

**League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara
Minutes of Board Meeting of March 11, 2024
1272 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209**

PRESENT: Cindy Havey, Timothy Priano, Lori Robinson, Nancy DeTine, Alberta Roman, Barbara Gunderson, Marian Deutschman and Deborah Shiffner
PRESENT via Zoom: Kat Cejka and Terri Parks; Sue Czynry and Amy Moritz (till 6:00)

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.

Additions to the agenda

- Annual meeting
 - o Mr. Priano suggested the meeting take place at Classics V on Niagara Falls Blvd. on Saturday, June 1, 2024; approved by consensus.
 - o It was suggested that if the luncheon is buffet-style, some members might be asked to help others who may need assistance.
 - o Price and type of service will be decided once cost is obtained. Attendance must number at least 50 people.
- Voice Buffalo
 - o Ms. Gunderson moved to approve a request by Voice Buffalo for a letter of support/recommendation from LWVBN to be included in applications for grants to support the organization's mission; seconded and approved.
 - o Using a template provided by Voice Buffalo, Ms. Gunderson will draft the letter.
 - o Future request from other organizations will require board approval.
- Honor for Joan Bozer
 - o The atrium at the downtown campus of Erie Community College will be dedicated in honor of Joan Bozer, a longtime League and civic leader.
 - o Ms. Bozer's daughter requested that the League be represented at the event on April 18.
 - o There is also an opportunity to sponsor a horse at the Buffalo Carousel, which Ms. Bozer was instrumental in restoring and bringing to Canalside.

Approval of minutes

- Mr. Priano moved to approve the minutes of the board meeting of February 12, 2024; seconded and approved.

Annual appeal

- A new, more colorful and attention-getting format was created for the letter, which will be mailed with minor corrections to members and friends; a return envelope will be included.
- Mr. Priano suggested that the “donate” page on the LWVBN website include donation amounts that appear in the letter as well as a line marked “other.” Ms. Robinson will ask Nora Mikes, who updates our website, to look into this.
- Mr. Priano suggested that a reminder about the annual appeal be included in the regular email blast.
- Volunteers to stuff envelopes will be recruited via email.

Third Thursday Social

- The event on March 21 at Britesmith in Williamsville will feature New York State’s effort to pass the Equal Rights Amendment; inclusive language encompasses elders, people with disabilities and LGBTQ+, as well as women.
- Ms. Robinson was able to have the event listed on the Women’s History Month Calendar issued by the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women.
- Other organizations are interested in attending because of the ERA focus.

Campaign for New York Health Workshop

- Ms. Roman provided an update on the free daylong conference on Saturday, March 16, at the Central Library.
- Topics include medical debt, reproductive health, long-term care, mental health, health care workers and other timely issues.
- Sponsors are listed online and on the LWVBN website.

Committee appointments

- Finance
 - Rebecca LaCivita has resigned.
 - Ms. Robinson moved to appoint Karen Shapiro; seconded and approved.
- Budget
 - Ms. Robinson moved to appoint Mr. Priano to represent the Membership Committee; seconded and approved.

Office manager position changes

- Mr. Priano reported that the ad hoc committee has updated the job description, condensing desired duties from a wish list, and is finalizing the language.
- By consensus, the board agreed that the committee should complete this task.

PPG liaison

- Ms. Parks moved that the board appoint Dr. Therese Warden as an official representative of the League when she assists the Partnership for the Public Good in its efforts related to the Erie County jails and reentry.
- Ms. Parks explained that PPG approached Dr. Warden because of her knowledge and expertise – she led four League studies related to the jails and re-entry in the past, and for many years was an issue specialist for the state League on alternatives to incarceration. She is currently assisting PPG in its efforts as an individual.
- Ms. Parks and Dr. Warden believe LWVBN should “have an official seat at the table” as PPG addresses ongoing issues in county jails.
- After much discussion, the motion was seconded and approved with three “nay” votes.

Making Democracy Work Award

- Ms. Havey moved to give the award to both Tyrell Ford and Jim Anderson; seconded and approved with two abstentions.
- Rather than granting one award as we typically do, the consensus was that naming two honorees would be appropriate because of the importance of this election year and the potential to raise the League’s profile with a younger generation.

State and national League news and actions

- National League convention
 - o LWVBN is entitled to four voting delegates at the convention, June 26-30, 2024, in Washington, D.C.
 - o Ms. Robinson will attend; Mr. Priano, Ms. Roman and Ramona Gallagher are also interested.
 - o The budget includes some funds to support attendance.
- Changes at LWVUS
 - o Ms. Robinson reported that new membership dues and procedures are expected to take effect in January 2025, with significant implications for our 2025-26 budget.
 - o With minimum dues of \$20 per year, anyone can join at whatever amount they want. The national League will retain 33%, the state League will receive 47%, and local Leagues will get 20%. There will be no free student memberships, although LWVBN could cover the \$20 minimum if we want.
 - o To make management easier for local Leagues, membership administration will be handled by LWVUS. Members will receive renewal notices on their anniversary. LWVBN will receive immediate notification and contact information when new members join, as well as names of members who do not renew.
 - o Local Leagues can also have a free website for two years.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Next meeting: April 15, 2024, 4:30 p.m., 1272 Delaware Avenue

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy DeTine
Secretary