



League of Women Voters of Newton 2020 Annual Workbook

Annual Meeting

June 14, 2020

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Virtual

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAud-CrrDMrHdwhlgAz6wRhuwHHP5_KmCPk

After registering, you will receive a email confirmation containing a link to join the meeting.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Business Meeting	4:00 PM
Call to Order	Johnson
Appointment of Parliamentarian	Johnson
Vote to Approve Proposed Annual Meeting Rules	Johnson
Report of the Committee to Approve 2019 Minutes	Dolan
Appointment of Committee to Approve 2020 Minutes	Johnson
Presidents' Report [3-5 minutes]	Johnson
Treasurer's Report	Kozinetz
Presentation of Program [15 minutes]	Johnson
Adoption of Program	Johnson
Adoption of Revised Bylaws [30 minutes]	Dweck
Presentation of 2020-2021 Budget	H. Johnson/Kozinetz
Adoption of 2020-2021 Budget	H. Johnson/Kozinetz
Nominating Committee Report	Green
Election of Officers and Directors	Johnson
Member Direction to the Board [15 minutes]	All
Adjournment 6:00 PM	

Proposed rules for Annual Meeting: During debate on a motion, no member may speak more than once to that motion until all others who wish to speak have done so. After the original presentation, debate shall be limited to two minutes for each speaker.

PROPOSED PROGRAM 2020-2021

(Issues for Study and Action)

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Newton recommends adoption of the following program for 2020-2021:

1. All program positions approved by the membership at the June 2020 Annual Meeting and listed on lwvnewton.org/action/lwvn-program-and-positions.
2. Continuation of outreach, observation, education, and advocacy regarding changes to the Newton City Charter.

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Newton recommends the following local action priorities for 2020-2021:

- 1. CPA: Review CPA (Community Preservation Act) applications.** It is our intent to place a greater focus on CPA proposals and establish a more flexible and consistent methodology in how we accomplish this goal. In addition, the League will review how CPA funds are being utilized by the city in relation to the purpose and intent of the Community Preservation Act.
- 2. Observer Corps:** Expand our Observer Corps.
- 3. Municipal Finance** (chairperson needed)
 - a) Review the municipal budget to show how the City is obtaining, spending, and investing funds
 - b) Educate the community about how the Mayor's office and the Finance Committee of the City Council set priorities and how the decision model impacts budget decisions.
 - c) Engage members and inform Board on issues related to LWVN municipal finance positions.
- 4. Education**
 - a) Build on the successful efforts of our 2020 Civics Challenge by organizing and promoting community-wide civics challenges annually. The goals of the civics challenges are to foster a greater understanding of government, increase voter participation and engagement, and build community on a non-partisan basis.
 - b) Explore the possibility of a civics challenge oriented around the secondary schools which would have the added benefit of educating our younger citizens about their civic responsibilities, preparing them for their roles as future voters, and encouraging greater civic engagement.
 - c) Engage members and inform the Board on local, state, and national education positions related to goals of the League.
- 5. Environmental Issues and Transportation**
 - a) Support reducing vehicle miles traveled with transit-oriented development, improvements in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and in public transit.
 - b) Support reducing pollution from transportation.

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- c) Support transition to sustainable energy, i.e. minimize reliance on the gas grid, detect and repair gas leaks, insulate more buildings, and mandate electrification of new buildings.
- d) Educate and update our community on issues related to trash and recycling.
- e) Lobby for environmental legislation with other local Leagues and grassroots organizations.
- f) Hold educational forums on environmental and transportation issues.

6. Elections

- a) Attend meetings of the Newton Election Commissioners.
- b) Help to publicize new early voting options.
- c) Hold a poll workers' party to thank the workers after the municipal election.
- d) Work to ensure transparency regarding the work of the commission.

7. Voter Service

- a) Organize and manage forums for contested state offices in the 2020 election. We will partner with NewTV to continue updating our approach and incorporate technology into the format.
- b) Continue efforts to register new voters through attendance at various events around Newton, including the Farmer's Markets, village days, high school, and college events.
- c) Create opportunities to help people to engage in issues and advocacy at local, state, and national levels, e.g. voting by mail, shortening the registration deadline to 10 days before the election, pushing forward more early voting options for all elections, removing all barriers for absentee voting, etc.

8. Land Use and Housing Committee

- a) Champion local zoning reform in harmony with established local, state, and national League positions.
- b) Work with city officials to ensure transparency and effectiveness relative to the establishment and implementation of Newton's Inclusionary Zoning lotteries to ensure that the disadvantaged communities have equal access to affordable housing.
- c) Stay informed of local land use and housing proposals, be prepared to make comments, ask questions, support, or oppose according to LWV positions.
- d) Examine and work with the state League to support state level housing and zoning legislation.
- e) Assess effectiveness and relevance of LWVN housing and land use positions.

BYLAWS REVISIONS

The last time our bylaws were amended was in June of 2014. The Board of Directors thought it prudent to review our existing bylaws and make recommendations for changes to the bylaws to better reflect the way LWVN currently operates and to account for the need to provide for electronic meetings.

The following is a summary of the changes the Board, by unanimous vote, recommends be made to the bylaws. This summary does not include certain grammatical changes, changes to defined terms, or other minor changes inconsequential to the intent of the bylaws.

In addition to reading the summary below, we encourage you to read through the entire set of bylaws included in this workbook as Appendix A. To help you further understand all changes that have been made, we have also made available a red-lined copy of the bylaws which tracks all the changes made from the current bylaws to the revised bylaws the Board proposes be approved. That can be viewed at: <https://lwnnewton.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Red-Lined-Copy-of-Proposed-Revisions-to-Bylaws-of-the-LWVN.pdf>.

Summary of Recommended Bylaws Changes

1. Membership Eligibility. The eligibility requirements for membership in the LWVN should be changed from “citizens at least 18 years of age” to “persons at least 16 years of age”. This aligns with changes to the LWVMA and LWVUS bylaws.

2. Officers.

- Include an option for a **Steering Committee** in the event a President has not been identified.
- Vice President: Change the **number of vice presidents** from “two or three” to “**one or more**”
- Clerk: **Eliminate** the more detailed requirements for the maintaining and archiving of organizational documents. These practices should, instead, be made a policy of the organization, not provisions of the bylaws.
- Include a new provision which allows a temporary clerk to be appointed to record meeting minutes in the event the Clerk is absent from a meeting.
- Treasurer: Eliminate “or duly appointed assistant”. While we may choose to have someone assist the Treasurer, the ultimate responsibility for performing the duties of the Treasurer falls on the person who is elected by the members at the Annual Meeting, not an unelected assistant.

