

League of Woman Voters of Buffalo/Niagara  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
July 11, 2020 – 4:00 p.m. via Zoom

**Present:** Alberta Roman, Susan Dombrowski, Terri Parks, Nora Mikes, Shirley Joy, Marian Deutschman, Mary Ann Turkla, Rebecca LaCivita, Lori Robinson, Liz Zausmer, Nancy DeTine

**Guest:** Barbara Gunderson

**Excused:**

**Call to Order:** A quorum being present, President Terri Parks called the meeting to order at 4:08 P.M. T. Parks thanked all the members for making time and effort to attend this Zoom meeting.

**LWVUS Attendee Reports:** Attendees B. Gunderson, S Joy, L. Robinson, reported that the virtual 2020 Convention was not only worthwhile but inspiring. Ramona Gallagher and B. Gunderson provided the Board with their observations through email. Most of the speakers and presentations are available at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). We encourage board members to take time to view them.

**Consent Agenda: ( \* additions )**

A: Minutes from the May 2020 Board Meeting and the 2020 Annual Meeting

B: Finance Committee members Pat Costanzo and Deborah Shiffner

\*Chair, Lori Robinson

C. Program, Issues & Events Committee Chair, Marian Deutschman

D. Advocacy Chair, Ramona Gallagher

E. Communications and Public Relations Chair, Nancy DeTine

F: Outreach for Civic Education and Engagement Chair and Get Out The Vote (GOTV) Steering Committee Chair, Liz Zausmer

G: Voter Service Chair, Barbara Gunderson

H: Naturalization Ceremonies Volunteer Coordinator, Deborah Schiffner

I: Election Services Chair, Alan Dozoretz

J: BMHA Tenet Commissioner's Election Coordinator, Nora Mikes

K: Voter Registration Volunteer Coordinator: Patti Meyer Lee and Liz McGough

L: Election to Exclude Unsalaries Executive Officers from Compensation Motion:

The League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara Inc., elects to exclude the unsalaried officers named below from coverage under New York State Workers' Compensation Law with respect to all the policies issued to the corporation by the New York State Insurance Fund:

President – Terri Parks

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Nancy DeTine

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President- Marian Deutschman

Secretary- Susan Dombrowski

Treasurer – Shirley Joy

\*M: Membership Committee Co-chairs, Lori Robinson and Mary Ann Turkla  
\*N: New York State League Position on Health Funding Update Coordinator, Alberta Roman

Motion made by Liz Zausmer that the Consent Agenda items A-N be adopted. L. Robinson seconded. Consent agenda unanimously adopted.

**Year End Treasurer's Report:** As reported by L. Robinson, the LWVB/N finished the year in much the same position as last year despite the market volatility. Membership renewals are coming in and donations from members with their renewals are greater than last year. S. Joy concurred that we were in a good place all things considered. Uncertainties remain about future expenditures, such as physical office space. BMHA income may be in jeopardy due to COVID 19.

**Office Opening:** T. Parks furnished all members of the board with NYS guidelines and the necessary plan application for reopening. The office has to be professionally cleaned. Discussion concerning the need for a physical office space or should we consider going totally virtual? The discussion included:

- the need to consider removal of broken furniture
- removal of dirty and worn carpeting
- obtaining adequate window coverings
- air conditioning concerns
- filing cabinet contents review
- shredding
- sorting and disposition-materials stored in the attic and cupboard at the office
- review and disposition of material from East Aurora Unit (50 boxes)

We need to consider hiring a new office manager due to the resignation of B. Gunderson. B. Gunderson will continue to assist with the transition and reopening of the office. Her resignation will not impact on her committee work. She set December 31, 2020 as her last date of employment.

T. Parks will contact Ramona Gallagher about the attic achieve project to see how we can move that objective forward. She will contact The Network of Religious Communities again, and obtain information on their plans to reopen, and our concerns about the office.

These people have volunteered to work with the physical issues related to the office with T. Parks: B. Gunderson, L. Robinson, Mary Ann Turkla.

Hiring of a new office manager will be coordinated by the Office Manager Transition Committee with T. Parks: R. LaCivita, L. Robinson

**New Committee:** The need for a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee was presented by Liz Zausmer. The committee is an excellent vehicle to tie the aims and

goals of the LWVB/N together and turn them into directed action. We need to reach out to other individuals and groups in our area and join with them and invite them to join with us. This ties in with the Harvard Case Study Training and compliments our education and voter outreach efforts. There will be many opportunities for input and to receive training. We have already received a \$500 grant to work in this area because L. Zausmer is taking the training and is completing an action plan. She has volunteered to form a committee and take the lead for this effort. L. Zausmer will send an email to the membership inviting them to join this topical committee.

**Ghosting the News:** S. Dombrowski withdrew her request that the LWVB/N purchase a quantity of Margaret Sullivan's signed book. All members are encouraged to attend the August 27<sup>th</sup> 5:30 appearance at Larkin Square.

**GOTV Committee:** B. Gunderson and Mary Ann Turkla reviewed the major projects under consideration but still largely unfunded. Mary Ann Turkla made the motion that the LWVB/N approve an amount not to exceed \$4500, for 15 bus tail signs and 2 bus queen signs to urge people to vote in the November election. L. Robinson seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

B. Gunderson will contact point person at Lamar Advertising for 17 signs for 2 months. S. Dombrowski will submit another grant request to the LWVNY. T. Parks will reach out to M&T Bank Foundation. Liz Zausmer has ideas about other groups we have worked with who might wish to join our effort and help defray costs. S. Dombrowski and L. Robinson pledged a total of \$550 to the project.

**Executive Committee Action:** With unanimous committee approval, the League signed on to a letter from our Outer Harbor Coalition to the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation that addressed several concerns related to safety and health, access, and fragile habitat, and offered suggestions for interpretive signs.

**Board Orientation:** Zoom meeting for the annual board orientation was set for Monday July 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. A. Roman, S. Dombrowski, T. Parks (host) R. LaCivita, Mary Ann Turkla, and Lori Robinson have currently committed to attend. All are invited.

All business having been concluded, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Next Board meeting is August 10, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. by Zoom.

Submitted by Susan Dombrowski  
Secretary