

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY - MAL UNIT**  
**September 23, 2017 Open Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Date:** September 23, 2017

**Time:** 3:00 p.m.

**Place:** Greenfield Public Library

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

**Guests in Attendance: 2**

**Members in Attendance: 12 (Marie has sign in sheet for count)**

**Call to Order:**

- **New Board members!** Marissa who was treasurer has graduated and is a night nurse. She's stepped down from being Treasurer. Marge Michalski has stepped up. All in favor of Marge! Christine Turner and Joannah Whitney also offered to join Board. Both were elected unanimously.
- **Membership committee is also seeking members.** Charge is to bring members in and see to their needs. Nicole and Joannah are leading this group.
- **Outreach committee is seeking members.** This group will offer volunteer opportunities to League members.
- Voter Services Committee is having an event on October 24th, 7:00 at GCC. **Speed dating for Greenfield Town Council.** There are 14 candidates and 10 or 11 have agreed to participate. Will need one facilitator per table. Goal is to have room of people interacting with candidates. Not live TV. Sheila Gilmore who is a candidate, has been advised not to participate because as progressive candidate she is concerned that *Greenfield Recorder* has been providing negative coverage of progressive issues. Marie has video conference with *GR* editor about co-sponsoring or sending reporter. *GR* wants a structured event. Ellen Boyer, Library Director, wants to have meet and greet for candidates. Could list LWVFC as co-sponsor. Marie would like League to be involved in any education event. October 12th from 5:30 - 7:30 & library will be closed. Voter registration tables at both events. Group endorsed co-sponsoring library event.
- **Kirsten Levitt from Stone Soup Cafe** (<http://www.stonesoupgreenfield.org/volunteer.html>). Six years ago Bernie Glassman of Zen Peacemakers/Zendo approached All Souls Board to move weekly meal to downtown. Program is to provide meal for every member of the community, with every member served with dignity and care. Past experience of Zen Peacemakers attending soup kitchen was that they were treated with kindness but as "less than" others. Meal did come off mountain but was not regular. Ariel Pliskin took this on as administrator. Kirsten is school teacher at Gill/Montague Sheffield School and joined Ariel as

cook. She had lots of experience and started running kitchen since June 2011. Meals grew from 20 to 120 people per week. Every Saturday, partnership with Just Roots, to provide local, organic, fresh food every week. Volunteers make servings for 200 people and encourage people to have seconds and take food with them. Now there's another meal provided on Sundays on the common. Many partnerships throughout communities now to get food and provide food. Every week there is a theme in Cafe, e.g. Nelson Mandela with S. African food, Cinco de Mayo with Mexican food, etc. Includes gluten free and vegan options. No cost meals and they accept donations. Have 6 positions that include small stipends. Volunteer run. Dream to have culinary arts program for upper Pioneer Valley, (closest place is Holyoke now) with Stone Soup Cafe as laboratory. Outlets for criminal justice reform/restorative justice to participate. Works under fiscal sponsorship of All Souls Church and contributes to it. To get grants from religious organizations, Stone Soup would need to be own non-profit. Participate in Valley Gives and other in fundraising efforts. Looking for someone to do fundraising. Also need grants that support infrastructure. July - September hardest shifts to fill are kitchen and clean-up shifts, also need prep shift workers. Prep shift is also learning shift. Cooking shift is usually full and so is serving. Contact Patty if we want to volunteer as a group of 8-12 for front of house, 7 for kitchen, 3-4 for set-up.

- **Civics Trivia Night** is first fundraiser, coming up in 2 weeks. 12 gift baskets have been donated. Talk to Marge to help, [michalski.marge@gmail.com](mailto:michalski.marge@gmail.com)! Starting @ 6, need to prepare raffle table, assist moderator, table runners to collect answer sheets, clean-up, etc. Civics focused. Teams of 8 or fewer.
- Thursday, October 5th Greenfield Schools having Open House about local community organizations. Anyone available to represent League? Maybe Laura. She'll talk with Louise.
- Proposal to create bail fund for women in Western Mass. Marge read letter from Gretchen Krull. Equality & Justice Committee work with this and criminal justice reform at statewide level? Invite Gretchen to meeting to organize forum with women from Voices from the Inside? Marie will reply to Gretchen with invitation to speak to members.

**Next open meeting:** October 21st @ 3:00 at the Greenfield Public Library.