

League of Women Voters-GTA
Board of Directors Meeting
April 12, 2017

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

Welcome: Jan asked if there were any additions to the agenda. She added information about the potential for a TBAISD enhancement millage. TCAPS may support while others haven't expressed interest. TBAISD would not realize money from that millage, but local districts would. The request was made hoping to spur the local districts into action, but the group felt it was not the League's role to intervene.

Minutes: Liz moved and Donna seconded postponing approval of the March 8, 2017, minutes. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Liz reported \$11,959.21 in the general fund. The total for the Ed. fund will be reported after she talks to Kevin from LWVUS. Kudos to Liz for all the work she does to keep the Treasurer's Report accurate and up to date. You are greatly appreciated.

Membership Report: Donna reported three new memberships received from LWVMI. The total number of new members is 15. The suggestion was made to have Ann G. include the list of new members in the next "The Voter". Donna will send the names to Ann G.

Liz, Barb, and Bev will check in members at the Annual Meeting.

Donna suggested a welcome meeting for new members. That idea will be on the Annual Retreat agenda.

Annual Meeting-Saturday, May 13th: Each new member has been paired with a board member. The board member will call or email her assigned new member, welcome her/him to LWVGTA, and also ask the new member to join her at the Annual Meeting. It will be an opportunity to let new members know how glad we are to have them as members and how much we look forward to their participation.

Donna praised PayPal as a means of collecting payments/dues. It has been working well.

Discussion took place concerning the awards to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Inara and Peg will work together to write Bonnie Scheele's "Making Democracy Work" award. Barb will write Ingrid's "Outstanding Service" award. Those awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Liz will give the Treasurer's Report at the Annual Meeting. She will also explain what happens to our membership dues as well as announce that there will be no increase in those dues for 2017-18.

Donna will give a report on how bylaws concerning who can be a LWV member have changed.

Barb will present the new library position.

Mary G. will explain voting on retention of current LWVGTA positions. She will announce that LWVGTA will do a new local government study in 2017-18 to update the current position.

The appointed board members will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Those officers will be Donna Hornberger, Bev Newson, and Jill Claybour as well as a yet to be appointed replacement for Joan Sheard's appointed board officer position.

The nominating committee for 2017-18 will be Nancy Crandall and Jane Watts.

Voter Services: Peg updated the plans for the April 13, 2017, BATA forum.

Mary B. contacted Eva Packard, LWVMI Voter Services Chair, to have her activate our VOTE411 website for the November 2017 election. At this point, we only know of the Traverse City Commission races, but we will check to see if we need to include any other races. The Board felt that it is important to keep VOTE411 in the public's eye so they will continue to view it as a good source of information about candidates or issues that will be on the ballot.

"They Represent You" has been a helpful guide to government officials. Jane has done an above and beyond, excellent job of getting them printed and then distributing them in Grand Traverse and Kalkaska Counties for many years. Our hats are off to her for all of her hard work on this project. The Board would like to find a member to be mentored by Jane so that she can pass on this task. Board members were asked to consider possible people who might be willing to take on this job.

Local League Interviews of Area State Representatives and Senators: Jan received a request from LWVMI to do interviews as part of their state level advocacy activities. The responses are to be returned to them by June 1. Members were assigned to interview each of the area representatives/senators.

Donna will work with a Manistee member to interview Senator Darwin Booher.

Peg/Inara will interview Senator Wayne Schmidt.

Jan will contact the Benzie unit to see if one of their members will join the Leelanau League to interview Representative Curt VanderWall.

Mary G. and Linda will interview Representative Larry Inman.

Anne M. and Ingrid will interview Representative Triston Cole.

Donna was asked by an Indivisible member to present the LWVMI's redistricting program. They would like a 20 minute program which Donna thinks is not enough time to do a thorough presentation. She will attend one of their meetings in order to explain what the program entails. She will announce the April 26 redistricting meeting which Mary G. will present. Linda will do PR for that program. (Update: This program was cancelled.)

State Convention: Jan reminded the Board of the need to take Silent Auction items to the convention. Jan, Liz, Barb, and Ingrid offered to donate items. Thank you to each of you.

Jan also shared LWVMI's request for each local League to highlight what had been accomplished during the past year. Videos, posters, or other methods can be used to share those accomplishments. This request reminded the Board that we need to take photos of our activities during the year so we can show what LWVGTA has accomplished. Discussion was also held about a possible LWVGTA product to sell at a future state convention. Previous attendees told about products other local leagues have sold.

LWVGTA can send 5 delegates plus the president who can vote at the convention. (Number of delegates is based on the number of local league members.) Those attending this year's convention will be Jan, Inara, Donna, Peg, and Ann G. Jan suggested increasing the budget for convention delegates.

Annual Retreat: The retreat day is June 3 from 9:30-1:00 at Anne M's home. Carpooling will be needed.

Equal Pay Day: Jan reminded Board members about this event which will take place on April 25 in Lansing. Check the LWVMI website for details.

Next meeting: Wed., September 13. A new meeting place needs to be discussed because of construction work that will probably occur near the Visitor's Center.

Respectfully submitted by,
Peg Townsend, Secretary