

League of Women Voters of Waltham
Board Minutes
November 11, 2008

Held at the home of Gloria Clancy, 342 Bishops Forest Drive

Called to order: 7:50 p.m.

President Erica Zissman presiding

Present: B. Bateman, G. Clancy, S. Cutright, J. Garniss, G. Hallock, C. Murphy, J. Steinberg, K. Walz, E. Zissman

1. Announcements: none

2. Secretary's Report: accepted

3. Treasurer's Report: accepted

4. Old Business:

a. Spelling Bee—Unfortunately, the LWVW was not this year's winner. It was decided to make another appeal in this month's Bulletin for donations to cover the entry fee. The shortfall will be made up with regular funds. It was noted to make a strong appeal for donations at next year's Pot Luck Supper in September.

b. No one from LWVW attended the Phonothn this year.

c. Updated handbook: Cathy Murphy reported that the cost to print 25 books would be \$55. New members as of July 1, 2008, will receive handbooks without charge. Others will be asked to pay \$3. Cathy Murphy will have them printed, deliver them to those who request them, and bring some to the next Board meeting.

d. Holiday auction: Sunday, December 7, from 2-4 p.m. Joan Garniss volunteered to host the auction at her home. Georgie Hallock will provide the baked goods.

e. Membership: A workshop was held at Cathy Murphy's home, with Joan Garniss, Erica Zissman, and Marcia Hirshberg (state LWV membership chair) in attendance. The Waltham League has fulfilled the requirements to be excused the PMP for new members. Having a plan, holding a workshop, and increasing membership by 10% were necessary. Other recommendations about how to recruit members were discussed.

f. LWVWaltham Website: Questions still remain about how to set up our website. It was moved, seconded, and voted to use the National template to get the local website up as soon as possible, pending review of the cost. Several Board members volunteered to investigate costs (National fee, fee paid by Arlington and Lexington Leagues to a private host). President Zissman asked Board members to e-mail her with ideas about what they would want to appear on the site.

5. New Business:

1. A general discussion of the presidential election was held. Voter Service Chair Betsy Bateman asked that LWVMass investigate why the Motor Voter Law did not work appropriately; many voters thought that they had registered, but had to be turned away because of a lack of record of their having registered to vote at the DMV. Erica Zissman

will open a discussion with the state League president. Another problem was the lack of responsiveness from the Secretary of State's Elections Division to queries from the office of the City Clerk. In addition, groups who held registration events did not always turn in registrations to the Clerk, thus causing voters who really thought that they had registered to be turned away at the polls. It was decided to send a letter to the LWVMass Board to express our concerns. Several of our Board members work at the polls, so that we are especially familiar with the difficulties that occurred.

2. The Treasurer reported that she has not yet received a bill from the church for the use of the room for Pot Luck Supper. Joan Garniss will send detailed information to B. Bateman so that she can pay the bill.

6. Committee Reports

a. City Planning: Joan Garniss spoke about the meeting with Councilor McMenimen concerning the impact fees. Because Traffic Commission impact fees are especially confusing, she suggested a meeting with Commissioner Frank Chin. Georgie Hallock has written a report on the members-only meeting for the Bulletin.

Adjournment: 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Steinberg, Secretary