LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF NEEDHAM

Education Fund

Annual Report, May 2021

The League of Women Voters of Needham Education Fund (LWVN-EF) was incorporated with the Massachusetts Secretary of State and accepted by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) on March 2, 2015.

Fiscal year 2021 was a challenging one for League programming and fundraising due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pandemic restrictions on meetings, town buildings, etc. that began in March 2020 were in effect the entire FY2021, although plans for lifting some restrictions have been announced for May and June.

While we did not do as many educational forums and other projects as in past years, the year was extremely busy and productive for voter services. The League did extensive outreach to voters for three elections: the 2020 primary (September 1), 2020 state/presidential election (November 3), and 2021 town election (April 13).

We shifted from in-person to a Zoom format for our seven candidate forums and posted the recordings on our website. We collected questions in advance by email and from the audience for our live broadcasts, which were live-streamed on the Needham Channel. The Needham Channel also re-broadcast and promoted the forums on their website.

We also collaborated with our student members from the LWVN Needham High School Club on two of the candidate forums. Student members presented information on the offices and, in one case, introduced the candidates and asked them questions.

Communicating to voters through the LWVN website and social media posts became more important than ever, and instructions about voting options, including early mail-in voting, supplemented the information on the town website.

Our website was heavily visited during the early voting and election periods prior to each of the three elections, including over 6,000 visits to our recording of the candidate forum for the three Norfolk County primary races, which featured eleven candidates, five students, timekeeper, moderator, and host.

The LWV-Needham Board and the LWV-Needham Ed Fund Board agreed not to ask Town Meeting Members or local businesses for donations in FY2020 or FY2021 in light of the economic hardships for some related to the COVID-19 emergency.

Part I: Activities

Programs and Projects 2020-2021

- Educational and Celebratory
  - Produced "Women's Suffrage 100 Years: LWV Exhibit on the Common," an experiential art exhibit featuring colored sashes with suffrage-related names on them, suspended from the seven trees on the town common. LWV-Needham gifted the exhibit to the town, and it was displayed October 17-30 to coincide with the early voting period for the November election.
  - Prepared a companion website with biographies and photos of the featured suffragists.
  - Offered LWV-Needham book discussion via Zoom videoconferencing (March 31).
  - Coordinated the Meatless Monday Needham program to encourage eating less meat. We developed a website, Facebook page, monthly newsletter, and held the Meatless Monday with Dave Becker program (February 23).
  - Donated $3,000 to the Needham Community Council Food Pantry from funds raised through Meatless Monday with Dave Becker.

State Primary Election (September 1)

- Produced three candidate forums on Zoom in collaboration with other LWVs in the region for Congressional District 4, Sheriff, and three other Norfolk County positions.
- Created a web portal ("Toolkit") for a single point of entry on our website for all election-related information, including:
  - Voter Guide (LWVMA VOTE411)
  - Recordings of the three candidate forums
  - Voting Options that laid out all of the information and resources for voting in Needham, including mail-in voting, early voting, using the DropBox, etc.
- Posted VOTE lawn signs around town.

State/Presidential Election (November 3)

- Produced two candidate forums on Zoom with other LWVs in the region for Sheriff and Norfolk County commissioner which were shown on the Needham Channel.
- Created a web portal ("Toolkit") for a single point of entry on our website for all election-related information, including:
  - Voter Guide (LWVMA VOTE411)
  - Recordings of the two candidate forums
  - Voting Options as described above
  - Ballot Question information sources
- Posted VOTE lawn signs around town.

Needham Local Election (April 13)

- Produced a Voter Guide with information about and responses from town-wide candidates (Needham Times and lwv-needham.org).
- Produced a Voter Guide with responses from Town Meeting Member Candidates (lwv-needham.org).
- Produced two candidate forums on Zoom, one for contested races and one for uncontested races involving 14 candidates.
- Co-produced with the Needham Channel nine get-out-the-vote public service announcements (PSAs) shared primarily via Facebook and Twitter.

- Created a web portal ("Gateway") for voters to have a single point of entry on our website for all election-related information, including:
    - Voter Guides
    - Recordings of two candidate forums
    - Needham Channel candidate interviews
    - PSAs
    - Voting Options
- Posted VOTE lawn signs around town

Town Meeting 2021

- Coordinated the New Town Meeting Member orientation April 19 on Zoom.

