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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NATICK
Minutes of Board Meeting
OCTOBER 11, 2005
NATICK POLICE DEPARTMENT, COMMUNITY ROOM

Attendees:

Members: Mary Avalos, Tina Kruczynski, Moira Munns, Lucia Frenkel, Ken Del Papa, Laura Senier, Maria Waller

Absent Member: Terry Miller

Maria called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Maria thanked Laura Senier, Moira Munns and Joan Craig for organizing the documentary on Breast Cancer held at TCAN.

Welcome, Review and Status of Minutes: September 13, 2005:

Minutes were approved with minor changes to page 2.

Treasurer's Report: Ken is still working on the mysterious \$40 withdrawal from the account. The Bank is sure it is their mistake. Dues (\$1,454.75) have been paid to the State LWV. \$58 has been paid for the PO Box. There is a \$1 key deposit. Ken deposited \$582.75 earned from Natick Days. \$75 was earned from the bake sale. Mary is holding the cash box with \$30 in it. There was discussion of the National LWV dues bill and why it is more than we expected. It's expected that half be paid now. Lucia will let Ken know the membership numbers that we reported back in February, and then he'll pay the bill.

A questionnaire came with the Natick Days check. Maria will fill it out and return it.

\$150 was generated from the letter writing campaign to non-members. \$250 was generated from the members' letter writing campaign. This was not anticipated. Maria will write thank you notes to the 3 non-members who sent in donations. Let's not forget to include them in future LWV events.

A question came up whether we should hold more fundraisers. Discussion tabled.

There was discussion of subsidized membership dues. Do members know they can ask for a dues subsidy? Lucia said we were going to let members know for the next year because we wanted to build up the fund first.

New and Continuing Business:

New Mailbox and Keys: The 2 keys were given to Ken and Maria.

League of Women Voters of Natick
PO Box 468
Natick, MA 01760

Newsletter format and frequency (Laura): There was discussion of how often and the nature of future newsletters. In the past we've produced 2 newsletters via email. Laura is sure the newsletters are not all getting to their destinations. Shall we produce them more often? Shall we produce them in paper version? Laura brought in samples from other Leagues. The Board decided to produce the newsletters October 1, January 1 and March 1, and to send it to members who have renewed. Members who have not renewed would only receive the October 1. The Board also liked giving the

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members the option to opt out of the paper copy, and remind them that they can also read the newsletter on the website, in addition to Laura sending it to them via email.

3 mailings to all of the membership costs: \$150

3 mailings to members who have renewed: \$80

A new section of the newsletter will be called, "Meet your Board Member". Laura will interview each member to discuss what it is we do on the Board.

The new title is "The Outlook". This is the name of a Natick newsletter from 1973.

Stationery (Mary): After some research, Mary reported that the best deal is from the State LWV. \$65 for 500 sheets and \$65 for 500 envelopes. Natick Center graphics would match the big copy centers, which were a lot more expensive. Mary will check into RPJ's costs. She will order 500 sheets, and 100 envelopes. She'll look into address labels and order 80-100. The Board gave Mary "carte blanche" to make a decision on her own without Board approval.

Fall LWV Conference – October 22, 2005: Laura (the only member) will attend and report back later.

Fair Districts for Fair Elections Initiative Petition is sponsored by many organizations. It will change the Massachusetts' Constitution. Maria received an email from a member of the Newton LWV. The petition is approved by Common Cause and the State LWV. The Board discussed whether we want to help pass the petition. The Board expressed no interest at this time.

Program Calendar:

Proposed November Civic Fair (Town Open House): Possible date is Monday, November 14 at the Morse Institute Library. The Selectmen have endorsed the Open House. There will be representatives from various town boards and committees: the town clerk, town moderator, school committee, and the selectmen, etc. Citizens are invited to voice their opinions and find out how to get involved in town government. The event will be advertised in local media and brochures will be given out. There was discussion as to what the LWV would be called upon to do to. Moira is not sure exactly what the League's role would be. Since our role is not yet defined, we will only endorse it to our members and not to the public. Moira will find out more information about the LWV's specific role, and canvas the Board before the next Board Meeting.

Proposed November Social Event on (November 17?): This is a "get to know you better" membership social, in light of the membership "phone tree". There was discussion of ideas such as a wine tasting, or a coffee hour with a speaker. A decision was made to come up with something "concrete". Mary will look into a night out at the front room at the Nicholas Restaurant to hold a social event. There was also discussion of combining the social event with the January business meeting.

January membership meeting: We will try to schedule the meeting at the Library, and invite legislators: David Linsky, Karen Spilka, Alice Peisch and Scott Brown. Moira and Laura will split up calling to feel them out. The Board will still have the holiday dinner gathering, but throw it open to the membership.

February/March Candidate Forum: There is a potential primary on February 28, and the election is on March 28. We need to hold the forums 2 weeks prior to the election. Potential dates are Wednesday, March 15 at the Library, and Monday, March 20 at the Senior Center. Moira will check with the Senior Center and the Library, in addition to the Primary Forum dates: Wednesday, February 15 at the Library and February 17 at the Senior Center.

NHS Voter Registration Drive: Moira is aiming for late Spring.

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Discussion – Contacting and Engaging our Membership: Phone Tree: Mary suggested using the Fall Conference as an opener. Lucia will email us our members to contact next week.

Other ideas: social event, lecture series, letter writing observer corps...

The next Board Meeting is November 8, 2005 @ 7:30pm at the Police Department Community Room. No decision made if we will hold a meeting on December 13.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Tina Kruczynski, Secretary