

LWVB/N BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 14, 2019
1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209

At 3:30 P.M., President Terri Parks convened the regular monthly Board meeting with a quorum present.
Present: Marian Deutschman, Terri Parks, Nancy DeTine, Elisabeth Zausmer, Lori Robinson, Nora Mikes, Ramona Gallagher, Joan Simmons, Janet Massaro, Ann Converso, Mary Herbst and Office Manager – Mary Ann Turkla (Excused early)
Excused: Shirley Joy and Janet Zehr
Absent: Margaret Brunson
Leave of Absence: Pat Costanzo
Guest: Michelle Perkins Kowalewski

Introduction to Instagram – Michelle Perkins Kowalewski

M. Perkins Kowalewski presented a tutorial of Facebook and Instagram, noting the differences between them and emphasizing how they can be used by LWVBN.

When using social media for League communications, it must be non-partisan.

Additions to the Agenda – T. Parks

Janet Massaro, membership chair asked to elaborate on the Membership Report that was included in the Reports to the Board. She said that about thirty-four people have not renewed their memberships so far and if they do not renew, they “will be dropped from the membership list” as of 1/31/2019.

Announcement – T. Parks

T. Parks signed our one-year lease for another year, noting there has been a small increase in our rent.

Consent Agenda

Board Meeting Minutes, November 12, 2018

Appoint Amy Witryol as budget chair for 2019-2020 budget

Approve submitting Pat Townsend’s name to the West Valley Citizen Task Force to represent LWVBN

Motion made by R. Gallagher and seconded to approve the items of the consent agenda

Motion approved

Q&A about Board Reports – T. Parks

R. Gallagher asked for clarification regarding the number of membership badges left in the office. The policy has now been changed to ask new members if they would like a badge.

Issues/Action Committee Legislative Priorities – M. Deutschman and T. Parks

A Discussion of LWVNYS program recommendations was included in the Summary of January 8, 2019 Issues Meeting.

T. Parks circulated a 2-sided sheet with our legislative priorities from 2018, some of which are being voted on in the legislature today. Other suggestions from board members included a single payer health system, safe staffing in hospitals and nursing homes and reproductive rights.

Motion made by A. Converso and seconded that all last years’ priorities that do not get passed today in the legislature on our 2-sided sheet will remain a priority. We will add single payer, safe staffing and reproductive rights. Motion approved.

Board members felt that we shouldn’t forward the “Strict Limits on Outside Income” from 2018 without further information.

T. Parks will write up our recommendations and send them to LWVNYS.

Issues/Action Committee – M. Deutschman

The January program was a success with a large number of attendees. Some stayed for the lunch and others came for the program only. To facilitate planning, we are now asking for reservations by email with payment in advance if they are staying for lunch, rather than by calling the office. Since some attendees come for the program only and others come for the program with lunch, seating can be a problem. With this as a consideration, whether to have the lunch or speaker first will be decided at a future time.

Reminder – A. Converso has an advocacy training program scheduled for February 9 from 10:00 A.M. to noon at Harlem Road Community Center.

League Communications – N. DeTine

N. DeTine, communications chair, reminded the Board to send information to her for editing for media, press releases, Facebook posts and the *Voter* when planning program/events in a timely manner. If printed material such as flyers are needed, details needs to be sent six weeks in advance to the communications chair.

Volunteers for MLD conference calls with Lisa Scott – T. Parks

M. Deutschman, R. Gallagher, E. Zausmer, N. DeTine and J. Simmons volunteered to be on the calls this year. T. Parks will alert Lisa Scott.

Quarterly Treasurer’s Report – L. Robinson

The League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara, Inc. Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2018 and the Income Expense Report 2018-2019 YTD Total and 2018-2019 Budget were sent to the Board prior to the meeting. L. Robinson reported that we are doing well.

Treasurer’s Report – December 31,2018

Previous Asset Balance 9/30/2018:	\$ 106,227.86
Total Income:	39,364.10
Total Expenses:	18,388.99
Net Change in Equity:	7, 357.85
Total Assets:	113,585.71
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)	20,975.11

The Treasurer’s Report was received for filing.

Outreach for Civic Education and Engagement – E. Zausmer

E. Zausmer informed the Board about the plans for the Board Retreat in March. She has listed six individuals as potential facilitators for the Retreat and if they are available in March. R. Gallagher and E. Zausmer have an appointment to meet with one of them to discuss how she may help with our goals as we move forward. E. Zausmer offered to email a proposal from another potential facilitator to the Board and to send other pertinent information as it becomes available. We will incur expenses for this retreat. L. Robinson suggested a total amount of \$500. The board will need to approve the retreat budget.

An Afternoon with Eleanor – R. Gallagher and M. Herbst

Details for the centennial celebration had been emailed to the Board prior to the meeting. It was decided to table the Board decision regarding approval of costs until the February Board meeting.

Adjournment – There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 P.M.

Next board meeting is Monday, February 11, 2019 at 3:30 P.M.

Submitted by Mary Herbst
Secretary

Filed with the Minutes: Monthly Reports to the Board, Summary of Issues Meeting, Summary of Local Government Meeting, League of Women Voters Buffalo/ Niagara, Inc. Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2018, LWVB/N Income Expense Report 2018-2019 YTD Total and 2018-2019 Budget, Final Comments on DOE Proposal on the Interpretation of HLRW 12/21 2018, LWVBN Comments to ECHDC 12/23/2018 and Centennial Celebration Committee Report to the Board