

**League of Women Voters - Grand Traverse Area  
October Board Meeting  
October 10, 2018**

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

**Welcome:** Thanks to all who helped at the Oct. 8 County Commission Candidates Forum. Many thanks to Bev for all she did to set up scheduling for the forum and dealing with other important details. Jan also praised LWVMI leadership and Virginia Kase, Executive Director of LWVUS, for their support and help after difficulties developed with some of our planned forums.

Liz moved and Donna seconded to have Mary B. and Mary G. draft a letter to LWVUS regarding LWVGTA's concern about messaging at the national level because of its effect on local leagues. Motion carried.

**Minutes:** Mary G. moved and Linda seconded to approve the September 12, 2018 minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Liz explained that receipts from The Copy Shop do not need to be given to her. She receives an online email bill. However, Liz needs to know where the item(s) when expenditures are made.

LWVGTA received a \$400 grant from LWVMI. The grant is to be used for expenses incurred from having hosted an educational ballot proposal forum before the November election. \$100 from the grant was given to the Crawford County Unit to help cover expenses from their ballot proposal forum at Kirtland Community College. The funds from the grant are to be put in the checking and expenses charged there not to the Ed. Fund.

**Membership Report:** Donna reported 107 paid memberships, which includes 14 members from the Crawford County Unit. The new membership tally includes two new members. All inactive members have been removed from the LWVUS national database, so that we are not charged PMP.

**The Voter Editor Vacancy:** Donna is willing to be "The Voter" editor and to continue maintaining LWVGTA's Facebook page if someone else will take on her job as Membership Chair. Donna will check to see if Nancy Njordfjord would consider taking on that position.

**Voter Services:** Voter registration drives occurred in several locations on National Voter Registration Day. A big thank you to Anne M. and Nancy for all their work setting up the registration event at NMC Library as well as at other libraries and Forest Area High School. On Sept. 25 and 26, 74 people were registered to vote. Several questions about absentee ballots and other voting concerns were answered. Several other people were registered at other locations on Sept. 25. Questions about absentee voting and other voting concerns were also answered. Thanks you notes will be sent to the libraries that participated as well as to Forest Area High School expressing our appreciation for letting LWVGTA use their facilities to register voters.

At the request of an NMC staff member, another registration drive, in cooperation with NMC volunteers, was held on Oct. 4, 2018. 17 people registered and about 30 questions about voting were answered.

The Ballot Proposals Forum was videotaped to be shared on UpNorthTV; however, the videographer indicated that the acoustics were not good so it is hard to hear what is said in parts of the video. West Middle School may need to be reconsidered as a venue for a forum.

Ann S. found an old videotape of the 1993 Proposal A Forum at the NMC Library. She is having the videotape put on DVD for us to view.

With the political divisions coming to the foreground in the U.S., Mary G. suggested that we consider an “identity politics” program.

The County Commission Candidate Forum had less candidates participating because all but one of the Republican candidates decided not to participate. They took exception to a statement made by an LWVUS leader which they felt indicated that LWVGTA would not be able to hold an unbiased forum. The forum went forward with those candidates who did attend, and no comments about bias came from those candidates or the audience.

**TCAPS Board of Education Candidates Forum:** The forum will be held on Oct. 8, 2018, at Garfield Township Hall. Mary G. will find a moderator. Two of the candidates will not be able to attend, but all the rest have accepted the invitation. Thank you Mary G. for taking the leadership for this forum.

**VOTE411:** Mary B. reported that Bonnie Scheele can now send spreadsheets of candidates running for offices which include their addresses and emails (if they have an email address). It will really help lessen the workload for the people who need to contact candidates. Thank you to Ann S. and Eunice for contacting candidates who hadn't responded to this year's candidate invitation letters. Their work helped lessen the workload for Mary B., and it also led to the greatest number of local candidates using VOTE411 to share information about themselves and the issues most important to them.

**Print Voter Guides:** Thanks to Jane for her work on distributing the guides in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse and Kalkaska Counties. The Benzie County Clerk distributed them to the townships, villages and the city of Frankfort. Jane reported that she had already received calls for more of the guides.

**Crawford County Report:** 40 people attended the Oct. 27, 2018, Ballot Proposal Forum at Kirtland Community College. 7 candidates participated in the “Meet and Greet” which followed the Ballot Proposal Forum. Printed ads and radio ads were used to inform citizens about both of these events. Improving communication with the candidates was suggested as an improvement in planning for future forums.

Marcia moved to allow the Crawford County Unit to join the Grayling Chamber of Commerce with the amendment that Marcia find out if the Chamber endorses candidates.

Marcia asked for information about the guidelines for cancelling forums. Jan explained the state level “empty chair” policy that should be used to decide whether a forum is cancelled.

Voter Guides will be distributed in Crawford and Otsego Counties.

**Wreath Sale:** Ingrid gave Donna a copy of the order form so that it could be put online. She also gave Board members copies to pass out to friends and relatives. Ingrid and Liz are working together on the details of the wreath sale. Wreaths and roping must be picked up at Ingrid's home on Sat., Nov. 17.

**Holiday Open House:** Brenda/Al Quick have graciously offered their home to be the site of the Holiday Open House. Their date preference is Sunday, Dec. 9, so that will be the date for this year. The time will be from 2 - 4 p.m. Jan will get information ready for the mailing list.

**Other:** Liz suggested a joint "thank you" message to all who had donated toward Inara's tree and plaque. The Board agreed that it would be an excellent idea.

Respectfully submitted by Peg Townsend