

League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York  
March 9, 2020 - 4:15 PM

**Present:** Ramona Gallagher, Marian Deutschman, Nancy DeTine, Shirley Joy, Terri Parks, Lori Robinson, Liz Zausmer, Nora Mikes

**Office Manager:** Barbara Gunderson

**Excused:** Susan Dombrowski, Tina Prygon

**Call to Order:** A quorum present, President T. Parks called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM. T. Parks explained that at 3:30 PM, prior to the Board meeting, an open meeting was held to consider approval of a concurrence recommended by the LWVUS concerning its position regarding electoral systems at each level of government. Janet Massaro, Chair of the Money in Politics Committee, gave an overview and background of the proposal citing pros and cons. All LWVBN members were invited to attend the meeting prior to the Board meeting, after which, all members present agreed to the concurrence. T. Parks noted this for the record and the consensus of the Board was to approve the concurrence for consideration at the LWVUS 2020 Convention in June 2020. (See attached copy of the Proposed Position).

**Addition to the Agenda:** T. Parks asked if any Board members present were interested in being delegates to the national convention. R. Gallagher and S. Joseph indicated interest. The April Voter will invite League members to express their interest. Barbara Gunderson has already indicated interest. (Hotel information is noted at the bottom of the agenda).

**Consent Agenda: Motion** made by R. Gallagher and seconded to approve the consent agenda consisting of approval of the February 10, 2020 Board Minutes. **Motion adopted.**

**Board Reports:** There were no questions/answers about Board Reports except to insert the cost of \$30 for non-members/guests for the annual meeting in the Issues Report.

**Voters Guide Steering Committee Recommendations for 2020:** T. Parks reported comments and recommendations from the committee. Considerable discussion ensued as to whether or not the LWVBN should continue printing a Voters' Guide. **Motion** made by T. Parks, on behalf of the committee; no second required, that "The committee recommends we cease publication of the printed version of the Voters' Guide and promote Vote411.org widely." **Motion adopted.** One suggestion made was to contact all the delivery sites with posters to display directing voters to the Vote411 site.

**Report from the Bylaw Revision Committee:** T. Parks and R. Gallagher presented the proposed draft revisions to the current bylaws prepared by Lyle Toohey, Chair of the Bylaw Committee. Considerable discussion and tweaking followed concerning Articles IV, Officers; Article V, Board of Directors; Article VI, Committees; Article VII, Units;

Article VIII, Meetings; Article IX, Nominations and Elections and Article X, Program. T. Parks will prepare a new draft highlighting all suggested revisions with related rationale for final review at the April meeting.

**Voter Registration Plans from GOTV Committee:** L. Zausmer and B. Gunderson presented several creative ideas and materials they have developed to enhance get out the vote efforts. These will require purchase of various materials to implement. They were asked to prepare a budget including the materials needed and detailing costs for consideration by the Board. Board members indicated support for the efforts of the committee.

**Draft of Annual Appeal Letter:** T. Parks presented a draft letter which will be mailed to the membership soliciting contributions celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ratification of the right to vote for women. She asked board members to review the letter and send suggested changes/additions re the content to her or Nancy DeTine for consideration.

**Selection of Making Democracy Work Awardee:** T. Parks sent the Board forms received nominating Aaron Bartley, PUSH Buffalo, and Mary Jean Jakubowski, Director, Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, for this award. Both are excellent candidates. **Motion** made by Nancy DeTine and seconded, “that Aaron Bartley of PUSH Buffalo receive the Making Democracy Work Award.” **Motion** adopted. The nomination of Mary Jane Jakubowski will be held until next year.

**Distribution of TRY for Delivery:** T. Parks advised that Barbara Gunderson had all the packets of brochures available after the meeting for those willing to deliver them to various locations.

All required business having been concluded, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM. President Parks asked Board members to return the board meeting assessment form to her.

The next board meeting is Monday, April 13, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Ramona L., Gallagher  
Ramona L. Gallagher  
Acting Secretary