3. Board of Directors.

- Change the **number of elected directors** from “ten” to “**up to ten**”. This ensures that we don’t violate the bylaws if we fail to recruit ten directors.
- Change the number of **appointed directors** from “not more than ten”, to “up to ten”.
- Eliminate the requirement that the resignation of a director needs to be voted on by the board. Instead, require only that they submit notice of the resignation.
- Change the number of directors needed to call a special meeting of the board from five to one-third of the members of the board.
- Include a new provision which permits **meetings** of the board **to occur electronically**.

- Broaden the kinds of **business that can be conducted by the board via email**. Currently the bylaws only allow “public letters or statements to be issued on behalf of LWVN” to be approved electronically. We suggest changing that to include any **action between meetings of the board that the president deems necessary**.
- Redefine the executive committee as constituting the officers and any person the president may deem necessary.

4. Financial Administration.

- No longer require dues to be payable on September 1, but instead to be payable “annually as determined by the board of directors”. Specifics regarding the payment of dues can be included in the policies of the organization, rather than the bylaws.
- Add a section on dissolution of the organization. This mirrors dissolution provisions in LWVMA bylaws.
- Simplify the requirements for the financial review of the books of the organization.

5. Meetings of the Membership.

- Change the date on which the **annual meeting** can occur from between April 15 - June 15, to between **May 15 - June 30**. This better reflects what we are currently doing.
- Change the number of members needed to call a **special meeting** of the membership from twenty to the **lesser of 20 members or 15% of the membership**.
- **Permit notice of meetings** to be made by **electronic communication** to **all** members, not just those requesting email notice. Again, this better reflects what we are currently doing.
- Include a new provision which **permits meetings of the membership to be conducted electronically**; provided that the annual meeting only be conducted electronically when the board of directors determines in its discretion that an in-person meeting is not feasible.

6. **Nominations and Elections.** Specify that, when there is more than one nominee for an office to be filled by vote of the membership at the annual meeting, election for that office shall be by secret ballot.

7. **Local Programming.** Eliminate the requirement that members submit recommendations for local programming 30 days before the annual meeting. We currently do programming planning at least two months before the annual meeting. We should come up with some policies about how best to solicit input from members on program planning, but the specifics of those policies do not need to be in the bylaws.

8. **National and State Convention.** A new section was included on the appointment of delegates to national and state convention, and state council. A shorter version of this provision is currently in the bylaws at the end of the section describing the powers of the board of the directors. We thought it a good idea to give its own section to highlight out this specific duty of the board.

9. **Notice.** Add a new provision on what constitutes written notice for purposes of the bylaws.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Members: Linda Green, Chair, Jen Abbott, Pat Acton, Linda Morrison, and Sue Rosenbaum

Proposed slate for the LWVN 2020-2021 Board of Directors:

President: Marcia Johnson

Vice President: Ellen Grody

Treasurer: Andrea Kozinetz

Clerk: Judy Jaffe

Board members:

Jennifer Abbott

Bonnie Carter

Frieda Dweck

Theresa Fitzpatrick

Rhanna Kidwell

Lois Levin

Karen Manning

Lisa Mirabile

Linda Morrison

Sharyn Roberts

2020 Nominating Committee

- Linda Green, Chair
- At large member 1 – Pat Acton
- At large member 2 – Sue Rosenbaum

Nominating Committee, Off Board Members, 2021-2022

- Linda Green, Chair
- Pat Acton
- Lucia Dolan
- Sue Rosenbaum

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Charter Commission Committee

No action was taken by this committee.

Community Preservation Act (CPA) Committee

Members: (*Chair Needed*) AnnaMaria Abernathy, Sue Flicop, Marcia Johnson, Linda Morrison, and Frieda Dweck

New Members: Judy Jaffe and Jack Lovett

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) has continued the League tradition of commenting on proposals this year.

Acquisition of Webster Woods: LWVN supported the acquisition of Webster Woods for the preservation of conservation land as it aligns with LWV and Newton priorities for open space and recreation land that would benefit the community. In addition, it has widespread community support and may be the last opportunity to acquire the land and it should not be missed. Though LWVN supports the acquisition of Webster Woods, we wanted to have a better understanding of why eminent domain has been determined to be the best method for the acquisition of the land, and see a more realistic estimate of the project costs and the use of more non-CPA dollars to fund the project.

Newton Housing Authority Acquisition of CAN-DO Portfolio: One of the goals of the LWV is to insure access to decent housing and a suitable living environment affordable for all. The League supports programs, policies, and regulations to address the housing needs of low- and moderate-income families and individuals. This project supports that goal. The CAN-DO portfolio is an important source of affordable housing for the City's low-income families. NHA is committed to increasing the availability of critically needed affordable housing for low income families in Newton, as well as to providing superior resident services to its needy residents. It has the resources to manage the portfolio, and to ensure that the units remain available as affordable housing. Due to a communication gap, this recommendation was submitted to the Community Preservation Committee after the deadline.

CPA Rental Assistance: LWVN supported the creation of a COVID-19 Emergency Housing Relief Program to assist Newton households which were negatively impacted by the ongoing pandemic. The intent of the program is to provide some assistance and stability for Newton's at-risk households by providing short term assistance (up to three months). The program will pay 70% of a household's monthly rent or mortgage payment, with a maximum amount of assistance per household per month of \$2,500 (\$7,500 max. for 3 months of assistance). The program is anticipated to assist at least 300 households. While the program is primarily focused on rental assistance, it may also provide mortgage assistance to households who own existing affordable deed-restricted units. The City has worked closely with Metro West Collaborative Development (MWCD) to develop this program based on best standards provided by the Community Preservation Coalition and Massachusetts Housing Partnership. The MWCD will administer the day to day running of the program, including developing the application process, verifying eligibility, and releasing monthly payments directly to landlords or mortgage servicing agencies.

It is our intent to place a greater focus on CPA proposals and establish a more flexible and consistent methodology in how we accomplish this goal.

Elections Committee

Members: Lisa Danetz

There was limited activity. Effort was made to observe meetings, however there is limited information made available by the commission and clerk's office making it challenging to plan and attend meetings. We do need additional members to work with Lisa and the Board in 2020-21 as this year's fall elections; with possible mail-in voting and rank-choice voting efforts, the work of this committee is extremely important.

