

**MINUTES**  
**Board Meeting**  
**League of Women Voters of Franklin County - MAL Unit**

**Date:** August 21, 2017 **Time:** 6:00 p.m. **Place:** Greenfield Public Library

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

**Board Members Not in Attendance:** Marissa Potter, Joannah Whitney

**Members in Attendance:** Christine Turner, Laura Luker

**Documents:**

League Leader Luncheon email from Kate Boland, LWVMA Membership Chair  
Western Mass Hunger Action project email from Cynthia Brubaker, LWV of Amherst  
Equality and Justice legislative focus information from LWVMA website

Marie opened the meeting by announcing that Marissa Potter had regretfully resigned as treasurer and Board member. We discussed possible replacements. Marge remarked that she has previous experience serving as treasurer for other organizations. Marie nominated Marge, and was seconded by Nicole. Marie also nominated Christine as a Director, and was seconded by Marge. Both nominations will be put on the agenda for election by members at the next open meeting on Sept. 23 at 3pm in the Greenfield Library.

Next item discussed was the email from Kate Boland regarding the League Leader Luncheon on Oct. 14 at 9:30am at the First Baptist Church, 111 Park Avenue in Worcester. She hoped that leaders from LWVFC would be able to participate on a panel. Marie has prior commitments, but the invitation is open to any on the Board. Marge think she can go, Nicole and Christine are maybes. Marie will pass on the info to Kate, who will be in touch with them.

The Franklin County Fair Parade is Thursday, September 7 at 5pm. LWVFC will be marching in the parade, but not staffing a voter registration table at the fair, since the hours of the fair are very long and finding enough volunteers for that much time seemed not viable.

This brought up challenges re: branding our League. Our next open meeting agenda and e-announcement for that will include a call for graphic design help to update our logo in a print-ready format that we can use for t-shirts, banners, and signs. In the meantime, Marie will get business cards printed with our logo and web address.

The next open meeting will be Sept 23. September is also Hunger Action Month, a focused effort led by LWV of Amherst. Cynthia Brubaker wrote to ask if LWVFC would be interested in participating. Marie wrote back that, while she was unsure of the exact nature of their participation, LWVFC is interested. She hasn't heard back from Cynthia regarding the mentioned PR materials, and will write again. In the meantime, should LWVFC plan some sort of speaker on food insecurity for the open meeting? Also, to tie that in to our Community Outreach service plans, that speaker could be from Stone Soup, which hosts a community free lunch every Saturday. We also discussed the Biking for Food bikeathon on Sept 24 and the possibility of a LWVFC team, but it's too late to fundraise properly, so we decided to make that a goal for next year. Christine will contact Stone Soup to see about both the possibility of a speaker and getting LWVFC on their volunteer schedule. We'll call for volunteers once a date is secured. Marie will contact Cynthia about the materials and someone from LWV of Amherst speaking about their Hunger Action efforts if Stone Soup can't do it. Of particular interest is the idea of asking Select Boards to pass a resolution about hunger awareness.

### **Committee needs:**

*Community Outreach:* Marie will forward [RSVP.org](https://www.rsvp.org) info to Christine, and also add her as an admin to MailChimp so that she can easily email members with volunteer opportunities.

*Membership:* Needs members; currently consists of Nicole and Joannah.

*Equality & Justice:* Has 18 members, but struggling due to summer months and a lack of direction. Marie will write to them with info from LWVMA website — there's several bills on criminal justice reform in the current legislature.

*Information/Media Literacy:* Also quiet due to summer months. In search of next project now that the "fake news" forum is past. Christine and Laura will bring the idea of some sort of librarian summit in the spring to the rest of the committee. Just as an FYI, Marie has a contact (Nicco Mele) at the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics, and Public Policy at Harvard.

*Voter Services:* They've staffed several voter registration tables at various town gatherings this summer, but their primary focus is a Civics Trivia Night fundraiser for the LWVFC on Oct. 6 at the Elks Club in Greenfield. The last email to the mailing list included a list of what assistance will be needed. High on the list are gift baskets to be raffled off at the end of the night.

*Healthcare:* Marissa had emailed the committee with the suggestion that was picked up at LWV of Northampton's annual meeting, regarding getting each town to include an item on their Town Meeting Warrants in support of the Improving Medicare for All bills in the current legislature. Deerfield and other towns recently passed similar resolutions, so we could look up their language and adapt. However, there hasn't been any communication from the committee. Marie will contact Melanie and see how things are.

*Climate & Environment:* Pat Leughtman recently resigned as Chair, feeling this committee was experiencing too many personal challenges currently to be effective. Members will look to other ways to contribute to the League for the time being.

Finally, we looked to the future, and discussed being recognized as an official local League next February, and what's involved in planning an annual meeting as required in our bylaws. We agreed that spring would be a good time to schedule it.

**Next Board meeting:** Sept. 23, 2017, 5:00pm, Greenfield Public Library