Study of Needham's Town Boards and Officers

- Assembled 12-person study committee.
- Presented progress and findings at LWVN Program Planning (January 14).
- Conducted interviews with 45 elected officials.
- Researched other towns and laws governing boards and offices.
- Analyzed 32 years of Needham elections.
- Prepared "Study Guide and Consensus Questions."
- Will hold consensus meeting on May 20.

Grants, Donations, and other income

- Received donations of $1,000 for Ed Fund (unsolicited, 4 donors).
- Received grant ($500) from Roche Bros. to fund the Civics Bee. NOTE: This amount has been transferred from prior budgets to the FY2022 budget for 2022 Civics Bee.
- [endowment income reinvested]

Special Expenses

- Vote Sign for Memorial Park ($335.75).
- Zoom add-on for one month of webinar capacity of 500 ($128.87)

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Part 2: Finances

Assets and Equity as of April 30, 2021

ASSETS		
Checking/Savings		
	Vanguard Endowment	$25,216.96
	Needham Bank checking	$5,916.29
	PayPal	$96.80
Total Checking/Savings		**$31,230.05**
Accounts Receivable		**$10.00**
TOTAL ASSETS		**$31,240.05**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
	Accounts Payable	$10.58
	Civics Bee (prepaid grant for FY2022 use)	$500.00
Total Liability		**$510.58**
Equity		
	Perm. Restricted Net Assets (endowment)	$17,442.83
	Restricted endowment earnings (Vanguard)	$7,774.13
	Retained earnings	$5,542.05
	Net Income	$(29.54)
Total Equity		**$30,729.47**
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		**$31,240.05**

Assets

The endowment, the "Needham LWV Endowment for Civic Awareness, Education, and Engagement" is currently invested in three Vanguard funds. The endowment has increased in value from $16,445.42 on April 30, 2020, to $24,068.68 on April 30, 2021, an increase of $8,700 over the past year after decreasing by approximately $1,300 the prior year, reflecting the dramatic increase in the stock market between April 30, 2020, and April 30, 2021. The endowment in investment in Vanguard was started in September 2016 with an initial investment of $12,644.10.

For all fiscal years except 2020, the earnings on the endowment were reinvested. The Board decided again to reinvest in fiscal year 2022 and will continue to decide yearly whether to reinvest.

There is $5,916.29 in the checking account as of April 30, 2021. The checking account is funded by individual and business donations, income from sales and events, and grants over the past five years.

Equity

Restricted equity includes the endowment and its dividends. Retained earnings and net income represent funds raised in the prior and current fiscal years that can be spent at the discretion of the Board for LWVN-EF programs.

FY2021 Budget

The Board-approved LWVN-EF budget for the upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022) is on the next page.

Fiscal Year 2022 LWVN-Ed Fund Budget

EDUCATION FUND BUDGET	FY22 BUD	*FY21 Actual thru 4/30/21*	FY21 EF Budget	*FY20 Actual*
INCOME				
INVESTMENT INCOME*	$0	***$0***	$0	***$355***
CONTRIBUTIONS	$1,000	***$1,000***	$900	***$1,205***
100th ANNIVERSARY OF LWV			$200	***$2,297***
GRANTS	$800		$800	***$300***
SUBTOTAL	$1,800	***$1,000***	$1,900	***$4,158***
* EF BOD voted to reinvest dividends and interest				
EXPENSE				
ADMINISTRATIVE*	$588	***$376***	$509	***$990***
FUNDRAISING	$50	***$28***	$50	
STUDIES	$25		$25	
SCHOLARSHIPS	$500		$500	***$500***
VOTERS' SERVICE	$95	***$515***	$95	***$122***
PUBLIC FORUMS	$1,005	***$111***	$1,405	***$1,373***
SUBTOTAL	$2,263	***$1,030***	$2,584	***$2,985***
NET INCOME	**-$463**	**-$30**	**-$684**	**$1,172**

** Expenses shared 50/50 with LWVN Budget*

LWVN-EF Board

Karen Price, President
Elizabeth Handler, Clerk
Kara Holmquist, Director
Stacie Shapiro, Treasurer
Harriet Goldin, Director
Off Board: Budget Chair, Erica Bond

The LWV-Needham Board of Directors appoints the Ed Fund Board of Directors. The President and Treasurer are members by virtue of their LWV-Needham offices.