Education Committee

Members: Jennifer Abbott, Frieda Dweck, Karen Manning, co-chairs

This year, we accomplished something that has been a goal of ours for several years now – to successfully hold a civics challenge.

On March 1, 2020, we held our inaugural Civics Challenge at the Cabot School cafeteria. The Civics Challenge was formatted like a trivia quiz, with three general rounds and one final round of multiple choice, true/false, and open response questions on topics including: the constitution; federal, state, and local government, history, and current events. We also had two "special" rounds with a focus on the Massachusetts presidential primary and the women's suffrage movement.

9 teams participated, consisting of family and community groups, middle schoolers, high schoolers, college students, teachers from NSHS, and a group from the Newton TAB. All participants received pocket constitutions, and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners earned prizes of gift certificates to local retail establishments. The 1st place winners also earned a special prize of the tour of the State House, generously donated by our state legislators.

City Councilor Josh Krintzman and former Board of Alderman President Brooke Lipsitt were our informative and entertaining masters of ceremony. Our judges for the afternoon included Courtney Rau Rogers (LWV Norwood president and Bigelow Middle School vice-principal), and Board members Linda Morrison and Sue Flicop. Several city councilors, Board members, and general league members helped out as enthusiastic "team liaisons."

The cost of the event was funded almost entirely by a donation from the Village Bank.

It is our hope that we can make the Civics Challenge an annual event for the LWVN and that we can grow the number of participants.

Environmental Issues and Transportation

Members: Lucia Dolan and Lois Levin

1. Environmental priorities for 2020-21 (Chairperson Needed):

- a) Support efforts to reduce vehicle miles traveled with transit-oriented development, improvements in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and public transit.
- b) Support efforts to reduce pollution from transportation, which is responsible for more Greenhouse gas emissions than any other sector of our economy.
- c) Support efforts to transition to sustainable energy, minimizing reliance on the gas grid, detecting gas leaks, insulating more buildings, and mandating electrification of new buildings.
- d) Educate and update the community on issues related to trash and recycling.
Lobby for environmental legislation with other LWV groups in MA.

2. **Climate Change Forum was held on Feb 26.** The Topic Meetings committee organized a climate change forum held on February 26, 2020. Topics discussed included the current state of climate change, regional transportation

initiatives, plans to transition gas utilities to renewable energy, and the FUTURE Act. More details regarding the forum, the panelists, and the issues discussed are included in the Topic Meetings Committee Report."

- 3. Going forward:** On May 21 @ 7pm, an online forum was held and sponsored by the Newton Free Library, co-sponsored by Green Newton, the League of Women Voters Newton, and Bike Newton: "Transportation after the Covid Crisis: Priorities for moving forward." We focused on how the Greater Boston community should be preparing for the transportation impact of reopening businesses. Panelist: Anne Lusk, PhD, Harvard Chan School of Public Health and Galen Mook, Executive Director MassBike. A great many vehicles will be on the road, perhaps more than ever, because people will be fearful of using public transportation. To address public health and environmental concerns while reducing the risks related to a resurgence of COVID, we examined ways to limit air pollution associated with transportation, accelerate efforts to create projects that support walking and biking, make public transit safer for riders and operators, encourage telecommuting, and more.

Our committee will continue to review transit-oriented projects in Newton as they are proposed.

Land Use and Housing Committee

Members: Josephine McNeil (chair) and Marcia Johnson.

The Housing and Land Use Committee observed meetings regarding the Northland Special Permit process, the Zoning Board of Appeals meetings on Dunstan East and Riverdale projects. Now that the City Council has restarted the Zoning Redesign project, we have been observing the Zoning & Planning Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings.

For the Northland we took several steps: In September sent a letter requesting the City Council to support Northland's special permit as it increased housing diversity, had an environmentally-friendly design, added green space, and additional tax income. At the time of the referendum, we held an educational forum that originally was to provide information from both the Yes for Newton's Future and the Committee for Responsible Development (CRD).

Unfortunately, the CRD declined. However, Councilor Deb Crossley presented on behalf of the Yes campaign. At the time of the March 3rd vote, the LWVN Board reiterated its support for the project.

The committee did not hold official meetings. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact us.

Marketing and Communications Committee

Members: Lisa Mirabile (chair), Jen Abbott, Frieda Dweck, Karen Manning

This is a new committee established to help strengthen and streamline our communication and outreach pertaining to LWVN goals and programming.

The committee first began by looking at the ways in which we communicate information about league meetings, topic meetings, events, and voter service information. We looked at our weekly email communications to members, as well as our messaging to the broader community through our email service, MailChimp, and through social media, particularly Facebook. We then developed a list of resources and their contact information so that we can readily reach out to groups that may help us advertise our events and share the information with their constituents. Finally, we created a strategy for how best to use each of the various means of communications and when to target each of our resource groups to communicate our messages most effectively. Since we have been working on this communication plan, attendance at each of our events has improved and our presence on social media has increased.

We then started to review our printed materials and began the process of revising our informational and membership pamphlets. We will continue to do this work in the coming year and hope to develop a marketing brochure for the league that can be used for distribution at league events, voter registration drives and for general information.

Finally, we are in the process of reviewing the LWVN website to ensure that information on the website is up to date, informative, and helpful to members and to non-members who may use the website for voter information or information about the priorities of LWVN, LWVMA or LWVUS. So far, we've simplified the main menu and reorganized, streamlined, and surfaced the categories to make it easier to find past content. We've also updated the look and feel a bit, adding the new league logo supplied by LWVUS and switching to a new theme (which will make future changes easier). We're working on more improvements to the menus; a more organized home page to help members and non-members alike find what they're looking for more easily; and on reviewing content to make sure it's current and complete. This is an ongoing effort which we hope to complete over the next few months.

Membership Committee

Members: Bonnie Carter (chair), Ellen Grody, Andrea Kozinetz, Lisa Mirabile and Sharyn Roberts.

In January of each year we report the number of members we have to the LWVUS. This number is used to calculate the amount of money we pass along to LWVUS and LWVMA. It is called the per member payment (PMP). This year we reported 181 members. We have seen some attrition, and as of May 1, 2020, have received membership dues from 149 members. The good news is that we have welcomed 16 new members since last year's annual meeting. The bad news is that we have not received renewals from 39 members, despite repeated emails, USPS mailings and phone calls.

