

**League of Women Voters-GTA  
Board of Directors Meeting  
October 11, 2017**

**Present:** J. Warren, P. Townsend, I. Kurt, B. Newson, B. Berry, A. Geht, M. Grover, D. Hornberger, J. Watts, L. Messing, J. Claybour

**Minutes:** Donna moved and Mary G. seconded that the Sept. 13, 2017, minutes be approved as corrected. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report has the same numbers as the Sept. 13, 2017, report. A request was made to have money from the Education fund be used to pay for the City Commission Forum ad placed in the Record Eagle. Liz will follow through on that payment.

**Membership Report:** Jan reported that a student will join LWVGTA. Donna moved and Bev seconded a motion to waive the PayPal fee for the student. The motion carried. Jan reminded us that students pay \$30 to join.

The Grayling group has asked to become a Geographical Unit of LWVGTA. Becoming a Geographical Unit would allow Grayling to have one of their members become part of the LWVGTA Board of Directors. LWVGTA will have to decide whether that person would have a vote as a member of the board or not. LWVGTA will not financially support the unit, though their money would be deposited in the LWVGTA account as a line item.

Christina Schlitt, VP-Membership, lives in the Grayling Area and will coach the group. Since Donna has coached new units, she can also be a resource for the Grayling Unit.

Under LWVGTA guidance, the Grayling Unit can have a website newsletter with our approval. Any independent fundraising by the unit must be approved by LWVGTA. Reviews of the status of the Grayling Unit will happen periodically.

Mary G. moved and Donna seconded that LWVGTA accept the Grayling Unit as a Geographical Unit of LWVGTA. Motion carried.

A group from Gaylord met with Jan, Christina, and Donna about becoming a Geographical Unit. The group has been active in planning forums and other non-partisan activities. Jan will share future updates on their progress with the Board.

Bev suggested using Skype to have meetings with the Geographical Units as a way to limit travel to those locations. The suggestion received a favorable response.

Jan shared information about Berrien/Cass County LWV work to involve more of their members in committee meetings. She wonders if LWVGTA could use some of their ideas to tie into our goal of bringing new members to our activities. Berrien/Cass did a survey of their members, and a link to their survey was in their online "Voter".

Mary G. discussed her research on the importance/effect of relationships. She suggested that social events could help us increase membership through relationship building.

Liz suggested veteran members call new members to invite them to the Holiday Open House.

The committee previously formed to create a LWVGTA social event will continue to work on planning one.

Donna requested that another person take over the LWVGTA Directory Calendar of Events section. Ann G. volunteered. Thank you, Ann, and, Donna, thank you for all the time and effort you have and continue to put into the making of the Directory.

Mary B. requested that we move our website domain host from the California League's domain to the LWVUS domain. Donna moved and Mary G. seconded moving to the new domain. Motion carried.

**Voter Services:** The Traverse City City Commission/Mayoral Forum had 180 attendees. The Woodmere Library McGuire Meeting Room was overflowing, and the evaluation summary indicated that those who came felt very positive about the forum. Aaron, the head of the Audio/Visual Dep't. at TADL, sent the tape of the forum to UpNorthMedia, and it started streaming on Oct. 10. Mary B. will try to put it on our website.

The VOTE411 cards were available at the forum and at the NMC voter registration days. During the two days of NMC voter registration, 23 people registered and 13 people asked for information. Inara and Peg also attended and registered voters at the celebration of Constitution Day at NMC.

Discussion took place about planning a 2018 Governor Candidates Forum. The consensus of the Board is to stay local with any 2018 forums.

**Interviews with local legislators:** Members who volunteered to interview area state representatives and senators were not successful in setting up interviews. Jan requested a response about the problem from LWVMI. Joan Hunault, LWVMI VP- Advocacy, advised to try again if it wouldn't cause bad feelings in the relationships with local legislators. The choice is up to LWVGTA.

**LWVMI's explanation regarding its inability to endorse Voters Not Politicians' ballot proposal and petition drive:** See the explanation for not endorsing on the LWVMI home page. The explanation has also been included in our LWVGTA "The Voter".

**Fundraising:** Wreath sale work is underway. The prices are the same. The deadline for orders is November 10. Orders are to be picked up at Ingrid's home on November 18. Order forms are on our website and in "The Voter". Members are encouraged to ask neighbors and others about purchasing from LWVGTA.

The Holiday Open House will be hosted by Brenda Quick. Many thanks to Brenda for offering her home for this fundraiser. Jane will check to see if Boskydel Vineyards would have any remaining wine that they would be willing to donate.

Invitations will be addressed and stuffed after our Nov. 8 board meeting. Jan will update the invitation, make arrangements for printing, prepare the of guests, and Donna will print member address labels for Nov. 8. The invitations will be sent out Nov. 8.

**Programs:** Board members felt that a presentation by FLOW could be our first program of the year. With the concern over Line 5, updated information on the status of state action on Line 5 provided by FLOW would still be very relevant to area residents. Planning for the program needs to be done.

An update will be forthcoming on a possible program concerning opiate addiction and its effects on the Grand Traverse area and its residents. Bev agreed to help as part of any planning that would need to be done.

**Benzie Unit Report:** Jill reported that a recent meeting included a member's presentation on a book she had read about racism.

The Benzie Unit's efforts have been focused on dealing with issues in Benzie County.

**Other:** Jan reminded members to turn in Oleson's receipts to her. It is another way to raise funds for LWVGTA.

The next board meeting will be Wed., Nov. 8, from 12 – 2 P.M. in the Board Room at the Dennon Museum.

**Note:** It would be appreciated if a few members would stay afterward to address and label invitations for the Holiday Open House. Ingrid has arranged for us to use the meeting room until 3 P.M.