

League of Women Voters Asheville-Buncombe County Board Meeting

August 13, 2025; Zoom at 6 pm

Submitted by Patricia Hearron

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In Attendance: Suzanne Fisher, President; Nicole Wheeler-Schumacher; Patricia Hearron, Secretary; Kathy Schofield, Treasurer; Board members: Donna Mann, Mary Ann Roser, Linda Weldon, Cheryl Williams.

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 6:05.

Minutes from July 9, 2025 Meeting were approved by acclamation.

Finance and Budget Update: Kathy reported relatively low individual expenditures aside from monthly costs like the post office box and a new online method for purchasing phone minutes. She mentioned accessing the Stripe account to review transaction data, revealing that the League has received approximately \$11,037 to date, with recent consistent payments of \$15 per new or renewing member. Nicole clarified that for a \$75 membership, \$10 goes to the local chapter, \$23.50 to North Carolina, and \$41.50 to LWVUS. Amounts are based on percentage and thus vary with the amount the member elects to pay. Nicole will email her membership receipt to Kathy to illustrate how the funds are allocated.

Linda agreed to investigate membership status and renewal rates. Suzanne clarified that members who haven't renewed after two reminders are removed from the member-only email list but remain on the general email list. The group agreed to wait before taking further action on expired memberships. Suzanne suggested they could send friendly reminders after the new year if needed.

Membership Committee

○ Coffee Chats:

The group discussed the effectiveness of their coffee chat events, noting that while attendance has been low (typically 1-2 people), they have successfully recruited new members (e.g., Linda Weldon). They agreed to continue holding coffee chats but may adjust the frequency to every other month, experiment with different times (including weekends), and allow organizers to choose convenient times rather than maintaining a consistent schedule. The group decided to focus on coffee chats rather than implementing separate office hours, as they serve a similar purpose of member engagement and information sharing. Suzanne asked that new members be encouraged to pay online rather than by check.

○ Citizens' Initiative presentation is scheduled for February 18, 2026 at 7 pm. **on Zoom**

○ LWV101

- September 9 in person at West Asheville Library (12:30 pm) and Zoom at 7 pm. Mary Ann will write up a description and Suzanne will send the announcement via Constant Contact, with RSVP functionality. She will suggest that attendees at the library bring brown bag lunches with LWVAB providing beverages. Suzanne will bring napkins, cookies and beverages.
- Suzanne proposed October 23 Zoom at 1 pm and in person at 7 pm. at North Asheville Library. Cheryl will make the reservation, which cannot be made more than 60 days in advance.

- Suzanne shared a link to an evaluation form used in the past and asked for suggested revisions. Cheryl agreed to work on making the question about meeting expectations more specific. The evaluation will be sent by email to those who register for the events on Constant Contact.

LWVUS: Suzanne shared information regarding the League's *Unite and Thrive 8.5 Round 2* "Holding Power Accountable" and said she is hoping that additional guidance is forthcoming.

LWVNC

- Suzanne noted that there is an opportunity to receive grants from the "Making Democracy Work" and _____, to fund our ongoing voter registration and education activities.
- Cheryl and Suzanne have signed up to attend initial meeting for the proposed Observer Corps, although it is not yet scheduled.
- Suzanne shared expectations of liaison for Public Education Action Team, and reported that Mary Ann Roser and Alida Woods had agreed to assume that responsibility. Mary Ann will meet with Alida to discuss roles and finalize schedules.
- Suzanne asked that observers at various boards note and share information about negative outcomes of the "Big Beautiful Bill."
- Cheryl asked whether we would follow prior custom of providing observers with a letter of introduction from the LWVAB president and perhaps offer guidance or mentoring for new volunteers who have not observed boards in the past. She will share a copy of previous guidelines with Suzanne.
- A volunteer is needed to serve as liaison for Census/Redistricting; there are likely to be infrequent meetings starting later this year or next and then ramp up. Part of WNC is in [test census in 2026](#) and includes Cherokee, Graham, Jackson, and Swain counties, and Qualla Boundary, home to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.
- A matinee performance of *Suffs* is slated for March 10 in Charlotte. Mecklenburg League is working on reserving a block of seats and perhaps arranging for a "talk-back" with cast members.
- Western Regional Meeting is scheduled February 28 in Hickory.

Voter Outreach: Cheryl reported that the team will conduct its next in-person training at the North Asheville Library on August 21 at 5:30 p.m.

Cheryl provided an update on new board member orientations in Madison and Buncombe counties, noting positive early impressions and two major issues: concerns about the warehouse project's floodplain location and the need for outside counsel due to quasi-judicial responsibilities. The team reviewed upcoming voter registration events, including training at North Asheville Library on August 21st, and confirmed locations for future events including Boomtown, Labor Day weekend, Pride Fest, and Oktoberfest half marathon. Donna added that she would host voter registration at Art and Autumn on September 20th.

VOTE411: Patricia is working on getting required contact information for candidates in Madison and McDowell Counties. Kathy will contact the Mountain Xpress regarding their election coverage plans so that a quarter-page ad for VOTE 411 can be included in that issue. Cheryl will continue distributing VOTE 411 fans and bookmarks at registration events and festivals.

Election of the President by Popular Vote Action Team: Suzanne reported that a presentation is scheduled for September 12 in Weaverville and that a statewide petition drive is under consideration, pending approval of LWVNC.

Communications Update: Newsletter items are due by September 1 for publication on September 7.

Board Retreat Outcomes Suzanne noted that we still need a volunteer to spearhead LWV Video Contest similar to one in Henderson County (<https://lwvhcnc.org/vidCont22.php>).

New Business

- LWVAB will be the featured organization on Blue Ridge Public radio on February 14, 2026 in commemoration of the League's birthday.
- Suzanne has submitted a statement of interest in the Asheville Young Pros "Get On Board" which is an opportunity for an "intern" to be a part of the Board for a year and possibly join. She emphasized our strong nonpartisan policy and the need for potential interns to be comfortable with our program priorities.

Meeting adjourned at 7:21.

Schedule of Meetings – all at 6 pm via Zoom

2025: September 10, October 8 (Nicole), November 12, December 10

2026: January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 1
