

**League of Women Voters-GTA  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Jan. 9, 2019**

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

**Welcome:** Jan welcomed guests from Petoskey, Tina DeMoore and Robin Jordan. They plan to start the process of forming a LWV league in the Petoskey area. They have spoken to Christina Schlitt, state membership chairperson. Jan has also discussed their intention with them. Christina and Jan will meet with Tina and Robin the week following the GTA Board meeting to discuss details of forming a new league. The Board salutes Tina and Robin for leading this effort and wish them much success in creating another northern League of Women Voters.

Jan also announced that Nancy has taken over the Membership Chairperson position from Donna. Donna will now be taking over *The Voter* as well as doing email blasts. Thank you to Nancy and Donna for taking over these important positions. Donna kudos to you for all the work you have done over several years keeping the GTA membership roster up to date and accurate. It is a very demanding job. The Board also greatly appreciates Nancy for being willing to take over this responsibility.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mary G. moved and Mary B. seconded approving the November Board meeting minutes. Donna called for a correction to the minutes. The minutes should say that members' names stay in the "Directory" for a year after not paying dues, not on the "roster". Otherwise, LWVGTA would have to pay membership fees for them. Also, the minutes should state "to demand an audit" instead of "to request an audit".

The November minutes were approved with the corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** Liz reported \$1798 in profits from the 2018 wreath sale. This year's profits exceeded last year's even though this year's wreaths were more expensive for GTA to purchase. Members complimented the improved quality of the wreaths this year. Many thanks to Ingrid, Liz, and Jane for their work on the wreath sale.

The Holiday Open House raised \$790 for the Education Fund and \$330 for the general fund.

56 Holiday Open House invitations were sent. 34 people actually attended the gathering. The number attending the 2018 event is down from previous years. Usually, 45-50 people attend. Some Board members felt the weather might have been a reason for those not attending. It was also commented that the list of invitees was pared down too far; it should be expanded next year.

Because 2020 will be a presidential election year, a good budget balance will be required. Since some of last year's budget projections for income were off, further discussion will be needed about having a sufficient Education Fund balance for 2020.

Liz reported \$12,222,92 in checking.

A question was asked about what "PMP" in Liz's report means. It stands for "Per Member Payment". It is the amount per member that each league must pay to LWVUS.

**Voter Services:** The next Voter Services meeting will be on Jan. 16. The November meeting was an informal one held at Linda's home. Thanks for sharing your home, Linda. All who attended enjoyed the socializing as well as the discussion that was part of it. Several people who helped with voter registration drives and the forums came and expressed positive feelings about their parts in those activities. Their help made all those activities a success. We hope to capitalize on their enthusiasm for engaging new voters and for providing voters information about candidates and issues.

It was also noted that good relationships had been cultivated with the schools and libraries where GTA members offered the opportunity to register to vote. Voter Services plans to continue those connections.

After the County Commission Candidate Forum experience in Oct. 2018, the VS committee felt it necessary to revisit GTA's Empty Chair Policy. Donna, Mary G., and Bev volunteered to write a new one. After reviewing it, their sub-committee decided to follow the LWVMI empty chair policy, but then decided to meet again to discuss limitations on the timeframe in which a candidate needs to notify LWVGTA that they will not participate in a forum. A copy of LWVMI's Empty Chair Policy was handed out to the Board members. They will bring their recommendation on this issue to the next meeting. We appreciate the efforts put forth by Donna, Mary G., and Bev.

**PayPal:** Mary B., the LWVGTA Paypal administrator, asked for more direction about passing along PayPal information on those paying membership fees. She and Nancy plan to work out a system.

**Programs:** Anne reminded the Board about the Jan. 24 program from 6:30-8 p.m. at Garfield Township Hall. Craig Maurer, head of the Campaign Finance Network, will speak on campaign finance issues in Michigan, including the amount of "dark money" invested in Michigan political campaigns. Anne will send information about the focus of his talk to Donna so that she can send out an e-blast about the program to members. Linda has also contacted the Record Eagle so that an ad will appear in the paper before the event.

Jan will call the videographer from LIAA so that the program can be streamed for later viewing on UpNorthTV. Donna will connect the streaming to our LWVGTA website.

A program planning meeting will be held in February at Linda's house to discuss programs for 2019-20. Peg moved to establish a program committee to assist the program chairperson in planning programs sponsored by LWVGTA. Mary G. seconded. The motion carried. The Board felt that this committee might be a good one in which to bring new members into being part of our mission to educate voters.

Anne gave an update on a possible March or April program which would feature Nate Alger, GT County Administrator, and Marty Colburn, TC City Manager. The purpose of the program would be to educate citizens about the responsibilities/duties each of them have and how the city/county relate to each other, and what overlaps are there in the issues they deal with in their jobs. Anne has talked to Nate who has reached out to Marty about being part of such a program. There is some hesitancy on their part that it would devolve into more of a political emphasis. Nate is still working with Marty about how their presentation could just stay focused on what their jobs are, how they carry them out, and other non-political parts of their jobs. Anne will report back once she hears from Nate.

Peg suggested another possible program topic. Media literacy is an important issue that could be covered in a program. She and two other non-members who have worked together to put on four lessons on

media literacy at West High School might be able to create a program geared to adults that could help voters sort out how to distinguish the truth from “fake news” on all types of media or some other presenter(s) might also be able to tackle this subject. The Board expressed interest in pursuing this type of program. This idea could be discussed by the program committee.

**LWVMI Request:** Jan brought up the request to review LWVMI positions and to decide if there are any new position(s) that local leagues would suggest to the state board. All members will be invited to the February board meeting to be held in the Janis room at noon in the Dennon Museum to discuss this request. After this discussion, the Board will hold its business meeting.

**League Archives:** Ann S. was to present this information, but Barb had to step in for her. She explained her work with the TADL History Center. Documents from past LWVGTA activities and events are archived there. Barb will also be interviewed by Etta Radokovich to share LWVGTA history. Barb will emphasize GTA’s role in providing the impetus to build the “new” library. Several members provided ideas and leadership to that effort. Thanks to Barb and Ann for taking on the important responsibility of preserving our league history.

**LWVMI State Convention:** The state convention will be held this year from May 17-19. Jan asked Anne M. and Nancy if they would like to represent LWVGTA. Both accepted the invitation. Jan suggested that others who are new to GTA and involved with Voter Services might be good recruits also. Money is available to be used by those attending the convention.

**LWVGTA Distinguished Service Award and Making Democracy Work Award:** A committee to nominate recipients for these two awards is needed. Barb, Linda, and Jane volunteered to serve on the committee. They will bring their choices to the March Board meeting.

**League Concerns:** Jan voiced her concerns about LWVGTA’s “bench strength”. More members are needed to continue carrying out the work the league has ahead of it, in 2020 definitely. What can the Board do about it? Jan suggested that more socializing as the Voter Services committee did in November could help camaraderie with new members as well as to increase their understanding of what league work is. More discussion needs to happen at future meetings.

**Next Meeting:** Wed., February 13, 2019 at noon in the Janis Room in the Dennon Museum.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Peg Townsend, Secretary