I would like to thank members of the team: Andrea Kozinetz for receiving and depositing checks, Ellen Grody for maintaining the membership database with LWVUS, Lisa Mirabile for e-mailing renewal notices, Marcia Johnson for helping with the mailing, and Sharyn Roberts for recruiting new members and working on member retention.

Members by Membership Type	Number of Members
Champion (\$150)	9
Supporting (\$100)	9
Sustaining (\$75)	6
Individual (\$60)	85
Household member (primary) (\$90)	13
Household (second member) (\$0)	13
50+ (free!)	9
Student (\$25)	4
Life	1

Municipal Finance Committee

The Municipal Finance Committee has no activity to report for this year. LWVN is looking for committee leadership and members for the upcoming year. Please let us know if you are interested!

Newton Citizens Committee on Energy

Stephen Grody

Dear Marcia:

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve the citizens and City of Newton by representing you on the Newton Citizens Commission on Energy (which the LWVN substantially helped create). This letter highlights recent progress at and work by the NCCE. As NCCE meetings comply with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law¹, please also know that I write as a private citizen and rely on information that is public, excepting opinions expressed which are my own.

Progress Achieved

The League hosted Dr. Halina S. Brown, Chair of the Newton Citizens Commission on Energy (NCCE) at its May 30, 2019 Annual Meeting². She presented an overview of the Newton Citizens Climate Action Plan, which was newly published and had been presented to The Honorable Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor of the City of Newton. Dr. Brown described a realistic plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Newton to zero by 2050.

Subsequently and to the extent possible, elements of that plan were included in the City of Newton's Climate Action Plan and docketed before both the Public Facilities Committee, at that time chaired by Councilor and Jane Leighton Award Recipient (1995) Deborah J³. Crossley and the Zoning And Planning Committee of the City Council, then chaired by Councilor Susan S. Albright. President Marc C. Laredo conducted the City Council meeting on Monday, November 18, 2019 where Item #13-19 – Adoption of the Climate Action Plan was Approved and became part of the City's Comprehensive Plan of November 19, 2007.

Passing that milestone marked a significant event in the history of the NCCE. Though active since created by ordinance in 1979, 13 years had passed since Newton or the NCCE had published an energy policy or plan. Dr. Brown's leadership leveraged the commissioners' intensity of purpose and complementary skills, to produce a plan, at once novel and practical, which was backed by analyses, insight, and experience from the field. The report stated what had not previously been said:

"The Newton Citizens Commission on Energy (NCCE) concludes that it is technologically and economically feasible to meet the IPCC targets in Newton, and that the City should adopt them as its climate policy goals. This Citizens Climate Action Plan (CCAP) provides a 30-year roadmap for achieving these targets, emphasizing actions that must be taken during the next two years as well as interim goals. It outlines the roles of Newton's residents, businesses, government, and institutions."⁴

She had been elected chair just one year earlier.

With the plan development phase and paperwork finished, the substantial implementation work could proceed.

Current Activities

Generally, the work at the NCCE can be viewed in three categories:

¹ The Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, [Mass Gen. Laws. ch. 30A, §§ 18-25](#), and accompanying regulations, [940 Code of Mass. Regs. 29.00](#), provide the public with a right of access to the meetings of a large number of public bodies at the state and local level.

² <https://lwvnewton.org/category/workings-of-the-lwv/annual-meeting/>

³

⁴ Newton Citizens Climate Action Plan: Acting Now to Secure Our Sustainable Future (April 2019), Executive Summary, page xi, <http://www.newtonma.gov/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=100188>

1. Collaborate with Independent, Newton-Centric Organizations –
 - a. **Communications Working Group:** How to most effectively communicate with Newton citizens about the plan is the focus of this working group. That involves translating key actions, called for in the plan, into messages for consistent use in all communications. 350 Mass (Demie Stathoplos, Chair), Newton Mothers Out Front (Karen Slote) the NCCE (Halina Brown), and the City of Newton Executive (Ann Berwick, Bill Ferguson, Dana Hanson and Nicole Freedman) are working together forming the words and phrases to be used in reaching-out to Newton’s citizenry.
 - b. **Green Newton:** As some NCCE Members are also Green Newton members, the group interactions are many, supportive and often complementary. In March, Green Newton extended a financial grant in support of one of the software systems development projects a NCCE Member is privately running, so to fulfill a City of Newton Climate Action Plan need that is unfunded by the City.
2. **Coordinate with Implementation Initiatives of the City of Newton Executive** – Though preempted by attention presently paid to responding to the outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 (the “novel Corona virus”), Jonathan Yeo heads the City’s implementation projects and is responsible for reporting on progress to the City Council, as called for in the adopted Climate Action Plan. Component efforts by his team include work by Dana Hanson and Nicole Freedman, Bill Ferguson and Ann Berwick.
3. **Advancing NCCE Accomplishments** – Work is underway on all 9 of “Getting Started Initiatives” recommended in Dr. Brown’s presentation made to the LWVN Annual Meeting, though expectedly, a few are moving faster than others (City Council led #2 and #3, Mayor led #3, Jointly led #1) in having progress to show.

Looking forward, I wonder if this year’s Annual Meeting would be a good forum at which to have the Mayor or perhaps Jonathan Yeo present overview of the progress the City of Newton has achieved since the last meeting and a forecast for how they see the road ahead.

* * * * *

Thank you again for the opportunity to work on behalf of all the citizens of Newton. I stand-at-the-ready to respond to a need for any clarification or to answer questions the League might have of me.

Topic Meetings Committee

Members: Frieda Dweck, (chair) Karen Manning, Alice Donisi-Feehan

This year we held a variety of topic meetings, using a range of venues and meeting times, all of which were successful. Our success this year may have been due to the nature of the topics but is probably due more to the increased efforts of the marketing and communications team to get the word out to the broader community about these events.

Following is a list of this past year’s events:

On **September 15, 2019** (Sunday, 5:00-6:30pm) we held a topic meeting at the Durant-Kenrick House on the question of whether our Constitution is “holding up to the test of time.” Our speaker was Jed Shugerman, a Newton resident and former Bowen PTO co-chair, and nationally known law professor and legal historian at Fordham University in New York. About 40 people attended and engaged in a robust discussion of the Constitution.

