

League of Women Voters-GTA

Board of Directors Meeting

September 9, 2015 – Visitors Center

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

Approval of Agenda: Three items added to the agenda. Moved by Donna and seconded by Linda. The additions were approved.

Approval of June 6, 2015 Annual Retreat Minutes: Corrections were made to the name of the June 6 meeting to Annual Retreat, and David Milarch was identified as “the man who plants trees”. M. Grover moved and I. Brophy seconded to accept the minutes as corrected. Corrected minutes approved.

Treasurer’s Report: J. Warren presented the year-end financial report. Corrections were made and Jan will send out a revised report. A \$730.51 deficit was noted in dues collected. One reason noted for that deficit was the decrease in the number of members. The wreath sale had an increase in sales compared to previous years which offset some of the dues lost.

The annual dinner went \$500 over budget. It was noted that has happened in previous years also. It was suggested to check with J. Watts to find out about how much was earned from drink tickets.

J. Sheard suggested a study session about the annual dinner to see how we can avoid future losses. J. Sheard, L. Crandall, and B. Newson volunteered to meet and to research this issue. They will report at the Oct. meeting.

The bill for membership from the national LWV and from what account it should be paid was discussed. It could be paid from “cash on hand” or from the Education Fund. The decision was to make the payment from the Education Fund.

Jan will work with L. Messing, our new treasurer, on a recommendation for a new bank for our funds. They will report at the Oct. meeting.

Jan researched liability insurance and found wider coverage through the LWVUS – Directors’ Organizational Liability Insurance.

Membership dates: Donna reported 82 signed up members with 2 new members. There are 16 non-renewals even though Donna has made multiple contacts.

National doesn’t have its national database operational yet.

Calendar: Donna shared a preliminary calendar for the Handbook and Member Directory. Ingrid asked that wreath sale pick-up times be changed to 8a.m. – 2p.m. Donna said the finished calendar would be ready in Dec.

The Voter: A. Geht showed her suggestions for a new **The Voter** format. The format is available

online through Mail Chimp. It will be compatible with Smartphones, which will be a positive in terms of attracting younger members. It allows Ann to have Jan preview the newsletter and to have a spot for online membership/dues. The new format was favorably received.

Programs: Ingrid reported on the plans that she, Mary, and Donna have made.

On Sept. 23, Donna will do a presentation on redistricting at TADL. She has received training from

LWVMI to do informational programs on non-partisan redistricting. LWVMI has provided funding to pay for the presentation.

In October, a City Commission/Mayor Candidates' Forum will be held. Inara and Peg will do the planning. Linda will work on PR for the event. Peg will check on Garfield Township Hall's availability for the forum.

In November, there are tentative plans for a program on a constitutional amendment on campaign financing. TADL is a possible location for this program.

In December, the annual Holiday Open House will occur. The location is to be determined.

In January, a program on voter eligibility is tentatively planned. It would include information on regulations for voter eligibility in Michigan. Ideas related to making voting less restrictive would also be discussed.

In February, a program on Enbridge and concerns about safety issues connected to their operations is planned.

In March, Property Development Rights with Glenn Chown and Rob Manigold is planned.

In April, Planned Parenthood, Healthcare, and the Traverse City Health Clinic will be the topics.

There was also some discussion of partnering with the LWV – Manistee to sponsor the movie, Iron Jawed Angels.

Voter Services: Mary Beeker is meeting with NMC student government leaders about National Voter Registration Drive. The Secretary of State's office will send their bus to campus to register students.

Inara asked Bonnie Scheele, the GT county clerk, about sending some of her assistants to help us register NMC students. Because it is not a major election year, she had not planned on sending anyone. She did say she would be willing to have some clerks come. (Bonnie later contacted Inara to say that she wouldn't be able to send any clerks because two have taken jobs elsewhere so she is shorthanded in her department.)

A City Commission/Mayor Candidates' Forum will be held in Oct. Bonnie Scheele, the GT county clerk, has sent the affidavits submitted by the 8 candidates running. Voter Services will plan this event.

Old Business: Parade of Homes wants to present LWVGTA with an over-sized check for our part in the Parade of Homes. Jan will call the Home Builders Association to set up a time for the picture to be taken. Ingrid and Bev, the co-chairs for the event, will represent LWVGTA.

In the future, we need more members to staff the home we're given.

New Business: Mary Beeker is ready to activate PayPal. She will start once a bank has been selected.

Starting an Observer Corps was discussed. People who are part of it would attend the meetings of the school board, county commission, city commission, or the library board. Volunteering to be an observer might be attractive to younger members because the time commitment wouldn't be as great as some of the other jobs in our local league.

LWVUS is donating \$1000 to Occoquan Regional Park in northern Virginia to support the Turning Point Plaza. The Plaza honors the suffragist women imprisoned in 1917 at the Occoquan Prison's Workhouse for protesting at the White House.

The Holiday Open House needs a manager and a location. Donna will call Brenda Quick about hosting.

The Library Committee is redoing the school library survey in order to get updated information. The committee will need money for postage to mail the survey.

Respectfully submitted by Peg Townsend

Correction from October 2015 LWVGTA Board Meeting:

Jan checked and found that sales tax had been added to the annual dinner bill. She also explained that the Directors' Organizational Liability Insurance which will be used is through the LWVMI.