

**LWVBN 28th Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Saturday, June 10, 2023**  
**Ilio DePaolo's Restaurant**  
**3785 South Park Avenue, Blasdell, NY 14219**

CALL TO ORDER: Lori Robinson, president, called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. with a quorum present.

**OPENING REMARKS**

- Ms. Robinson expressed gratitude to all for attending and pride in all our League does for democracy.
- She also reviewed procedures and rules for the conduct of the meeting.

**APPOINTMENTS**

- Lyle Toohey, parliamentarian
- Nancy DeTine, recorder
- Terri Parks and Ramona Gallagher, committee to review the minutes
- Joyce DiChristina and Amy DiChristina, tellers if needed

**LOCAL PROGRAM**

- The Local Program document was reformatted during 2022-23 and posted to the LWVBN website.
- There are no changes or updates for 2023-24.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- LWVBN devoted its energy to strategic planning and an evaluation of our committee structure, assisted by David Jankowiak, a Buffalo State student, who used the process as a basis for his master's thesis. It was determined that our committee structure should be overhauled to better attract new members, keep all members engaged and provide a roadmap for League leaders.
- With Mr. Jankowiak's recommendations, the board voted to develop a strategic plan, through a process facilitated by JoAnn Boehm, who was in attendance. The Strategic Planning Committee included 16 new and long-term League members.
- Four key strategies were identified:
  - Focus on voting-related issues and taking stands on important issues
  - Connect to more diverse and local communities and organizations
  - Reorganize LWVBN and provide training about how our League works
  - Increase and diversify LWVBN membership.
- The goal is to complete the committee reorganization by September.
- Members' comments and input are welcome.

**APPROVAL OF 2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

- Motion was made by Ramona Gallagher and seconded to dispense with reading of the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes as accepted by a review committee and approved by the board at its September 2022 meeting. The motion was adopted.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

- Terri Parks, treasurer, reported the status of the League as of May 31, 2023, as follows:
  - YTD income: \$ 37,790.09
  - YTD expenses: \$ 30,880.44
  - YTD net income: \$ 6,910.35
  - Total assets: \$111,063.20
- TIAA investment account
  - Total as of June 9, 2023: \$122,502.11
- Ms. Robinson accepted the report to be filed, with thanks to Ms. Parks.

#### PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2023-24

- Amy Witryol, chair, presented the 2023-24 proposed budget, with thanks to Terri Parks.
- The Budget Committee also includes Barbara Gunderson; Shirley Joy; Deborah Shiffner; and Lori Robinson (ex officio).
- There being no questions, and no second required, the committee moved for approval. The budget was adopted as presented.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTIONS

- The 2022-23 Nominating Committee includes Ramona Gallagher, chair; Janet Goodsell, Shirley Joy, Kat Cejka and Terri Parks.
- Ms. Gallagher presented the slate of candidates as follows:
  - Officers and directors, two-year term, 2022-24:
    - President: Lori Robinson
    - Secretary: vacant
    - Directors: Susan Czryny, Barbara Gunderson, Cynthia Havey and Deborah Shiffner
  - Nominating Committee, one-year term, 2023-24:
    - Ramona Gallagher, chair; Amy DiChristina and Rebecca LaCivita
- Ms. Robinson solicited nominations from the floor.
  - For secretary, Terri Parks nominated Nancy DeTine, who accepted.
  - Nominations were closed.
- A motion was made by Ms. Witryol and seconded that the secretary cast one ballot for the uncontested slate as presented. The motion was adopted. The ballot was cast by Ms. DeTine, acting secretary.
- Ms. Robinson offered congratulations and conducted the installation of officers and directors, including:
  - Officers and directors whose term continues until June 2024:
    - Vice president: Marian Deutschman
    - Treasurer: Terri Parks

- Directors: Kat Cejka, Alberta Roman and Amy Moritz

#### DIRECTIONS TO THE BOARD

- Ms. Robinson solicited directions to the board, to be stated orally if desired and then submitted to the recorder in writing.
- Mary Bisson
  - Work to prevent the advantage that incumbents receive for no-shows at candidate forums.
  - Check (with Board of Elections) whether information on registration is correct, because local redistricting may have changed things.
- Timothy Priano
  - For races that only one candidate shows up, we should have the candidate state their opening statement.
  - We must look at Minnesota rules.
- Amy DiChristina
  - Speaker suggestion: Sharon McMahon. Known as “America’s Government Teacher.” May be a good speaker – could do in conjunction with another group. Follow her on Instagram -- @Sharonsays80. Based in Minnesota.
- Alberta Roman, co-chair, Health Care Committee
  - Make spoken/written/public formal support for universal health care – specifically Medicare for All in Congress now and this fall.
    - New York Health Act
  - When we women got legal right to vote, it was due to grassroots support from organizations and states prior to national law.
- Cindy Havey
  - Contacting the Board of Elections about their plan to enhance voter registration in historically underrepresented communities, coordination of voter registration programs in schools, colleges and universities, as prescribed by New York State Election Law.
- Sue Czynny
  - Find ways to combat misinformation and disinformation.
- Lyle Toohey (verbal, not written)
  - Regarding the Strategic Planning Committee, pleased to participate in this incredible group. It is time to take a serious look at where we want to go. As many people as can be involved should share their recommendations. The board and everyone should take this seriously and act on it.

#### DISCUSSION REGARDING CANDIDATE FORUMS

- Mary Croxton from the Chautauqua League commented that Buffalo is not alone in experiencing no-shows for candidate forums. Candidates complain about too many debates, but all want to speak to the media.
- Laura McDade suggested changing League policy to permit candidates whose opponents are absent an opportunity to speak.

- Ms. Robinson will clarify State League policy.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

## **Afternoon Program**

### **WELCOME**

- Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for attending.
- Moment of silence in recognition of League members who died during the past year
  - Jack and Betty Howell
  - Janet Sciolino
  - Joan Bozer
  - Richard Hemann

### **STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY**

- Ms. Robinson thanked Janet Goodsell for identifying two student participants.
- Maria Evancho and Ahrar Akib described their experience, with gratitude to the League.

### **LEE AWARD**

- Honors Long-term commitment to the League with **Energy and Excellence**, as exemplified by Lee Tetkowski, and the late Lee Lambert and Lenore Banks.
- Presented to Ellen Neumaier by Judy Weidemann.

### **JOAN K. BOZER LEADERSHIP AWARD**

- Alan Bozer, Joan's son, described her many contributions to the City of Buffalo and the League.
- Presented to Nancy DeTine by Mr. Bozer.

### **MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK AWARD**

- Presented to Tim Tielman, Executive Director of The Campaign for Greater Buffalo History, Architecture & Culture.
- With technical assistance from Melissa Wischerath, Mr. Tielman made remarks regarding preservation efforts via Zoom.

### **CONCLUSION**

- Ms. Robinson reminded members that renewal notices will be mailed soon.
- She also alerted attendees to upcoming League events.
- With her thanks to all, the program was concluded.

Submitted by:

Nancy DeTine

Recorder

Reviewed by Terri Parks and Ramona Gallagher  
Date: July 3, 2023