On, **October 30, 2019** (Wednesday at 7:00pm), LWVN joined the Newton Free Library, Historic Newton, and the Newton Human Rights Commission, as co-sponsor to the event, “After Suffrage: A 20/20 Perspective on Women’s Rights, 1920 – 2020.” Hosted by author Barbara Berenson, this talk explored how women have fared politically and legally over the

past century; considered how women activists have built alliances and shaped laws in an effort to combat stereotypes, discrimination and gender-based violence at home, at work and in the public sphere; and reviewed the long and ongoing campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment.

On **November 12, 2019** (Tuesday, 7:00-8:30pm) LWVN hosted Middlesex Sheriff Peter Koutoujian at the Angier Elementary School. This forum was co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters from Acton, Arlington, Weston and Winchester. Sheriff Koutoujian spoke to an audience of over 40 people about the work of the Middlesex Sheriff's Office, partnerships with local law enforcement, and efforts to address the needs of justice-involved individuals with substance use and mental health disorders. He also discussed innovative programs for incarcerated military veterans and young adult offenders.

On **December 1, 2019** (Sunday, 3:00-4:30pm) about 20 LWVN and community members gathered at the Waban Library Center to participate in a book group discussion with Newton resident and author Barbara F. Berenson, who had presented at the Newton Free Library in October. We had an interesting and lively discussion of the history of the women's suffrage movement in Massachusetts and more generally in the US, and of the issues of woman's rights and social justice in today's political & cultural environment. The discussion was coupled with a nice spread of refreshments and holiday cheer.

On **February 26, 2020** (Wednesday, 7:00-9:00pm) – we hosted a Climate Change Forum at the Scandinavian Cultural Center. The leagues of Framingham, Needham, Wayland, Wellesley and Weston joined us as co-sponsors. Almost 90 people attended this event. We discussed the current state of climate change science and implications for society, the current status and importance of the regional transportation and climate initiative, and the plan to help transition gas utilities to delivery of clean, safe, renewable energy and the importance of the FUTURE Act. Our panelists included Craig Altemose, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Better Future Project; Jordan Stutt, Carbon Programs Director of the Acadia Center; Audrey Schulman, Co-founder and Executive Director of HEET (Home Energy Efficiency Team), and Zeyneb Magavi, Director of HEET. State Senator Cynthia Creem, a sponsor of the FUTURE ACT, also attended and provided remarks on the FUTURE Act and current state legislative efforts to address climate change.

Voter Service Committee

Members: Sue Flicop and Sharyn Roberts, co-chairs

Voter Service Activities for 2019 Municipal Election

LWVN held 10 Candidates' Forums during the 2019 election season, including two for Ward 5 Ward Councilor, both before and after the preliminary election. All were produced with NewTV, our long-time partner, recorded at NewTV, and made available through the NewTV and LWVN websites. These were for contested seats on the City Council only. Although there were also three contested School Committee races, one candidate in each race declined to participate. Because LWV does not hold 'empty chair' debates, we had to cancel the School Committee Candidate Forums.

The LWVN Online Voters Guide did include all candidates for City Council and School Committee, including those in uncontested races and those whose opponents chose not to participate. This was made available to the public approximately three weeks before the election. City Council candidates were asked four questions, and the School Committee members were asked five.

LWVN also created its inaugural 'Saturday Night at the Races,' a 'candidating' type event for City Council candidates, which was co-sponsored with 7 other Newton organizations. The event was held at the War Memorial at City Hall and involved groups of citizens conversing with the City Council candidates by ward. Every 15 minutes, voters were asked to move to a new table to meet a new set of candidates. This was quite well-received, both by the candidates and by the voters, who enjoyed an opportunity for face-to-face discussions on issues raised directly by the voters. Many especially appreciated being able to meet with candidates who did not have challengers, but who nevertheless made the effort to

meet voters and discuss important topics. We expect to continue this event in the next election but will work to address some issues raised (mainly the noise level and timing).

In an effort to learn more about a new incoming City Councilor, LWVN did also host Ward 8 Ward Council candidate Holly Ryan on our monthly NewTV program, 'The League Presents'. Because Holly did not have a challenger, either on the ballot or as a write-in, we felt it was acceptable to meet with her individually and talk about some of the same issues discussed in our Candidates' Forums.

LWVN thanks our Voter Service team of co-chairs Bonnie Carter, Sharyn Roberts and Sue Flicop, as well as Lucia Dolan, Lois Levin, Karen Manning, Lisa Mirabile, dozens of LWVN volunteers for the Candidates' Forums and Saturday Night at the Races, the wonderful NewTV staff, and our co-sponsors for Saturday Night at the Races: Green Newton, Mothers Out Front, 350 Mass for a Better Future, Newton Needham Regional Chamber, Newton Conservators, Newton Council on Aging!

Voter Registration Activities for 2019-2020

As we have in the past, LWVN provided rides to the polls for early voting, the preliminary voting in September, the general state election in November, and the Presidential Primary in March.

LWVN registered voters at our tables and booths at school fairs, Village Days, city events and celebrations, and the Farmers Markets. We not only registered and pre-registered voters, but also reminded the public of voting deadlines, answered questions about the local elections, referred them to our online LWVN Voters Guide, and handed out absentee ballot applications. We were active with registration tables in the high schools every other month supporting the efforts of the Civic Engagement Center at NNHS and the grassroots student efforts at NSHS. We partnered with Lasell University registering students for state Presidential Primaries at three different locations on campus every two weeks from January to the beginning of March. We had to call a halt to all these efforts due to school closings through the end of the school year and the need for social distancing because of the COVID-19.

During the 4th week in September, we participated in the annual National Voter Registration Day with voter registration tables at the high schools and the Cold Spring Farmers Market using students from the Newton North High School Center for Civic Engagement and Service and David Olson's trained Election Department students at Newton South.

In October, we attended the LWVMA Day on the Hill, when we collectively lobby our state legislators. We treated our legislators and their aides to a light lunch, listened to the bills they were crafting to improve our lives adding our comments and thoughts, and thanked them for their hard work. Then we requested some edits be made to the MA state voter registration form to include a larger area for question #1, which asks if a person is a citizen of the U.S.A.

Many people overlook this because it's so small and then the whole voter registration form becomes invalid. We also asked for a space where people could include their email address in addition to their street address. Lastly, we suggested a word change on question #9 Party Enrollment or Designation. Instead of the word "unenrolled" next to "No Party," it would be better to use the word "unaffiliated" since by filling out the voter registration form, they actually are enrolling. We need the support of our state legislators to make these improvements because the form can only be amended through a vote.

