

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

Date: November 29, 2017 **Time:** 6:00 p.m. **Place:** People's Pint

Board Members in Attendance: Marie Gauthier, Nicole Moore, Marge Michalski, Christine Turner, Joannah Whitney

Members in Attendance: Laura Luker

Treasurer's report from Marge, with budget worksheet

- Total income YTD: \$2512, Total expenses YTD: \$797.86, NET: \$1714.14

Discussion of email service: Mailchimp messages seem to be going to spam to a large degree. Will experiment with ConstantContact and see if our percentages improve.

Local League considerations: Marge has run scenarios. Become recognized as official local League in April. Yearly operating costs \$650 (\$800 with ConstantContact)

Membership renewal letter. Marie's draft letter approved. State will send via email and snail mail and continue administering. Leads to discussion of dues pricing and concerns regarding affordability and sustainability.

Discussion of the logistics of membership subsidy fund

- Form? How many times could member apply? How would it work?
 - Include line for fund donations on membership form
 - Gift memberships / anonymous sponsorships
 - Criteria: Active members, first come first served from the separate fund — Christine proposes \$150 to start
 - Begin after we become official local League. Other Leagues, such as Northampton, are able to subsidize memberships. We're not there yet.

Next open meeting speaker: Gretchen Krull and Ellen Berson on starting a women's bail fund. Mass Bail Fund is a separate organization. They'd be interested in our help

getting into Franklin County, but we're particularly interested in a women's bail fund, and the Mass Bail Fund doesn't focus on women alone.

Nancy Polan of the Northampton League would like our participation in action alerts: writing postcards and calling legislators. Supply members with info & postcards. We'd like to add this as a regular concrete action item at every open meeting.

Stone Soup: A success. Plan to have one League-sponsored volunteer event per semester

Marie nominates Laura Luker for Secretary, Marge seconds, unanimously approved.

Next Board meeting: January 10, 2018, 6:00pm, Hope & Olive