

**League of Women Voters-GTA  
Board of Directors Meeting  
September 13, 2017**

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

**Welcome to Ann Swaney:** Ann agreed to join the Board as a Member-at-Large. Ingrid moved and Liz seconded to add Ann Swaney to the Board. Motion approved. Thank you, Ann, and we are so glad to have you to join us.

**Approval of minutes of Board retreat on June 3, 2017:** Bev moved and Linda seconded to approve the retreat minutes. Motion approved

**Approval of annual meeting minutes of May 13, 2017:** Mary G. moved and Mary B. seconded that the minutes be approved with corrections. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Liz reported \$10,393.22 in our TBA Credit Union account. She pointed out that \$150 was given to LWV-Leelanau County to be one of the co-sponsors of the movie Equal Means Equal. The documentary focuses on the efforts and gains made or the lack thereof in the struggle for equal rights for women. The movie will be shown at the State Theater on Thursday, Oct. 5, at 6 P.M. A panel discussion will follow. The event is free to all who attend. LWVGTA members, Ann G., Mary G., and Inara will be sharing League hand-outs at the movie.

**Membership Report:** Donna announced that we have 89 paid members..Of those, 15 are household memberships which includes 30 members. 24 of those members are new members since the last directory was published. Of those, there are 3 household memberships which include 6 members. One person has joined, but has not renewed.

24 non-renewals of people who paid in 2016-17.

Donna has an Excel spreadsheet for our use. She has the LWVUS database completely updated, including expiring all people who have not renewed.

Jan, Donna, and Christine Schlitt, LWVMI membership chair, went to Petoskey to talk to the two women who would like to form a League in their area. After their discussion, the women from Petoskey said they would work together to see what kind of interest there seemed to be for the idea. After that work, if it appeared that there is interest, they will get back to Jan, Donna, and Christine.

Anne M., Ann G., and Inara have not met yet to plan a social event for new members. Ann G. suggested to the Board that a social event could be piggybacked with one of our educational programs. It might be a Happy Hour before or after the program combined with it. The committee will research possible locations and do planning.

**Voter Services:** Inara reported that a Mayoral/City Commission Forum will be held on Wed., Oct. 4, at the Woodmere branch of the library from 7 - 8:30 P.M. in the McGuire Room. Anne Magoun agreed to be the moderator. All 6 candidates have agreed to attend after Inara extended the invitation. Volunteers are needed as well as suggested questions for the candidates.

Mary B. reported that all candidates have responded to the invitation to be part of VOTE411. Thanks so much, Mary. Your work on VOTE411 is so greatly appreciated.

National Voter Registration Day is Sept. 26. LWVGTA and LWVLeelanau will both be represented at NMC on Sept. 26-27 along with deputy clerks from each county. Having the clerks there is so helpful in terms of registering students and providing them and the participating League members with information. Thank you's will be sent to each of the deputy clerks who helped us.

**Programs:** The first program of the year is the Wed., Oct. 5, showing of Equal Means Equal which LWVGTA is co-sponsoring with the Leelanau League and other organizations in the community. See the Treasurer's Report above for additional details.

Jan shared other program ideas. One could be a panel discussion of opiate addiction in the area. Possible panelists could include Chris Hinbaugh, Executive Director of Addiction Treatment Services; Bob Cooney, Grand Traverse County prosecutor; and Jeff O'Brien, Traverse City's Chief of Police.

Another possibility could be a status update on state action on Enbridge Line 5 by representatives of FLOW.

Yet another possibility could be a program about the work of the Child Advocacy Center.

The Board thought the Enbridge program should go first.

**Local Government Study:** No committee has started meeting yet. Mary G. suggested that a 2 - 3 member steering group set up a focus for the study. Mary G. and Barb B. volunteered. It was suggested to contact Penny Rosi about joining the group because of her work with Peninsula Township. A progress report will be given at the Oct. Board Meeting.

**Fundraising:** The Parade of Homes continues to be a favored fundraiser so LWVGTA will ask to be a host organization again next year. Our participation nets the League \$600.

The wreath sale also continues to be a good fundraiser. Linda suggested putting out information sooner than in the past because other organizations also use wreath sales for fundraisers. Information can go in The Voter and on the LWVGTA website. Ingrid also suggested emailing people who ordered in the past and to include an order form. The order deadline should probably be Friday, Nov. 7, because Thanksgiving is earlier this year on Nov. 23. Wreath pick up would be Nov. 17-18.

Mary B. explained the difficulty of using PayPal as a mode of payment for the wreaths. It is difficult to set up the multiple choices that wreath orders would require.

The Holiday Open House date will be Sunday, Dec. 3. The location is still being decided

**LWVMI Position on Voters Not Politicians Ballot Proposal on Redistricting:** Several people have asked for an explanation of why LWVMI isn't supporting VNP's petition drive. Inara talked about the responsibility of non-profits if they support an issue. LWVMI would not have any oversight of VNP's actions which makes the leadership concerned. It was suggested to contact Sue Smith and Judy Karandjeff either to ask for talking points as to why they have decided not to support VNP or to urge them to do so.

Jill noted that LWVMI's power point on redistricting has been updated. Discussion followed about how redistricting information needs to be more disseminated.

Donna and Jan will send a letter/email requesting guidance on how to explain why the state league isn't supporting VNP.

**Report from Benzie County Unit:** The first meeting of the year was held during the week of Sept. 4. Discussion of VNP's ballot proposal and petition drive and LWVMI not supporting VNP was an agenda item.

Several members have signed up to be observers at public meetings in the county.

A program on trade is in the development stage.

**Other:** A reminder was given to let Ann G. and Donna know if there is an item/event that should be included in The Voter (Ann) and on the LWVGTA website (Donna). We need to get our information out to our members and the public.

Mary B. will bring a request for changing our domain host to the next Board meeting. Her request will require a payment. It is \$250/year to set up a new website through LWVUS.

Donna shared the news that Jack Bergman will hold a Traverse City townhall meeting this fall.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, Oct. 11, at the Dennon Museum Board Room from 12 - 2 P.M. Please park in the Dennon Museum Visitors' Lot, the one with the raising arm gate.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Peg Townsend, Secretary