On Tuesday, January 21st LWVN co-hosted our now annual City of Newton Poll Workers' Party in the War Memorial at Newton City Hall once again providing the celebratory sheet cakes and soft drinks for this well-attended party. On Wednesday, January 22nd, we hosted a light supper as a welcome to new, and a thank you to returning elected city officials.

We participated in NNHS's Local Government Day upon an invitation from the Next Gen Voices on February 27th. We set up an interactive display with handouts describing Newton's branches of government and what they do. We also featured all the legislative bills that LWVMA is following on Beacon Hill. There were many comments, both from students and teachers on the number and range of the bills in legislation.

This is a very special year for the League since we are celebrating both the 100th Anniversary of the League and the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. Our LWVN President, Marcia Johnson was also the chairperson for a city-wide collaboration of groups to celebrate this, set up by Mayor Ruthanne Fuller, called the Women's Right to Vote Coalition of Newton. In that position, Marcia was able to get a lot of people energized about voting. One of those so inspired was Amelia LeClair, the Director of Cappella Clausura, who invited us to set up voter registration tables at a concert on Saturday evening, February 22nd, both at the front and back of the Eliot Church. We were pleasantly surprised to find that all but one attendees were already registered to vote.

Marcia also made wonderful use of "The Suffragists," a life-sized cardboard facsimile of two suffragists from the late teens in the 20th century, dressed "to the nines" sporting Women's Suffrage sashes and carrying Women's Suffrage signs. These ladies appeared with us throughout the city whenever we sponsored an event.

LOCAL ACTION ITEM LOG

June 23, 2019: Letter to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requesting that the commission reverse their change to Section 621 (a)(1) of Cable Communications Act of 1984.

June 28, 2019: Letter to Mayor Fuller and City Council President Laredo requesting approval of the revised provisions of Sec. 26-8D, Removal of snow and ice from sidewalks, and the addition of Sec. 17-23, Enforcing persons and revised ordinances subject to civil fine, of the Newton City Ordinances

July 24, 2019: Letter to City Council regarding the process the City Council was taking to review and make a decision on the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendation to increase councilors compensation.

August 1, 2019: Submitted an opinion piece to the Newton TAB regarding our view of the process that the City Council was taking regarding the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendation to increase councilors compensation.

September 24, 2019: Submitted a letter to the City Council in support of the Northland Special Permit request.

November 12, 2019: Letter to the Community Preservation Committee in support of the use of CPA funds for the Acquisition of Webster Woods.

January 26, 2020: Letter to the Community Preservation Committee in support of the Newton Housing Authority using CPA funds to support the CANDO Portfolio.

February 23, 2020: Memo to the LWVN members requesting them to vote yes to uphold the zoning for the Northland Project.

April 15, 2020: Signed on to a letter to our state delegation (Senator Creem and State Representatives Balser, Khan, and Lawn) asking them to support House 4263 An Act to Promote Housing Choices.

May 10, 2020: Submitted a letter to the City Council in support of using CPA funds to create a COVID-19 Emergency Housing Relief Program.

TREASURER'S REPORT

LWVN Treasurer's Report as of April 2020

Balances from Prior Report as of April 2019

Checking Account	11,220
Investment in Certificates of Deposit	10,120
Ending Balance	21,340

Balances as of April 2020

Checking Account	9,287
Investment in Certificates of Deposit	10,273
	19,560

Difference from 2019(-) -1780

Balance League of Women Voters U. S. Ed. Fund 2,120

A sincere thank you to LWVNewton members and friends who have been so generous this past year - so many "extra amounts" contributed by many.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea I Kozinetz, Treasurer

PROPOSED BUDGET 2020-21

LWVN 2020-2021 Proposed Budget - 2020 Annual Meeting			
	YTD 2019-20 As of May-30- 2020	Budget 2019-2020	2020-2021 Proposed Budget
INCOME			
<i>Dues</i>			
Individual memberships*	10,005.00	10,680.00	10,200.00
Secondary memberships		475.00	780.00
Contributions	3,240.00	500.00	1,500.00
Subtotal Dues	13,245.00	11,655.00	12,480.00
Handbook Sponsorship	0.00	0.00	0.00
Voters Guide Sponsorship	0.00	850.00	0.00
Annual Meeting	112.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Phonathon/Scharfman Grant	2,203.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Fundraising	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
High School Scholarship Fund	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Village Bank - Civics Challenge	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Interest Income	120.00	120.00	120.00
TOTAL INCOME	16,680.00	16,625.00	18,600.00
EXPENSES			
<i>Payments per Member</i>			
PMP - LWV US*	6,064.00	5,952.00	5,440.00
PMP - LWV MA	4,272.00	4,180.00	3,910.00
Subtotal PMP	10,336.00	10,132.00	9,350.00
<i>Fund Raising</i>			
Event	0.00	500.00	500.00
Phonathon	0.00	100.00	100.00
Subtotal Fund Raising	0.00	600.00	600.00
<i>Communications</i>			
Zoom	80.00	0.00	160.00
Postage	0.00	0.00	0.00
Newsletter	0.00	25.00	25.00
Postcards	0.00	200.00	0.00
Membership	0.00	0.00	0.00
PO Box	138.00	140.00	140.00
Printing - Newsletter	0.00	0.00	0.00

League of Women Voters Newton 2020 Annual Workbook

Website domain registration	35.00	35.00	40.00
Subtotal Communications	253.00	400.00	365.00
<u>Councils/Conventions</u>			
Council/Convention - LWV US	0.00	2,000.00	0.00
Council/Convention - LWV MA	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Subtotal US and MA Convention	0.00	2,000.00	1,000.00
<u>Board/Administration</u>			
Board Orientation	100.00	0.00	100.00
Membership	10.00	0.00	100.00
Public Relations	230.00	0.00	200.00
Training/workshops	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal Board/Administration	340.00	0.00	400.00
<u>Program</u>			
Meetings/Forums	1,005.00	750.00	1,000.00
Police Detail	458.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal Program	1,463.00	750.00	1,000.00
Poll Workers Party	50.00	130.00	200.00
Welcome Party for Elected Officials	560.00	500.00	0.00
Civics Bee	1,021.00	500.00	500.00
Holiday Party	0.00	250.00	250.00
Day on the Hill	138.27	200.00	150.00
100TH Anniv	148.00	0.00	0.00
Study/Advocacy	0.00	0.00	0.00
Voters Service/411	447.26	850.00	500.00
Saturday Night at the Races	50.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal Program	3,877.53	3,180.00	2,600.00
<u>Handbook</u>			
Handbook Printing	0.00	0.00	0.00
Handbook Postage	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal Handbook Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
<u>Annual Meeting</u>			
Annual Meeting Workbook Postage	0.00	50.00	50.00
Annual Meeting Workbook Printing	0.00	100.00	100.00
Annual Meeting General Expenses	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Subtotal Annual Meeting Expenses	0.00	1,150.00	1,150.00

