

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY - MAL UNIT
June 17, 2017 MINUTES

Date: June 17, 2017 **Time:** 3:00 p.m. **Place:** Greenfield Public Library

Board Members in Attendance: Marie Gauthier

Guests in Attendance: 5

Members in Attendance: 14 (Marie has sign in sheet for count)

Call to Order:

Marie Gauthier opened meeting and welcomed members, and gave brief overview of meeting agenda.

- LWVFC will have voter registration table at Franklin County Pride March 6/24.
- Ruth Odom has a list of county events for possible future drives.
- July 8 Summerfest in Greenfield next possibility.
- Kay Berenson suggested that a lot of info/politics takes place at town transfer stations.
- Besides performing service of voter reg, holding drives are also good to show LWV presence.

Tutorial on Voter Registration — Suzanne Patnaude:

- There is a voter registration webinar available on the LWV website. [Link here.](#)
- Must be registered 10-20 days before voting day, so events should be set up at least 30 days in advance.
- Choose an appropriate event/location.
- Voter applicant fills out form, including town for clerk. Applicant can take form & mail it, or registrar can take custody and mail or deliver it within one day.
- Can register for any town in MA, but not other states.
- LWV 411.org — can look up address, town for voting (Shelburne or Buckland, for ex.), which may be different from applicant's address.

QUESTIONS:

- Homeless voters can use town-supplied address
- College students can register at home or school address
 - can use letter from Dean + photo ID if nec.
- May need residence/ID proof for 1st time voting, or if haven't voted in a while
- MA will cancel registration when you move automatically
- Must use current name and address — will need to register again if name/address change

Tutorial on Phone Banking — Marie Gauthier:

- Groups making phone calls to legislators can be effective for advocacy, plus less daunting to do together
- LWV is non-partisan, but can state positions about specific League-adopted positions/issues
- Can also host individually without mentioning LWV
- Groups invite friends, neighbors and host a bank
- There are lots of online resources available for scripts, but phone calls should be brief
- Each phone call should be targeted to one single issue, not a laundry list

Tutorial on Letters to the Editor — Marie Gauthier:

- Do not have to be an excellent writer
- ≤3 paragraphs — better to edit yourself than let newspaper shorten it. ≥300 words
 - 1st paragraph, intro; 2nd paragraph, make your case; 3rd paragraph, conclusion with a strong positive statement on your position.
- Like phone bank, can write in groups, and can include LWV affiliation if recommending League-supported position — check in with League leadership
- LWVMA has been actively giving testimony at legislative hearings on Beacon Hill. You can read that testimony [here online](#) and use it to help craft your own letters.

New Business:

- Ballot study — new LWVMA study on the ballot question process: How do issues end up on the ballot? LWVFC needs to decide if we will participate in the study as a League.

Unanimous vote to participate.

Announcements:

- 3 positions open on the Commission on Disabilities in Greenfield.
- 7/26 at Greenfield Middle School, 6:30pm — Safe City hearing — attendance encouraged
- Christine Turner helming Community Outreach Committee, with Nora Bixby coordinating info on the RSVP list. Committee needs more members to help coordinate community service opportunities! Please contact the League with interest.
- Two members are exploring joining the board: Joannah Whitney and Marge Michalski. Others are welcome! Next meeting 6/22 at 9am in Greenfield, 12 Federal St. Please join us — No commitment necessary (yet)!

Marie thanked members for coming and next meeting was scheduled.

Next Meeting: July 22, 2017, 3:00 PM: A combined phone bank/potluck!
Location TBA