

**League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara  
Minutes of Board Meeting of April 15, 2024  
1272 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209**

PRESENT: Timothy Priano, Barbara Gunderson, Cindy Havey, Lori Robinson, Nancy DeTine, Marian Deutschman, Deborah Shiffner and Terri Parks; via Zoom: Alberta Roman; Amy Moritz (left at 5:00 due to technical difficulties)  
EXCUSED: Susan Czynry and Kat Cejka

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order at 4:32

Additions to the agenda

- The Executive Committee approved via email LWVBN's \$1,000 Grand Benefactor sponsorship of the ceremony dedicating the Joan Bozer Atrium at SUNY Erie Community College on April 18.
- A request to sign a memorandum of support urging passage of the NY HEAT Act by the New York State Assembly was approved by consensus. The act has already been passed by the State Senate.
- Ms. DeTine moved that LWVBN co-sponsor AAUW's September 2024 program How to Be a Better-Informed Voter; seconded and approved. Ms. Deutschman noted that additional programs are available for sponsorship.
- Ms. Deutschman informed the board about AAUW's program on Weather in a Warming World on April 18 at The Columns.
- Ms. DeTine moved to distribute a brief survey of members at the annual meeting on June 1; seconded and approved. Ms. DeTine will create the survey, which will ask members about the best ways to communicate with them (Voter, email, socials, text, etc.); what programs they would like LWVBN to present; what other organizations they think LWVBN should work with; and what committees and/or activities they would like to participate in.
- Ms. Parks expressed gratitude to members for their kindness and attendance at the wake and funeral of her husband.
- Since Great Decisions was the only article submitted, Ms. Parks proposed that we not publish the Voter in May and produce only the call to the annual meeting booklet; approved by consensus.
- Ms. Roman informed the board that mental health first aid training is available online through NAMI; Ms. Roman can communicate this education opportunity via the Communication Committee's regular email to members.

Discussion on LWVBN programming

- Ms. Shiffner expressed concern about the lack of programs this year. While co-sponsorships are good, it is important to involve members who may not attend such events.
- Ms. Robinson suggested rejuvenating the PIE Committee (Programs, Issues and Events), or creating another committee or mechanism to plan programs.
- Mr. Priano made several suggestions: conducting quarterly meetings with speakers; adding an educational component to Third Thursday Socials and holding them at such diverse locations as the Underground Railroad, Urban Roots, and the Carousel at Canalside; writing follow-up Voter articles on speakers and events; and using the member survey to be conducted at the annual meeting to gauge interest.

#### Approval of minutes

- Ms. Parks moved to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2024, board meeting; seconded and approved.

#### Annual appeal update

- Ms. Robinson reported the response has been limited so far.
- Of 495 letters sent, many have been returned because of a wrong address; an office manager would be responsible for updating our database regularly.
- Database updates could also be a special project for Bea Havey; Cindy Havey's husband has volunteered assistance with the database because it is difficult to access.
- Postage cost about \$200; printing was free as a thank-you gift from Advanced Graphics.

#### Quarterly financial report

- Ms. Parks presented a review of LWVBN's quarterly financial report and balance sheet.
- Report was received for filing with no questions.

#### Finance Committee report

- Caren Shapiro has been added as a new member.
- The committee recommends that LWVBN continue its current investment strategy. The committee also recommends transferring \$4,000 from our money market account to checking to cover expenses, per our usual practice.
- Motion from the committee was seconded and approved.

#### Nominating Committee

- Ramona Gallagher, chair, offered thanks to the committee members for their participation and good discussions, and to the board for its confidence.

- Ms. Gallagher noted that more candidates stepped forward than could be elected. Therefore the committee recommends that the new board consider appointing additional members.
- Ms. Gallagher presented the 2024-25 slate to be elected at the annual meeting on June 1, 2024:
  - o For a two-year term beginning June 2024:
    - Vice president, Marian Deutschman
    - Treasurer, Terri Parks
    - Board members, Timothy Priano, Alberta Roman and Fatima Zohra Slimani
  - o For the Nominating Committee, a one-year term beginning June 2024:
    - Chair, Ms. Gallagher
    - Members, Amy DiChristina and Amy Moritz

#### 2024-25 budget

- Ms. Robinson presented the budget to be submitted to the membership at the annual meeting on June 1, 2024, reviewed line items and answered questions.
- Approved.

#### Discussion of strategic plan

- Questions were raised about the planning process, status and next steps.
- Ms. Shiffner emphasized the need for program planning.
- Some tasks assigned to teams have not been completed; “hot topics” is one such example.
- The board should consider simplifying the process for forming committees.

#### Annual meeting

- A sit-down luncheon will be served; attendees will choose from four menu items, including one vegetarian.
- Cost will be \$35 for members, \$40 for guests.
- Bea Havey will create the reservation form.

#### July board meeting

- The first meeting of the new board will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, July 15, and will include an orientation.

#### State and national League news and actions

- Ms. Gunderson moved to appoint the following delegates to the LWVUS convention in Washington, D.C., June 26-30, 2024; seconded and approved.
  - o In person: Ms. Robinson, Ms. Gallagher and Mr. Priano
  - o Via Zoom: Ms. Parks

Adjournment

- With all business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Next meeting: May 13, 2024, 4:30 p.m., 1272 Delaware Avenue

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy DeTine  
Secretary