League of Women Voters Newton 2020 Annual Workbook

<u>Miscellaneous Contributions/Dues</u>			
Newton COVID19	150.00	0.00	0.00
Annual dues / Newton-Needham Chamber	295.00	295.00	295.00
MA COVID19 (Sheriff Koutoujian)	100.00	0.00	0.00
Annual dues payment to NewTV	100.00	100.00	100.00
Annual Contribution to LWVMA	250.00	250.00	250.00
Harvard/LWVNewton Archives	100.00	100.00	100.00
Highschool Scholarship	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Mayor's Community Breakfast/Harmony Fund	75.00	225.00	225.00
Subtotal Misc. Contribution Expenses	1,070.00	2,970.00	2,970.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	15,876.53	20,432.00	18,435.00
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	803.47	-3,807.00	165.00
Income reflects payments to LWVNewton and LWVUS Ed Fund.			
We use LWVUS Ed Fund to pay our Natl. PMP			

APPENDIX A: PROPOSED REVISED BYLAWS

Bylaws League of Women Voters of Newton

Article I – Name

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Newton (hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as “LWVN”). This local league is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States (“LWVUS”) and of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (“LWVMA”). (Collectively, the LWVUS, the LWVMA, and the LWVN are hereinafter referred to as the “League of Women Voters” or the “League”.)

Article II – Purpose and Policy

Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of the LWVN are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Policy. The LWVN shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

Article III – Membership

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership. The membership of the LWVN shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

(a) **Voting Members.** Persons at least 16 years of age who join the LWVN shall be voting members of LWVN, LWVMA and LWVUS; (1) those who live within Newton may join LWVN or any

other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of Newton may join LWVN or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for fifty (50) years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

(b) **Associate Members.** All others who join the League shall be associate members.

Article IV – Officers

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the LWVN shall be (1) a president or co-presidents (singularly or collectively hereinafter referred to as “President”), at the discretion of the Nominating Committee (as defined in Article VIII) and the membership; (2) one or more vice-presidents (singularly or collectively hereinafter referred to as “Vice-President”), at the discretion of the Nominating Committee and the membership; (3) a clerk (“Clerk”); and (4) a treasurer (“Treasurer”). In the event the Nominating Committee is unable to identify a person willing to fill the role of President and no nominations for such role are received from the floor at an annual meeting, all as in accordance with Article VIII herein, then the role of President shall be performed by a steering committee until such time as a President can be elected.

Section 2. Term of Office. The officers of the LWVN shall each be elected for terms of one year by the general membership at an annual meeting and shall take office immediately.

Section 3. The President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the board of directors. The President shall sign all contracts and other instruments when so directed by the board of directors. The President may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The President shall be, *ex-officio*, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the president and may perform such other duties as may be designated by the board of directors.

Section 4. The Vice-President. The Vice-President shall perform such duties as the President and the board of directors may designate. In the event of the absence, disability or death of the President, the Vice-President, who shall be designated at the first meeting of the board of directors, shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office, until the next annual meeting. In the event that the Vice-President is unable to serve in this capacity, the board of directors shall elect an officer, director, or member to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting.

Section 5. The Clerk. The Clerk shall record and keep minutes of all business meetings of the LWVN and of all meetings of the board of directors. The Clerk may sign, with the President, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board of directors and shall perform all other duties as may be incident

to the office. In the absence of the Clerk from any meeting of the membership or the board of directors, a temporary Clerk designated by the person presiding at the meeting shall record the minutes of the meeting.

Section 6. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of these monies, shall deposit them in a bank or banks designated by the board of directors, and shall disburse the same only upon order of the board of directors. The Treasurer shall present periodic statements to the board of directors at its regular meetings and an annual report at the annual meeting.

Article V – Board of Directors

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selections and Term of Office. The board of directors shall consist of (1) the officers of the LWVN, (2) up to ten elected directors, each of whom shall be elected by the general membership at an annual meeting and shall serve for a term of one year, or until their successors have been elected and qualified, and (3) up to ten appointed directors, each of whom shall be appointed from time to time by the elected directors, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the LWVN and shall serve for a term beginning with their appointment and ending at the conclusion of the next occurring annual meeting.

Section 2. Qualifications. No person shall be elected or appointed, or shall continue to serve as, an officer or director of this organization unless that person is a voting member of the LWVN.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring on the board of directors other than that of the President may be filled until the next annual meeting by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board of directors. A vacancy in the office of the presidency shall be filled in accordance with Article IV, Section 3 hereof.

Section 4. Absences, Resignation. Three consecutive absences from a board meeting of any member without a valid reason as determined by the President shall be deemed a resignation. An officer or director may resign at any time by giving written notice to the board of directors, For purposes of this Article V, Section 4, notice given by email shall constitute written notice.

Section 5. Powers and Duties. The board of directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the LWVN with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. The board of directors shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the national convention, the state convention, and the annual meeting, creating and designating such committees as it may deem necessary.

Section 6. Conduct of Business.

- (a) **Regular meetings.** There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the board of directors annually.
- (b) **Special meetings.** The President may call special meetings of the board of directors at any time, and the President shall call a special meeting of the board of directors upon the written request of one-third of the members of the board of directors. These meetings shall require at least twenty-four (24) hours notification to each member of the board. No action taken at any special board meeting shall be invalidated because of the failure of any member or members of the board to acknowledge receipt of notice of a special meeting, as long as that notice has been properly transmitted.
- (c) **Presence Through Electronic Communication.** Directors and members may participate in a meeting of the board of directors by means of a conference telephone, any form of electronic communications equipment, and/or internet communication mechanisms, provided that all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.
- (d) **Electronic Business.** When the President deems it necessary to take action between meeting of the board of directors, the proposed action may be approved by electronic communication by a majority of the board of directors. At the next board meeting, the President shall read the proposed action and the results of the vote into the minutes; no further action will be required by the board of directors.

