

**League of Women Voters-GTA
Board of Directors Meeting
September 14, 2016 (Meeting called to order at 12:10PM)**

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

Welcome: Jan introduced Jill Claybour from the Benzie County Unit who replaces Mary Lee Orr as head of our Natural Resources Portfolio. Thank you, Jill, for taking on this responsibility and welcome to the Board of Directors.

May 14 Annual Meeting Minutes: Donna asked for a revision of the minutes to read that Mary Beeker and Inara Kurt were elected as board members for 2016-18. Linda moved and Liz seconded that the revision be accepted. The motion carried.

June 25 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: Donna moved and Mary G. seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Liz reported \$8095.49 in the checking account and \$5555.95 in the Ed. Fund. She also reported that Coding Products in Kalkaska had sent a check for their donation to the "They Represent You" brochures. Liz asked whether she should send "thank yous" for donations. The Board decided that Jan would send one if a donation was over \$100.

Revision to By-Laws: Donna explained that a revision was made to the LWVUS by-laws section that defines membership. Since LWVUS voted at the national convention to extend membership to anyone who is 16 years of age or older, LWVGTA needs to change its by-laws to reflect that change. This section of LWVGTA by-laws does not need to be approved by the full membership. Therefore, the board voted to change our by-laws to read, "Persons at least 16 years of age who join LWVGTA shall be voting members of the local and state leagues of their place of joining and of LWVUS. Members who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members, excused from the payment of dues." The changes are that the word "Citizens" was changed to "Persons" and "at least 18 years of age" was changed to "at least 16 years of age." Mary G. moved to approve the revision of the LWVGTA by-laws to reflect what was approved at the LWVUS National Convention. Linda seconded. The motion carried with one abstention.

Donna reported that we now have 80 members including 7 new members and 12 family memberships.

Donna gave a progress report on the 2016-17 LWVGTA directory. The cover will have a new look which is the LWV logo that Ann G. uses for The Voter. Donna requested dates of 2016-17 events so those dates can be put in the directory's calendar. As a result, May 13 was suggested for the Annual Meeting. Bev will check the date with the Traverse City Country Club and let Donna know if it is available.

Voter Services: Inara reported that the September 13 voter registration drive at Boardman Lake Glens - Inverness went well. Bonnie Scheele, GT county clerk, was an invaluable help to Inara, Peg, Donna, and Jan in being sure that correct answers were given to residents. One person registered to vote. Several others had questions about absentee voting and/or changing an address in order to be able to vote.

A request came from Bay Ridge Independent Living Apartments to present a voter information program. A presentation will be given to each building on Oct. 19. Materials used by Jan in an earlier presentation will be utilized. Inara and Peg will also participate.

Voter registration will be held at NMC on National Voter Registration Day, Sept. 27, and again on Sept. 28. Mary B. organizes this event with members of NMC's Student Government, and LWVGTA and LWVLC will provide manpower to register students and other residents with the invaluable help of deputized county clerks from Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties.

The 104th State House District Candidate Forum will be on Sept. 29 from 7 - 8:30PM at Garfield Township Hall.

Printed Voter Guides will be available in early October. Jan asked Board members to plan to assist Jane Watts if she needs help distributing them.

Jan brought copies of a rack card and a bookmark which both advertise Vote411.org. The Dearborn Heights LWV created them. She asked if the board would want to consider printing and then distributing something similar to promote Vote411.org. Discussion followed. Mary G. and Linda seconded the motion to have two board members work on the design of the bookmark based on the Dearborn Heights' samples and to allot up to \$500 to print them. The motion carried. Mary and Linda will take on the responsibility for the design and the printing. Thank you both for taking on this task.

Barb brought up the necessity of making sure if we do joint activities that LWVGTA be included in any publicity for the activity.

Inara and Peg will meet on Sept. 19 with Marian Kromkowski from the Leelanau League to discuss details connected to the Oct. 10 1st Congressional District Forum from 7 - 8:30PM at Lars Hockstad Auditorium.

LWVLC's press releases include all upcoming events so the public can plan ahead. Discussion about doing the same, as well as doing paid ads for voter service events.

The NMC Trustees Candidate Forum will be held from 7 - 8:30PM on Oct. 18 at Milliken Auditorium. NMC offered the use of Milliken without a charge.

Report from Mary Beeker on Vote441.org: Mary indicated that letters of invitation to candidates for Grand Traverse elections have been sent, and this year there would be expanded information to cover township and village races and school boards. She hoped to have responses in and the voter guide online by Sept. 24th, which is the projected date for absentee ballots to be available.

Programs: A Community Conversation in Benzie County organized by The Center for Michigan will be held on Sept. 14 from 6:30 - 8:30PM.

A program entitled "Plastics - Yesterday's Convenience; Today's Contamination in our Waters" will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 15 from 7 - 8:30PM in the McGuire Room of TADL.

A Climate Change presentation co-sponsored by LWVGTA, NMEAC and LWVLC will be on Oct. 26 at 6:30PM at TADL.

Jan asked if the Board still would like to do a program on opiate addiction. The consensus was that the board supported the idea. Research will be done to find speakers for such a program.

A suggestion was made that the program for the Annual Meeting be on the United Way's study of those in the Grand Traverse area who live just above the poverty level. (ALICE)

Holiday Social: The Holiday Social is scheduled for December 4th at Marilyn Jaquish's home. Linda will check with Marilyn on the time schedule she prefers for the event.

Taxation and Budgeting (Government Finance) Study Consensus: The consensus report is due by March 1. Jan Geht agreed to facilitate the discussion. The decision was made to hold the consensus meetings in November and January with the days to be determined.

Riverview Terrace Council Officers Election: Mary G. received a request from Tony Lentych, executive director of the Traverse City Housing Commission, to run an election for Riverview

Terrace Council Officers. 115 units with the number of residents not to exceed 125 - 130 can vote. LWVGTA would organize the election and count the ballots, which would need to be concluded by Dec. 30, 2016. The League would be paid a fee or donation. The Board would prefer a donation. The Board expressed interest in running the election, but has some further questions which they would like answered. Mary G. will contact Tony Lentych for further information. Thank you to Mary for volunteering to find out more about this request.

LWV of Lake Michigan Convention: Jill Claybour volunteered to attend the convention on Oct. 14 -15. Thank you, Jill, for your willingness to attend and to keep LWVGTA informed on the issues which will be discussed at the convention.

Next Board of Directors' Meeting: Oct. 12 from 12 - 2PM at the TC Convention and Visitors Bureau Center.

Respectfully submitted by,
Peg Townsend 10/4/16