

**FRANKLIN COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MAL UNIT
FEBRUARY 4, 2017 MINUTES**

Date: February 4, 2017 **Time:** 3:30 p.m. **Place:** Greenfield Public Library

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

Massachusetts League Representative: Jean Cherdack, Mass League President

Members in Attendance: 31 (Secretary has Sign In Sheet for Count)

Materials Distributed for General Meeting:

February 4, 2017 Agenda
League of Women Voters Franklin County MAL Unit By-Laws
League Upcoming Events Handout
League of Women Voters of Mass - Voting Brochure
Government of Massachusetts Brochure

Materials Distributed for Group Discussion/Work:

LWVMA Where We Stand Program Book
LWVMA League Supported Legislation
LWVMA Ideas for Working With Your Legislators
Franklin County Registered Voters and Party Enrollment as of October 19, 2016 (Page 8/18)
Massachusetts 2016 President General Election Vote Count (Broken down by all County's)
Franklin County 2016 President General Election Vote Count (Broken down by town)
Franklin County Massachusetts Legislators Contact Sheet
An Act to promote and enhance civic engagement (SD954/HD2189)
9 Principles for reviewing news information
Growing Number of States repeal family welfare caps (PBS News Hours July 13, 2016 By Teresa Wiltz, Stateline)
Court and Congress may crimp Trump's immigration Plans (Politico 1/25/2017 By Seung Min Kim)
NARAL Massachusetts Abortion Rights: Protections & Ban
Franklin County COG to use state grants to help towns adapt to change (Recorder December 15, 2016 By Richie Davis)
2017-2018 Bills Endorsed by Climate Action Now, Western Mass
Climate Action Now 12 Point Massachusetts Climate Emergency Plan

Call to Order: Marie Gauthier Calls Meeting to Order 3:45

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Marie Gauthier opens meeting and welcomes members, reviews agenda, and gives brief introductions of Nicole Moore, Marissa Potter, and Colleen Stevens. Marie would like the group to consider them for the following positions and members voted to approve as follows. Due to the size of the group votes were taken by aye or nay count. Voting members of group motion and second motion to nominate and approve the following members. Aye: All Nay: None

Marie Gauthier, President
Nicole Moore, Vice President
Colleen Stevens, Secretary
Marissa Potter, Treasurer

Marie begins discussing the review, acceptance, and implementation of the Franklin County League of Women Mal Unit by-laws. The by-laws were drafted based on the League Standard draft.

Group discusses questions regarding by-laws. Marie discusses the importance of the Bi-Partisan Agreement and our adherence to the policy. Questions about yearly membership fee and fiscal year, Jean Cherdack discusses dues will be collected annually in January. Membership is counted by 2/1 of every year and reported to national. Local and state league will have current numbers throughout year. Jean Cherdack also reports she will ask the state to recognize us in March and if the goals continue to be met then a recommendation will be made to National next year. The rate is currently discounted at 35.00 but will increase to the standard 50.00 next year. It is discussed that our Annual Meeting will be held in the month of February. Group discusses questions about Article 5 section 2, the potential of staggering terms, limits on how many committee members can be appointed or serve. Group reviews how we create a nominating committee 6 months prior to the end of the board members 2 year term, board members can remain at the election of the members, or if someone would like to run for the seat the nominating committee will review and advise. We will discuss staggered term limits as group progresses, we discuss that the by-laws can be reviewed yearly. No adjustments to be made to the by-laws as presented. Voting member of group makes a motion to accept these by-laws as written, voting member seconds motion. Aye: All Nay: None

Group reviews league bi-partisan policy and responsibility of Board. Questions about social media usage, bumper stickers, and responsibility to remain bi-partisan are answered by Jean Cherdack. Group understands policy as written and voting member of group makes a motion to accept policy, voting member seconds motion. Aye: All Nay: None

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Members then break out into :

Individual Groups Created Based on Survey (Count is based on names listed on group sheet)

1. Voter Services: 7 (Chair Suggestion: Ruth Odom)
2. Community Outreach: 8 (Chair Suggestion : Jessica Osit)
3. Information Literacy (Fake News) : 6 (Co-Chair Suggestion: Laura Luker, Katie Beth Ryan)
4. Equality and Justice : 12 (No Chair Suggestion Listed)
5. Reproductive Rights : 3 (Chair Suggestion: Marissa Potter)
6. Climate : 3 (Chair Suggestion: Pat Leuchtman)

Groups were informed that members who could not attend today's meeting will be sent an email asking them to join a group/developing committee. Members will share personal contact information and have smaller working groups within their own schedules. Members will report back to Board on March 4, 2017 with their designated chair, their member list, direction, and goals. The secretary will work with the Mass League to schedule the designated member of the steering committee, that coincides with their group focus, after the group has had the time to review and come to consensus.

The secretary of the League advises all members that she will be creating and distributing a core materials list for everyone to review and become comfortable with. She explains we will all use this information as the foundation of our work and collection of data.

Nicole Miller discusses the importance of asking questions, that this is new to all of us and an opportunity to grow and learn together.

Marie Gauthier thanks members for coming and next meeting is scheduled.

Meeting Adjourns: 5:45 PM

Next Meeting: March 4, 2017, 3:00 PM, Location to Be Announced

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen Stevens
Secretary, League of Women Voters of Franklin County MAL Unit