Section 7. Quorum. A majority of the members of the board of directors then in office shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI – Executive Committee of the Board of Directors

Section 1. Composition. The executive committee shall consist of the officers with the President serving as chairperson. The President may invite to a meeting of the executive committee any person whose presence may be necessary or helpful in carrying out the specific business for which the meeting is called.

Section 2. Powers and Duties. The executive committee shall exercise such power and authority as may be delegated to it by the board of directors from time to time and shall report to the board of directors on all actions taken by it between regular meetings of the board.

Section 3. Meetings. The executive committee shall meet at the discretion of the President.

Article VII – Financial Administration

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the LWVN shall commence on the first day of July each year and shall end on June 30 of the following year.

Section 2. Dues. Dues shall be payable when joining the LWVN and, thereafter, annually as determined by the board of directors. Any member who fails to pay dues within sixty (60) days, due notice having been given, shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

Section 3. Budget. The board of directors shall submit a budget for the ensuing fiscal year to the annual meeting for adoption. The budget shall provide for support of the LWVUS, the LWVMA, as well as for the LWVN.

Section 4. Budget Committee. A budget committee shall be appointed by the board of directors at least two months prior to the annual meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The proposed budget shall be sent to all members two weeks before the annual meeting. The Treasurer shall be, *ex-officio*, a member of the budget committee, but shall not be eligible to serve as chair.

Section 5. Financial Review. The books of the organization shall be reviewed prior to each annual meeting by a qualified person or persons who shall be appointed by the board of directors.

Section 6: Dissolution. In the event of a dissolution, for any cause, of the LWVN, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities, all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of the LWVN, shall be paid to the LWVMA. All other property of whatever nature, whether real, personal or mixed, which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the LWVN, shall be disposed of by any officer or employee of the organization having possession of same to such person, organization or corporation for such public, charitable or educational uses and purposes as may be designated by the then board of directors of the LWVN.

Article VIII – Meetings of the Membership

Section 1. Meetings of the Membership. There shall be at least three meetings of the membership each year, one of which may be the annual meeting. The time and place of such meetings shall be determined by the board of directors.

Section 2. Special Meetings of the Membership. A special meeting of the membership shall be called by the Clerk upon the written request of the lesser of twenty (20) voting members or fifteen percent (15%) of the voting members.

Section 3. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting shall be held between May 15 and June 30, the exact date to be determined by the board of directors. The annual meeting shall:

- adopt a local program for the ensuing fiscal year;
- elect officers and directors to the board of directors;
- elect the chair and two members of the succeeding Nominating Committee;
- adopt a budget; and
- transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 4. Quorum. For the purposes of voting, ten percent (10%) of the members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the membership.

Section 5. Notice. Written notice of any meeting of the membership shall be given ten (10) days in advance. Written notice shall be satisfied by means of regular mail or by electronic communication.

Section 6. Presence Through Electronic Communication. Members may participate in a meeting of the membership by means of a conference telephone, any form of electronic communications equipment, and/or internet communication mechanisms, provided that all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other at the same time. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, the annual meeting shall be held in-person unless the board of directors determines, in its discretion, that an in-person meeting is not feasible. Participation by means of the electronic communication described above shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

Section 7. Absentee or Proxy Voting. Absentee or proxy voting, whether for a meeting held in-person or through electronic means, shall not be permitted.

Article IX – Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee (“Nominating Committee”) shall consist of five members. The chair and two members, who shall not be members of the board of directors, shall be elected at the annual meeting. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current nominating committee. Following the annual meeting, the board of directors shall appoint two of its members to the Nominating Committee. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the board of directors.

Section 2. Report of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall solicit nominations for directors and officers from the general membership, as well as develop its own list of potential nominees. The report of the Nominating Committee, containing its nominations for officers and directors as well as the chair and two members of the next nominating committee, shall be sent to the members two weeks prior to the annual meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the members at the annual meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor immediately thereafter, provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained.

Section 3. Election. Election to positions filled by vote of the membership at the annual meeting shall be by secret ballot, except that if there is only one nominee for an office, it shall be by voice vote. A majority vote shall constitute election.

Article X – Principles and Program

Section 1. Principles. The principles are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League of Women Voters as a whole (hereinafter the “Principles”). They are the authorization for the adoption of national, state, and local programming.

Section 2. Program. The local program of the LWVN shall consist of action to implement the Principles and those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action (“Local Program”).

Section 3. Procedure. The Local Program shall be adopted according to the following procedures:

- the board of directors shall consider recommendations submitted by the voting members and shall formulate a proposed local program;
- the proposed local program shall be sent to all members two weeks before the annual meeting;
- a majority vote of the members attending the annual meeting shall be required for adoption of items in the proposed local program as presented at the annual meeting by the board of directors;
- recommendations for local programming submitted by voting members but not recommended by the board of directors may be considered by the members at the annual meeting, provided that the members at the annual meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote. A two-thirds vote is required for adoption.

Section 4. Program Changes. Changes in the Local Program in the case of altered conditions may be made provided that: (1) information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to a general meeting of the members at which any change is to be discussed; and (2) final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding general meeting of the membership where, in the case of a board-recommended change, a majority vote is obtained, or, in the case of a non-board recommended change, a two-

thirds vote is obtained.

Section 4. Member Action. Members may act in the name of the LWVN only when authorized to do so by the board of directors. They may act only in conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by the LWVN, the LWVMA, and the LWVUS.

Article XI – National Convention, State Convention and Council

Section 1. National Convention. The board of directors shall select delegates to national convention in the number allotted the LWVN under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS.

Section 2. State Convention. The board of directors shall select delegates to state convention in the number allotted the LWVN under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVMA.

Section 3. State Council. The board of directors shall select delegates to state council in the number allotted to the LWVN under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVMA.

Article XII– Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

Article XIII - Notice

Section 1. Written Notice. Whenever written notice is required to be provided by these bylaws, such notice shall be deemed to have been satisfied by the giving of such notice by regular mail or any form of electronic communication.

Article XIV – Amendments

Section 1. Amendments. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members attending the annual meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Adopted by the League of Women Voters of Newton in May, 1936

Bylaws Restated, Amended, and Approved: May 7, 2009

Bylaws Amended and Approved (Article IV, Section 1): May 27, 2010

Bylaws Amended and Approved (Articles I, II, III): May 30, 2012

Bylaws Amended and Approved (Article VII): May 22, 2014

Proposed: Bylaws Restated, Amended and Approved: June 14, 2020