

**League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara
Minutes of Board Meeting of January 8, 2024
1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209**

Present: Lori Robinson, Deborah Shiffner, Susan Czynry, Cindy Havey, Nancy DeTine, Marian Deutschman, Barbara Gunderson, Timothy Priano; via Zoom: Alberta Roman, Terri Parks, Kat Cejka (until 5:30)

Excused: Amy Moritz

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

Additions to the agenda

- Ms. Parks suggested that LWVBN partner with the Partnership for Public Good (PPG). All that's involved is to have LWVBN be listed as a partner, and PPG's mission and principles align with ours. Ms. Gunderson moved that LWVBN partner with PPG; seconded and approved.

Minutes of board meeting of November 13, 2023

- Mr. Priano moved to approve the minutes; seconded and approved.

Finance Committee

- Ms. Shiffner presented the committee's report.
- In November, the board approved moving capital gains and dividends of the fourth quarter of 2023 into a money market account at a high interest rate; these funds would remain in the account until needed; at 12/15 approximately \$11,000 was deposited in the money market account at 4% interest. The committee will continue to monitor the account.
- The committee moved to approve reinvestment of dividends into the respective funds; seconded and approved.

Budget Committee chair

- Patrice Hannotte has been proposed to chair the Budget Committee, which is required to be an off-board position. A competent professional, she has been active with the Voter Services Committee.
- Ms. Parks moved to approve Ms. Hannotte as chair of the Budget Committee; seconded and approved.

Quarterly financial reports

- Ms. Parks presented the reports, which were received and filed.
- Regarding the profit and loss statement

- o Although the membership renewal letter has been sent to everyone who has not renewed since 2018, renewals are still behind.
- o Mr. Priano requested a list of non-renewals and will reach out to them personally; several board members volunteered to make phone calls.
- o Mr. Priano also suggested asking key questions to determine reasons for non-renewal. Ms. Czynny pointed out that membership is down in many not-for-profits, not just the League, and that cost may be an issue, as well as time and perceived return on investment. Knowing why members don't renew should help with other ideas, such as programming.
- o Ms. Parks pointed out the need to start working on the annual appeal.
- Regarding the balance sheet
 - o Ms. Parks noted that we have a good balance.
 - o BMHA is behind on payments; invoices have been sent.
 - o Under expenses, the \$176 cash reward on our credit card will be credited to the bank charges line.

Further discussion of annual appeal

- Mr. Priano proposed trying new tactics this year.
- Suggestions:
 - o Asking for donations in honor of mothers, grandmothers, aunts, etc., who have worked to build LWVBN.
 - o Asking people to donate in honor of people who have worked to further democracy.
 - o Listing donors' names on our website and/or in the Voter.
- Ms. Robinson, Mr. Priano, Ms. Moritz and Ms. DeTine will work on a letter, which should be approved by the Executive Committee.
- The goal is to mail the letter by March 31.

Healthcare Committee proposal

- Ms. Roman previously submitted a revised proposal to the Executive Committee.
- Since the Executive Committee should approve the proposal before it is brought to the board, approval is tabled.
- Ms. Robinson will arrange a meeting for this purpose.

WORKTOWIN2024

- This event at Unitarian Universalist Church on Elmwood Avenue in Buffalo will take place from 2 till 5 p.m. on April 13, 2024. Organizations working to encourage voter turnout for the 2024 election will have tables with information. There will also be games, raffles, refreshments, entertainment, etc.

- Some concern regarding the progressive nature of participating organizations was expressed. Ms. DeTine suggested posting a large sign on LWVBN's table stressing that the League is non-partisan and never endorses political parties or candidates.
- Ms. Gunderson moved that LWVBN reserve a table at \$25; seconded and approved.
- LWVBN will have an opportunity to register voters.

Members meeting

- The meeting will take place from 10:30 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. in the Founders Room at the Saturn Club on February 24.
- Breakfast and lunch will be provided.
- The agenda appears in the January-February Voter.

Campaign for New York Health workshop

- LWVBN is helping to organize this free event at the Central Library on March 16, along with LWVNY and The Campaign for New York Health.
- The theme of the workshop is Healthcare and Racial Justice.
- Panels are still being developed; Ms. Roman requested that any speaker suggestions be sent to her.
- Ms. Roman moved that LWVBN participate as an advertising sponsor, with our logo on promotional material; seconded and approved.

LWV State and National news and actions

- Ms. Robinson emailed a survey LWVNY is conducting regarding legislative priorities. So far, 32 responses have been received.
- LWVBN is also working with LWVNY on program planning; this will be a topic for discussion at the February 24 members meeting.

Q & A about monthly reports and other issues

- Ms. Parks pointed out that PPG has made jail conditions one of its priorities. Since LWVBN gathered valuable relevant information on this issue in 2012, she suggests that the League offer to participate in this effort. Ms. Robinson will discuss with PPG at a planned meeting.

Adjournment

- Ms. Havey moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded and approved.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Next meeting: February 12, 2024, 4:30 p.m., 1272 Delaware Avenue

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy DeTine
Secretary