

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS GRAND TRAVERSE AREA
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, February 13, 2019, Janis Room, Dennos Museum

LWVMI PROGRAM PLANNING PRIOR TO BOARD MEETING, 12:00 to 1:00 pm

In the absence of President Jan Warren, the meeting was chaired by Anne Montgomery, First VP, co-Chair Voter Services Committee.

Present: M. Beeker, B. Berry, L. Crandall, M. Grover, D. Hornberger, R. Jordan and A. Montgomery, I. Brophy, J. Watts.

Anne called the meeting to order for the purpose of the biennial review of the positions of the State League, recommending for each retention as is, or an update. Mary Beeker conveniently projected all the materials under review onto a large screen to focus the discussion. Lacking expertise in many of the areas upon which LWVMI has a stated position, the group decided to “drill down” on those areas on which we felt qualified to assess. Of particular interest to those present was the need to update the LWVMI position on the Structure and Funding of Michigan’s Public Libraries. Barb Berry had done her homework and led the discussion. Mary Beeker and Mary Grover will edit the comments we will submit to LWVMI.

The discussion resulted in agreement regarding two issues in particular:

1. A series of laws have been enacted in Michigan that have resulted in the state ranking LAST in governmental transparency. This lack of transparency is detrimental to the accountability of government and to citizens’ ability to access public information. We recommend that LWVMI include transparency policies for all levels of State and local governments.
2. The State Program Planning Materials for 2019-2021 Biennium include the statement, *“Every two years prior to our state convention the LWVMI Board reviews our state positions and determines whether any existing positions need revision or any new studies are needed in order to meet our current or upcoming advocacy needs.”* We recommend that LWVMI develop and publish a schedule listing each position, when it was revised and when reviewed. The schedule could also include the State Board’s opinion whether an update is needed.

The completed Guide is attached to these minutes. It will be retained by LWVGTA, and forwarded to Marian Kromkowski and to the State League office.

At 1:15 pm Anne called the Board meeting to order.

1. The **minutes of the January 9, 2019 Board meeting** were revised by the deletion of “with 42 returned” in the Holiday Open House section of the Treasurer’s report. The minutes were approved as revised, with the comment that *the list of invitees to the Holiday Open House was pared down too far; it should be expanded next year.*
2. In the absence of Treasurer Liz Messing, the written **Treasurer’s report** stated that the checking account balance is \$10,185.21, and the Education Fund balance is \$5,834.23. The report will be filed for audit.
3. **Voter Service Committee.** D. Hornberger, M. Grover and B. Newsom reviewed the Empty Chair Policy of LWVMI, and it will be included on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

4. **Programs**

- a. The January 24th presentation by Craig Mauger, Executive Director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, was attended by 29 people on a cold and stormy night at the Garfield Township Hall.
- b. A Community Conversation is scheduled for **February 28th, 6:30 to 8pm** at the Governmental Center in the 2nd Floor Committee Room. It will feature Traverse City **City Manager Marty Coburn and Grand Traverse County Administrator Nate Alger**. Linda volunteered to bring some cookies.
- c. A public meeting on **media literacy** is scheduled for **April 17th in the McGuire Room at TADL, from 6:30 to 8pm**. There are a variety of ways to approach this topic, and Peg Townsend will take the lead in planning this program.

5. **Annual Meeting.**

The annual brunch meeting will be held on May 11, 2019, from 9:30 am to noon at the Traverse City Country Club. Liz Kirkwood, Executive Director of F.L.O.W., has agreed to give a 20 minute presentation with time for Q & A.

6. **2019-2020 Budget preparation.**

Anne asked for 2 volunteers to help Liz Messing prepare the next budget before she leaves town for the month of March. Linda Crandall will help and she will recruit Jeanne Ramick to help as well.

7. **Committee to nominate recipients of LWVGTA Distinguished Service and Making Democracy Work Awards.** No decision was made.

8. **LVWMI Convention** - May 17-19, Livonia. Marcia Koppa plans to attend.

9. **Report from Crawford County Unit, Attached**

10. **Volunteers for Legislative Interviews.** This is a bi-annual project but legislators have failed to make themselves available for these interviews. Nobody volunteered for this.

11. **History of LWVGTA and TADL.**

Barb Berry has contacted Kathryn Carrier who is in charge of the archives, and the LWVGTA records are now relocated from the old building to TADL in 4 boxes. Barb will gather a small group to determine whether some of these materials may be discarded.

Motion to adjourn by Linda Crandall. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.