

League of Women Voters Asheville-Buncombe County Board Meeting September 10, 2025; Zoom at 6 pm

Submitted by Patricia Hearron

In Attendance: Suzanne Fisher, President; Nicole Wheeler-Schumacher; Patricia Hearron, Secretary; Kathy Schofield, Treasurer; Board members: Nadine Hamby, Donna Mann, Linda Weldon.

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 6:03.

Minutes from August 13, 2025 Meeting were approved by acclamation.

Finance and Budget Update: Kathy reported that the organization continues to be in good financial shape. She is awaiting bills for PNP and registration booths as well as grants expected from LWNVC.

Membership Committee

- Linda will check LWNVC portal to create a list for sending renewal reminders
- Cheryl will host a coffee chat on September 26 in Mars Hill.
- Fall Social is scheduled for September 29 at New Belgium Brewery; Nicole will send an announcement to Suzanne for posting on Constant Contact
- LWNVC 101 is scheduled for October 23: on Zoom at 1:00 p.m.; at North Asheville Library at 7:00 p.m.. Kathy suggested adding a slide with directions for renewing membership. Suzanne suggested creating a recording of the process to post on YouTube.
- Citizen's Initiative presentation is scheduled for February 18, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
- Because no changes have been suggested for the evaluation form, we will continue using the existing version: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJi0zChAFc6z0ZBsaf4v7t9GyounPGjy-3QvuRW_kA9I-uEw/viewform?usp=share_link&ouid=117652737404196112574
- Suzanne discussed capturing attendee information for recent events, including both in-person and Zoom participants, and plans to use this data for future communications and membership drives

Voter Services: The group discussed a recent policy change preventing third-party organizations, including the League of Women Voters, from participating in naturalization ceremonies. Kathy and Linda researched coverage of the policy change in the *New York Times* and on NPR, noting that the ACLU planned to challenge the decision, with potential involvement from the League of Women Voters.

LWNVC: recommends that members create separate email address rather than using their personal addresses for league business, but this is a personal decision. Convention will be held in Columbus, Ohio.

LWNVC: Kathy will attend a **Governance Webinar for NC Leagues** focusing on compliance with IRS regulations for non-profit organizations. Meeting will be held via zoom on October 9 from 5 PM to 7:30 PM. <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/LU9NdQIZTEW2Y711YrKafw> Suzanne encouraged other board members to do so as well.

VOTE411 Patricia made a motion, seconded by Nicole, to approve signing a contract with the **Mountain Xpress** to run a series of ¼ page ads as follows: one advertising Vote 411 in the voting issues (October 8 and 15); and one stating "Democracy won't defend itself" in the issues focused on non-profit organizations (November 12 and 19). Kathy will check with *Mountain Xpress* staff to

determine if they have the copy for the VOTE 411 ad used in the past. Nicole suggested sending Spanish version of any advertisements in the 2026 midterm elections.

Donna asked Patricia to let her know if candidates in Weaverville and Woodfin had not responded to invitations from VOTE 411.

ERA/Gender Equity Action Team Status: Patricia suggested putting a “help-wanted” plea for volunteers in the upcoming newsletter. Suzanne said that a person who attended the recent LWV 101 session expressed interest in the issue.

Election of the President by Popular Vote Action Team Update: Suzanne will speak at the Weaverville Community Center/Dry Ridge Museum event on Friday at 10:30 a.m. She will send the information to Nadine for posting on the website. She met with State Senator Chaudhuri in Raleigh. He has previously sponsored the measure and plans to do so again. She is working on building coalition with other organizations (e.g. Common Cause) and noted that groups are more willing to sign on when they see that others have already done so.

Nicole reported that the UNCA Political Science Club would like a presentation, as well as the Mars Hill Social Work Club. Suzanne will send her a list of available dates.

Census/Redistricting: Suzanne noted that we still need to identify a leader for these efforts.

Communications Update: Suzanne reported that a participant in the recent Zoom meeting indicated that she knows how to create Reels. Suzanne will give her contact information to Nadine for follow up.

Board Retreat Outcomes

- Since no one has stepped up to lead the proposed LWV Video Contest, Suzanne suggested that we table the project.
- Cheryl and Suzanne will pursue possible book donations to local libraries, schools for 2026 election after the beginning of the year.
- Nicole shared a note from Professor Ashley Moraguez expressing appreciation for the donation we made to the UNCA Political Science Club.

Schedule of Meetings – all at 6 pm via Zoom

- 2025: October 8 (Nicole will chair in Suzanne’s absence; she asks that members send items for agenda), November 12, December 10
- 2026: January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 1

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.