

**League of Women Voters-GTA  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 8, 2017**

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

**Minutes:** A correction to the Feb. 8, 2017, minutes changed the spelling of Amy Shamroe's last name. B. Newson moved and L. Messing seconded the motion to approve the Feb. 8 minutes. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Liz reported \$5655.91 in the Ed. fund and \$10,635.34 in the checking account. Liz contacted LWWUS and successfully found a contact person from whom to obtain information about the GTA Ed. fund.

**Membership Report:** Donna reported 10 new members. Our total membership is now 103. Thank you, Donna, for all the work entailed in keeping the membership records/roster updated.

Donna will give Ann G. the names of the new members so their names can be included in "The Voter".

Barb suggested that we do a "Welcome to New Members" gathering. It was suggested that we could do something attached to the Annual Meeting. New member's names could be divided among present members who could then call and invite the new member to the Annual Meeting and offer to pick her/him up. Bev volunteered to organize the plans. Donna will send out names paired with a present member.

**Annual Meeting:** The speaker will be Ranae McCauley, Executive Director of the United Way of Northern Michigan. She will speak about the ALICE report (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed). 40% of households in our region who are working are still struggling to afford the basic necessities of food, housing, childcare, and transportation.

Peg nominated and Donna seconded Bonnie Scheele for the "Making Democracy Work" award. Motion carried.

Donna nominated and Mary G. seconded Ingrid Brophy for the "Outstanding Service Award". Motion carried.

Bev, Liz, and Jan volunteered to meet as the Budget Committee who will prepare the Budget Report for the Annual Meeting.

The present School Library Position prepared by Barb and her committee was approved and will be shared at the Annual Meeting.

A motion was made to retain other present positions with the exception of reviewing the Local Government Position. A study group will be formed to do the review. Motion carried.

An election of officers for the next two years will be held. A nominating committee will recruit members for the following offices: President, 1st Vice-President, Secretary, 2 Directors, and Nominating Committee Members.

An April 12 meeting will be held at Linda's home to prepare the invitations for the May 13 Annual Meeting.

Programs: A request came from Marcia Curran on behalf of MI Vote Counts to co-sponsor a March 25 forum on redistricting. Jan checked with Judy Karandjeff about LWVMI's position on involvement with other groups concerning redistricting. Judy stated that the state board decided not to be involved in other groups' efforts. They need to look at ballot language before supporting to be sure it concurs with LWVMI's position.

A program on the opiate use epidemic is planned for May 15 at Central United Methodist Church in TC. Jan and Ingrid spoke with Ranae McCauley about co-sponsoring it. After the discussion, they decided the partnership would not work for GTA because the focus of the program will not be on what the board had in mind.

Mary G. will present a redistricting program on Wed., April 26, from 3 - 5p.m. in TADL's McGuire Room. It will be like the program Donna presented in 2016.

Voter Services: Eva Packard, LWVMI Voter Services Director, asked local leagues whether they wish to activate the Vote411 website for 2017 elections. Jan, Inara, Mary B., and Peg will meet to discuss whether we should activate it for our local elections.

Jan received a request for GTA to sponsor a forum on the BATA millage proposal which will be on the May 2, 2017, ballot. She researched and found that the national league has a "basic human needs" position that would relate to public transportation. After discussion about the importance of providing information to voters, Liz moved and Ingrid seconded a motion to sponsor a BATA millage forum. Motion carried. Peg will talk to Inara about Voter Services organizing it. Update: The forum will be at 7p.m., Thursday, April 13, at Garfield Township Hall. Eric Linguar, BATA's marketing director, will help with the planning. Peg will check with UpNorthMedia and IPR to see if the forum can be made available for those people not able to attend.

Organizing spring high school voter registration drives was discussed. The Long Lake Twp. clerk organizes for local high school drives so it isn't necessary for us to duplicate her work. It was decided to focus on NMC voter registration in conjunction with LWVLC.

Voter Services will also discuss what forums to organize for 2017 elections.

State Convention (May 19-21 in East Lansing): Jan, Inara, Donna, Anne M., Ann G., and Peg will attend. The registration deadline is April 19.

The board discussed nominations for the Bell Ringer awards to be given at the convention. Local leagues are invited to select up to four members for recognition. Peg was chosen to receive the Voter Service award. Linda was chosen for the Member Recruitment and Engagement award. Mary B. was selected for the Advocacy award. The Board also decided to nominate Jane for the Helen Milliken Leadership in Civic Empowerment Award. For many years, all four have gone above and beyond in service to LWVGTA. We salute and thank them for all their efforts on behalf of GTA.

Riverview Terrace request for assistance with by-laws: Mary G. volunteered to work with the Riverview Terrace board.

Benzie Unit Update: Jill shared what activities have occurred and will occur because of the Benzie unit's efforts. On March 22 at Stormcloud Brewing, there will be a program on microplastics which they will co-sponsor. A State Budget study session was held. A program on the conflict in the South China Sea was offered. The Benzie Unit has also worked with the group Building a Better Benzie whose focus is on doing good works for those in the community who are in need. As part of that effort, Jill's husband, an architect, will do a future program about possibilities for creating affordable housing.

Request from Emmet County to start a league in Petoskey: Christina Schlitt has asked GTA about being a mentor for the Petoskey group as they work toward becoming an official League of Women Voters affiliate. A meeting with Christina will be set up.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 12, at the Visitors Center.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Peg Townsend