

**League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara
Minutes of Board Meeting of February 12, 2024
1272 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209**

Present: Lori Robinson, Amy Moritz, Barbara Gunderson, Timothy Priano, Cindy Havey, Nancy DeTine, Marian Deutschman and, via Zoom, Deborah Shiffner (till 5:30), Susan Czynry (till 5:30), Alberta Roman (till 5:30), Terri Parks and Kat Cejka

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Additions to the agenda

- Ms. Parks asked Ms. Robinson to comment on the planned meeting with Partnership for the Public Good (PPG).
- Ms. Robinson reported that car problems prevented the meeting from taking place; it will be rescheduled.

Approval of minutes

- Ms. Moritz moved to approve the minutes of January 8, 2024; seconded and approved.

Charge to the Nominating Committee

- Ms. Robinson had distributed the document to the board in advance.
- Mr. Priano asked whether positions or individuals were rotating off the board; Ms. Robinson clarified that it is the individuals, but positions in bold type are still needed.
- Ms. Parks questioned inclusion of the Healthcare Committee as this committee does not exist at this point; Ms. Roman explained that it is operating as an exploratory committee; the committee will remain on the charge.

Office manager position

- Ms. Robinson proposed that Bea Havey assist with the TRY brochure, annual appeal and other immediate tasks; she would not be trained on everything at this point, but may be in the future. Ms. Parks moved to engage Bea temporarily for about 10 hours per week at \$18/hour; seconded and approved with one abstention (Ms. Havey, Bea's mother).
- Ms. Robinson has spoken to a couple of recently retired applicants, but they declined after seeing the job description; Ms. Robinson is awaiting their response about why they lost interest.
- After much discussion of full vs. part-time, hourly rate, responsibilities and needs of the League, Ms. Gunderson, Ms. Havey, Mr. Priano and Ms. Parks volunteered to work on a job description, number of hours and budget for the position.

Membership

- Ms. Robinson submitted a membership count of 200 as of January 31, 2024, to the national League; this includes households and lifetime members.

Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority (BMHA) contract

- A new contract has just been signed. All items, including payment, are the same as last year except that LWVBN will conduct two candidate forums rather than just one.
- Nora Mikes will no longer work on BMHA projects; Julie Wise, a new member, will handle commissioner and tenant council elections, along with Ms. Robinson.

Change of April board meeting date

- Because the total eclipse will take place on April 8, the meeting will be moved to Monday, April 15, at 4:30 p.m. at the League office.

Students Inside Albany

- Ms. Robinson reviewed applications from four excellent candidates with Janet Goodsell and Beverly Painter.
- The two students in their senior year were selected; the others, as juniors, can apply again in 2025.
- \$800 is budgeted for two students to attend.
- Ms. Moritz moved to select Pride David and Kimora Hargrave-Berry; seconded and approved.

February 24 members meeting

- The meeting will take place from 10:30 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. at the Saturn Club.
- About 25 people have registered so far; an email will be sent on February 15 to promote attendance.
- Ms. Robinson distributed an agenda.
- Ms. Havey will ask Bea to design posters for sign-up sheets for current League volunteer opportunities.

Making Democracy Work Award

- Nominations are due and should be sent to Ms. Parks.

Campaign for New York Health Workshop

- The event will take place March 16 at the Central Library.
- Ms. Roman will promote as soon as a flyer is received from the state League.

State and national League news

- Six members have signed up for regional training in Rochester on March 2.
- The national convention in Washington, D.C., will begin with a preview event on June 27; the convention itself is June 28-30.
- LWVBN is entitled to four voting delegates; more can attend.
- Registration is \$550; LWVBN has some funds budgeted to offset costs for our delegates.

Questions about monthly reports

- Membership: in March, the Third Thursday Socials will move to evening hours. The March social will take place at Britesmith Brewery in Williamsville; the topic will be the New York State Equal Rights Amendment, which will be on the ballot in November 2024.

Adjournment

- Ms. Moritz moved to adjourn; seconded and approved.
- The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Next meeting: March 11, 2024, 4:30 p.m., 1272 Delaware Avenue

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy DeTine
Secretary