some difficulty getting the printing done in a timely manner.

Fundraisers: Wreath sale – Donna sent the order form out to members via the internet, and the form will also be in *The Voter*. It was suggested to put order forms out at the forum. Ingrid will work on a small display to draw attention to the forms.

Holiday social – Invitations need to be printed. Jane W. has done that in the past. The invitation list needs to be weeded out.

The date will be Dec. 6 fr. at Marilyn Jaquish's home. We greatly appreciate Marilyn allowing us to have this event at her home. Jan, Bev, Barb, and Linda will be the planning committee.

Oleson/Tom's Receipts – Jan reminded the Board about saving receipts. Both stores offer 1% on the dollar amounts of the receipts. She will collect them.

Old Business: Annual meeting - Linda researched where/when other Leagues hold their annual meetings and how many attend. Most have a 50% turn out. Most hold theirs in May or June.

Bev researched several local restaurants related to how many people they can handle and how much it would cost to use their facilities. She checked the Elks Club, Kirkbride Hall, Hagerty Center, the barn at the Botanic Gardens, and Copper Falls. She found that the Hagerty Center would charge a lower room rate because we are a non-profit, \$100 or \$200 depending on which one we used. They cater and will set up a cash bar for a minimum \$250 in bar purchases. They wouldn't charge sales tax also because we are a non-profit.

The Elks would not have a room charge because we have League members who belong to the Elks.

It was suggested that we find out if the TC Country Club would discontinue charging sales tax which would help to lower our bill at their facility.

It was decided to select a location from Hagerty Center, the Elks Club, and the TC Country Club. We also need to discuss the time of day to hold the annual meeting. The question was brought up as to whether a change to a Saturday and/or a change of time would increase attendance. Further discussion on the annual meeting will happen at the next Board meeting.

The suggestion was made to invite Tom Menzel to speak at the annual meeting.

Since it is more expensive to mail the annual meeting packets, Bev suggested that the postage cost for the packets not be included in the annual meeting budget but listed instead of in the postage budget.

New Business: The Grand Traverse Bar Association has asked LWVGTA to co-sponsor a program where Jocelyn Benson, a former Secretary of State candidate and a Wayne State University professor, would speak. The Board is interested so Donna will ask for more information.

Mary B. asked for approval to link the public email addresses on the local website to the personal email addresses of members connected to them. It would prevent private email addresses from getting spammed. She also pointed out that it makes it easier to let the public know one address that won't change when someone changes offices. Her suggestion was approved.

The Library Committee mailed out 50 surveys to area school libraries. 15 surveys have been returned so far. The deadline to return them is the end of October.

Respectfully submitted by Peg Townsend