

LWVAB Board Meeting Minutes March 18, 2021

Submitted by Julia Coward

In Attendance: Kelly Fowler, President; Nicole Wheeler-Schumacher, Vice-President; Lynn Lederer, Treasurer; Julia Coward, Recording Secretary; Board Members: Sue Casey, Suzanne Fisher, Nadine Hamby, Patricia Hearron, Ruth O'Donnell, Vicki Willard. There were no guests or members of the public present.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes—Julia

Julia called for a motion to approve the Minutes from the February 2021 Board meeting. Patricia so moved; Ruth seconded; Minutes were approved by a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report and Proposed Budget—Lynn

Since the February Board meeting, there are 5 new members, including one Household membership. We've received \$70 in Your Cause donations and \$200 from a non-member. We did not receive an invoice from our insurance carrier this past year so we initiated contact, and they will send us an invoice soon.

Kelly, Nicole, Lynn and Ruth met to discuss the Proposed Budget for 2021-2022. The FREF budget was depleted by approx. \$6700 this year, due to significant activity expenditures. We have been authorized by LWVUS to share up to 50% of our PMP between the LWV budget and the FREF budget, since most of our donations come into the FREF budget. Ruth suggested lowering the sharing amount to 25%. **Board members and others who are chairs of committees or Action Teams need to send the Finance Committee a list of their "bottomline" funding needs for the Proposed budget. All Board members need to review the Proposed FREF Budget, particularly those with new projects, such as Suzanne (NPV.)**

Discussion of ongoing joint projects with Girl Scouts Peaks to Piedmont, led by Juanita Carrier and Carol Covington: Expenses from Census patch project (approved for funding by the Board) were not submitted for reimbursement. LWVAB and GSP2P have begun a new ERA-themed patch project. Board members are supportive of this project but must have a written proposal they can review and vote on before it can receive funding. **Kelly will reach out to Juanita and request a written proposal with expected budget for Board members to review and vote on.**

The Voter Girls pilot program, unanimously approved by the Board on 04/18/2019 (**see LWVAB Board Meeting Minutes of 04/18/2019, in LWVAB Master Folder**) is tentatively expected to begin in the Fall of 2021. Also, for a description of the Voter Girls Project Plan, **see Voter Girl Project Plan, in LWVAB Master Folder, under Board Meeting 04-18-2019.**

Membership Committee—Ruth

Kelly has contacted, by email and phone, Corinne Duncan, head of Buncombe County Elections Services, to request her presence as a speaker at LWVAB Annual Members' Meeting in May. Ms. Duncan has not yet replied. **Kelly requested Board members think of other options for speaker in case Ms. Duncan is not available.** Vicki suggested asking one of our elected representatives; Ruth noted that we would need to have a representative from each political party. The date for the Annual Meeting is TBD until we have a definite speaker.

Discussion of April Members' Meeting: Lori Bunton and Jimmie Cochran Pratt will present a one hour (including questions) Zoom program on "What's Happening with the ERA" on Thursday April 22 at 7 p.m. **Kelly will set up the Zoom using the League account. There will be a "Save the Date" email sent in late March and the full announcement will be in the April newsletter. Nadine will put the info on the website. Ruth will send full info to Julia and Patricia for the newsletter.**

Voter Services—Kelly

The Action Team had a small group meeting last week; there will be another one this coming week, which will be a short-term agenda, going through the end of the League year in June. In May there will be a Planning meeting, which will set the agenda for the full 2021-22 year.

- a. Voter Girls, which is part of Voter Services, has already been discussed in this Board meeting.
- b. Voter Registration in Schools has been tabled for now.
- c. Voter Suppression: member Pat Deck will reach out to a GA representative who can provide current NC legislation for the group to review. In the upcoming meeting, the group will decide who will contact which legislators about the legislation. We will use our traditional method of reaching out to members to take action.
- d. Civics Education: the group will discuss updating a presentation created by Linda Kane a few years ago, for our potential use on Zoom. The topic is "How and Why to Vote in NC."
- e. Redistricting: We are still working with the WNC coalition.

After this next meeting, we may have something for the newsletter about how people can become engaged with Voter Services.

National Popular Vote—Suzanne

This Action Team had a meeting this past Monday. Suzanne also attended a meeting of the North Carolina National Popular Vote, led by Eileen Reavey. There will be related legislation introduced in the NC GA in the near future. At the meeting, there was discussion about types of community groups to educate about the NPV process. Suzanne is interested in presenting on Zoom to any of these groups.

Nominating Committee—Kelly/Nicole

Sharon Withrow has agreed to be nominated for the position of Board Member at the Annual Meeting. She will fill Vicki's position on the Board. We will need nominees to fill Kelly's position as Board member, and also as President. Kelly will reach out to LWVNC to find out procedure if we do not have a nominee for President. We also do not currently have a Voter Services chair.

Communications—Julia, Patricia, Nadine, Suzanne

Items for the April newsletter need to go to Julia and Patricia by around March 25. We are back up to a 34% open rate. The Volunteer Opportunities section will continue.

Nadine and Suzanne are providing prolific content on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, greatly enhancing our visibility. Nadine is regularly moving things around and adding items on the website to keep it fresh.

Melissa Murphy asked if we could use an unpaid High School student intern over the summer. Kelly asked Board members to share any ideas about this with her or reach out directly to Melissa. Kelly will get back to Melissa about the supervision/mentoring and possible duties of an intern; she will also reach out to LWVHC to find out how their student intern is engaged in their activities. Rudi Simko will be Melissa's Co-chair on Voter Registration in Schools. She may be a resource going forward with the idea of a student intern.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 pm.