

League of Women Voters-GTA
Board of Directors Meeting
March 14, 2018

Present: A. Montgomery, M. Beeker, D. Hornberger, J. Watts, B. Newson, A. Geht, C. Schlitt, B. Berry, A. Swaney, P. Townsend

Minutes: Donna moved and Anne M. seconded to approve the Feb. 14, 2018, minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: In Liz's absence, Donna presented the 2018-19 budget. Donna explained that the expenses for the Directory have been moved to the "Membership" category in the budget. She also explained that the \$600 which has been earned in the past by working with the Parade of Homes isn't in the budget because LWVGTA hasn't yet been assigned a home to staff. The increase to \$2000 budgeted for the national LWVUS conference which had been approved is included in next year's budget.

Donna moved and Mary B. seconded that the proposed budget be presented to the general membership for approval at the Sat., May 19, Annual Meeting.

Take Back The Night: Jordyn Marsh, an NMC student, shared information about the Tuesday, April 10, Take Back the Night events occurring at the Hagerty Center beginning at 5:15p.m. TBTN is a national event which is intended to help empower people affected by sexual assault. NMC Student Life is coordinating activities as part of NMC Sexual Assault Awareness Week.

On April 10, the event will start with a rally at 5:15pm followed by a march through downtown Traverse City. At 6:30pm, a "Speak Out" and candlelight vigil is planned. All activities start and end at the Hagerty Center. Anyone from the Grand Traverse area can participate. NMC has participated in TBTN for three years.

Bev and Peg will register voters, and, hopefully, other volunteers will collect signatures for the PTV campaign at the Hagerty Center.

Update on Generic Email Addresses: Mary B. explained what generic email addresses are and what purpose they serve. She will have a generic email address for the Board which would enable all Board members to receive information pertaining to the Board.

All public statements/announcements must come from the president. Jan can designate someone to answer. Further discussion will occur when Jan returns. Thanks, Mary, for helping keep LWVGTA aware and educated about helpful technology tools.

Membership Report: A new member has joined LWV-Crawford County's geographical unit. Their total membership is now 11. Congratulations to them on their growth.

Voter Services Report: The Board approved order for VOTE411 clings and bumper stickers has arrived. Board members gave a "thumbs up" to their appearances and picked out one(s) for themselves. The free clings/bumper stickers were given out to anyone who asked for one at the March 24, 2018, march against gun violence. They will be available at other voter registration and Promote the Vote signature collection events.

As the kick-off to the Promote the Vote campaign, Christina Schlitt will give a presentation on the purpose of and the details about the Promote the Vote campaign at Right Brain Brewery beginning at 5:30pm with a social hour and be followed by Christina's presentation at 6pm. It will be a recruitment activity to sign up volunteers willing to take out petitions and collect signatures to put the proposal to expand Michigan voter rights on the ballot. Linda will contact various media outlets to spread the word about this event.

Voter registration drives are planned for this spring at Central and West High Schools. NMC will have a voter registration drive tied into National Voter Registration Day in September. The committee plans to seek out other opportunities to hold registration drives in the area.

At the Board meeting, Christina discussed ways to encourage voter turn-out and emphasized that is just as important as voter registration. One suggestion is to ask if the person registering would like to share their email address or telephone number so that he/she could receive a reminder to vote on election day.

LWVGTA is so grateful and appreciative of the help and time Christina has given to our Promote the Vote efforts. She even did an online PTV training session for members who volunteered to circulate petitions. Her presentation gave members useful information before heading out to collect signatures. She is an incredible asset to LWVGTA.

Anne M. and Bev have agreed to be local coordinators of the Promote the Vote campaign. Peg and/or Jan will step in to help when Anne will be away in April and June.

Benzie County needs to be contacted to see if someone would be willing to coordinate petition circulation in their area. We also need to find out if anyone does voter registration at Benzie Central High School.

Publicity Report: Linda will contact several media outlets to announce the Right Brain Brewery recruitment event for Promote the Vote. She will try to get Record Eagle coverage of the event also.

Linda suggested having another meeting with the editor of the Record Eagle to renew our connection with them. After she, Inara, Jan and the then editor of the RE met, more election

season coverage appeared in the paper. Many of the League's 2018 political events will need coverage so having the paper's support will be important.

Library Committee Report: Ann S. reported that Dawn Farley, former library media coordinator for TCAPS, attended their last meeting. She also indicated her willingness to participate in the committee's work.

Dawn told the committee about a new Michigan law that requires schools to hire only individuals with a Library Media Endorsement to work in their high school media centers. Funding can be deducted if the law isn't followed. Barb wants to find out if Intermediate School Districts can cover the endorsements for small schools.

The next meeting will be at NMC on April 2 at 3pm.

Agricultural/Seasonal Farm Worker Position: LWVGTA and their geographical units' vote counts for the proposed concurrence on this issue were Grand Traverse Area - 10, Crawford - 8, and Benzie - 4 (all "yes" votes). Because the Flint League did not concur, the concurrence was not adopted.

Annual Meeting: Invitations to the Annual Meeting must be sent out one month before the event. Board members who can stay after the April 11 Board meeting will address and stuff envelopes. Jan will have the necessary copying done before the meeting. Donna will print the address labels for the envelopes.

Kate Kerr who works for Addiction Treatment Services in Traverse City will be the speaker. She will share information about the opioid crisis in Traverse City and the nation. Thanks, Bev and Jan, for the planning you have done for this event.

Inara's Memorial: Anne M. contacted a person on the Botanical Garden Board to ask if LWVGTA could donate and plant a ginkgo tree at the Botanical Garden in Inara's memory. She loved gardening, worked at the Botanical Garden, and gardened on her own plot at the Community Garden. The idea was warmly received.

The cost for the tree will be \$500. A request for donations toward the tree will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Anne will check with Al Kurt to be sure that he and his family are supportive of this type of memorial. A dedication will be planned for this summer if they are.

New Business: LWVMI is hosting a May 5 Spring Workshop in Grayling at Kirtland Community College from 9am - 3pm. Members can attend a morning and an afternoon session covering the following topics:

Democracy Agenda - Promote the Vote, the LWV gerrymandering lawsuit, and other legislative updates pertinent to the Democracy Agenda

League Basics: LWVMI's new membership program, treasurer's best practices, engaging new and current members, programming -positions and how it works, fundraising and development

Voter Service: Voter Registration (Pop Ups and School Programs), Get Out the Vote ideas, 2018 voter service calendar

VOTE411 will be covered at workshops for those involved with it.

Calls encouraging new members to attend should be made.

Registration is online at lwvmi.org. Deadline is April 15. We should encourage non-Board members to attend.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 11 in the Dennis 12-2pm