

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY - MAL UNIT
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

Date: May 19, 2018 **Time:** 3:30 p.m. **Place:** Greenfield YMCA

Board Members in Attendance: Marie Gauthier, Marge Michalski, Joannah Whitney

Board Members Not in Attendance: Nicole Moore, Laura Luker, Christine Turner

Guests in Attendance: 1

Members in Attendance: 5 (Marie has sign in sheet for count)

Civics columns

- Pat reported that she has several columns promised, looking for 600-700 words each, topics on general civics education. Would like to get firm commitment soon to give to George Forcier.
- Topics so far: FDIC, Impeachment, Freedom of the Press, Title VII Rights, Separation of Powers and the Role of the Courts. Joannah and Louise volunteered to write editorials on Freedom of Speech and Registering to Vote.

Voter Registration

- Charlotte registered 17 kids in the Frontier AP Government class; the teacher was pleased, would like to continue doing the same thing next year. Kids were very enthusiastic.
- Denise and Ruth registered 12 students at Turners Falls, and produced some nice posters and handouts that can be used at any HS registration
- Louise is coordinating a program with Racial Justice Rising to do voter registration at Leyden Woods. Three parts: going door to door with a Spanish-speaking partner to invite residents to registration events, sponsoring a speaker from Springfield on 7/20 to encourage registration and voting, and being available to register residents on 7/12 and 7/19 when food distributions are made, will also plan to have some giveaways, raffles and goodies as incentives to participate
- Catherine has arranged a voter registration drive at GCC on 9/11 and 9/12 from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

1st Franklin Candidates Forum

- Marie reported progress, scheduled for Wednesday 5/23 at Frontier at 7:00 PM
- Press releases went out
- MCTV will film, custodian will be available, student will handle AV
- Volunteers needed for various jobs – timers, doors, LWV tables, voter registration, table runners
- Marie will be meeting with Northampton LWV about logistics of question timing, etc

Senate Seat Forum

- Marie will meet with Northampton League to begin planning to coordinate

Other notes

- Greenfield Pride March is 6/23, didn't get any voters to register last year, may not be worth the effort to register but will try to show the LWV colors if members are in the parade or the race
- Another trivia night at Lefty's was recommended for further research!
- LWVMA has a new voters guide that can be accessed for free online (will replace Vote411). Looking for statewide volunteers to draft questions for candidates before 5/31. Email Judy Zaumbrecher jzaumbrecher@lwvma.org or Kris Eastman keastman@lwvma.org

- Annual meeting notice will be going out soon, potluck 6/19 at the Elks Lodge, speaker Natalie Higgins, young representative from Leominster

Action Item

- Postcards done in support of budget amendment in Safe Communities Act

Next Meeting: September 22, 2018, 3:00 PM
Location: TBD