

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY - MAL UNIT**  
**April 1, 2017 MINUTES**

**Date:** April 1, 2017 **Time:** 3:00 p.m. **Place:** St. James Episcopal Church

**Board Members in Attendance:** Marie Gauthier, Nicole Moore, Marissa Potter

**Amherst LWV Members in Attendance:** Jackie Wolf, Leslie Nyman

**Members in Attendance:** 17 (Marie has sign in sheet for count)

**Call to Order:**

Marie Gauthier opens meeting and welcomes members, reviews agenda, and gives brief introductions of Jackie Wolf and Leslie Nyman, members of the Amherst LWV Health Care Committee, here to present "Improved Medicare for All in Massachusetts."

Before beginning their presentation, Jackie presented a gift card from the Amherst LWV with a \$500 donation to the LWVFC enclosed.

Jackie and Leslie made their presentation, followed by a Q&A. The discussion revolves around two bills in the 2017-2019 Legislative session:

**SB 619; HB 2987** "An act establishing improved Medicare for All in Massachusetts"  
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/190/S619>

**SB 610; HB 596** "An act to ensure effective health care cost control"  
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/190/S610>  
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/190/H596>

**Climate Change/Environment Committee report:** Chair Pat Leughtman reported that the committee continues to research and learn about its current focus, water, reaching out to contacts at the CT Watershed, MA Rivers Alliance, and elsewhere. Pat briefly met with Karen Price of the state League, who advised they take their time to educate themselves.

**Community Outreach/Welcoming Committee report:** Co-chair Nicole Moore reported that as they analyze the results of their member survey, their goals include finding out where members are located in FC, and where representation is lacking. Expressed a desire to connect with Voter Services Committee re: town meeting dates, and referred to the e-book the Voter Services Committee compiled, which is available on our website. Need more members for the Welcoming Committee!

**Equality & Justice Committee:** Member Kay Berenson reported that Karen Price of the state League met with the committee for an in-depth conversation on LWV positions and legislative processes. More education on how legislation works would be useful. Marie is researching possible speakers.

**Healthcare Committee:** Co-chair Marissa Potter reported that at their meeting prior to the open meeting, their committee discussed a resource guide for insurance access, reproductive health, elder/disability services, and healthcare for immigrants. Melanie Zamojski volunteered to serve as co-chair.

**Information/Media Literacy Committee:** Co-chair Katie Beth Ryan reported that there have been a number of events on Fake News given by other organizations in the area. They are exploring the idea of finding a speaker, and researching possible venues. Shea Theatre in Turners Falls offers nonprofits a rate of \$45-60/hr. Brochures are in development. Next meeting will be April 9 at 3pm at the Five Eyed Fox in Turners Falls.

**Voter Services Committee:** Member Sherée Bloomberg reported the committee as pleased with the educational forum on running for office held March 19. Turnout was good, 30-40 people. Committee also compiled a companion e-book on FC Town Governance that has been well-received. They are exploring topics for next action.

**Open Business:**

- Marie reminds the members that the office of secretary is still open, and the board needs members as well. Please email if any members wish to fill either of these roles. There was a discussion of what these roles entail, how the board functions as the bones of an organization, and how developing leaders is important to the longevity and health of our League.
- Also, a reminder that the LWVMA Convention will be held April 28-29 in Framingham, and our League still has an open delegate slot.
- Lastly, other possible meeting venues were discussed. One member regularly meets with another group in GCC classrooms at no charge. Contact: Ryan Aiken AikenR@gcc.mass.edu

Marie thanked members for coming and next meeting was scheduled.

**Next Meeting:** May 13, 2017, 3:00 PM, Location to Be Announced