

LWVAB Board Meeting Minutes June 17 2021

In Attendance: Kelly Fowler, President; Julia Coward, Secretary; Board members Sue Casey, Suzanne Fisher, Nadine Hamby, Patricia Hearron, Ruth O'Donnell and Vicki Willard; Board member-elect Rudi Simko.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30.

Approval of minutes from April 2021 Board meeting (Julia)

There were no changes or corrections. Patricia moved that the minutes be approved. Nadine seconded. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Finance and Budget Update (Kelly for Lynn)

We have received additional donations; so that our income is surpassing our budget. We won the \$00 door prize from LWVUS for Leagues who've started their own Outreach Circle. Lynn is in the process of getting that money from LWVUS. As of 6/12/21 we have 128 members.

Membership Committee Update (Kelly/Ruth)

We usually have our summer Members' Meeting in August. Consensus is that we are comfortable having the meeting in-person, preferably outside, as a mostly social occasion. As a location, Suzanne suggested the Lake Tomahawk picnic shelter in Black Mountain. Julia will research information about renting that facility. Kelly will research rental of Buncombe County facilities. Ruth will maintain the New Members and Renewals portion of this committee for a further few months but won't be able to manage the Members' Meeting so we will need everyone's help.

We received a lot of member renewals after the second reminder email. However there are still fewer than 60 renewals. Ruth will send out another reminder email in July. Kelly will send Ruth the info to create an easily usable list of email addresses for this purpose, instead of using Constant Contact.

Ruth, Sue and Nadine have worked together to create a new "join" form on our website for new members to fill out online. New members must then pay separately by Paypal, check or credit card. There is also a printable form. The online forms will automatically be sent to Lynn, as Treasurer. In the future, the Membership Committee will use Constant Contact for all membership information – contact, interests, etc. The committee will probably begin working on the new system this Fall. They will also be updating the interest questionnaire to reflect the current areas of focus for LWVAB action teams.

Sue will research a new LWV member management software tool she heard about at LWVNC convention last year. She will report back to the Board next meeting.

Voter Services Update (Kelly)

This action team has monthly meetings, on the third Tuesday of each month; the next one is Tuesday June 22. Their focus is on the key areas of: civics education, monitoring voter suppression legislation, National Popular Vote Compact and redistricting reform (through Fair Districts WNC.) However, a big push, coming from LWVUS, is to publicize the importance of getting the For the People Act (S1) passed, which involves getting voters to contact our senators to urge their support for the bill. Our many outlets of communication will continue to strongly encourage action by the public on this issue.

ERA Update (Suzanne)

ERA meets on the third Monday of each month at 11:00 am. Unfortunately, there is no news to report on this front.

****Ruth suggested that regularly scheduled meetings, such as Voter Services, ERA and NPV should be put on the calendar on our website. Suzanne suggested listing the names of action team members in our communications as a nod to those members and to encourage other members to become involved. She also suggested posting Board meeting minutes on our website. Discussion followed about making those minutes available to either members only or to the public; and also whether it would be better to post just the minutes or the recording of the meeting. The Board will revisit this topic.****

National Popular Vote Update (Suzanne)

The NPV action team has 2 new members: Donna Nelson and Ruth Planey. The group meets on the third Monday of each month at 3:00 pm. **Member Karen Ward recently submitted an opinion piece to Mountain Xpress which was rejected as not relevant enough to Asheville; the group will try to recast it and resubmit.** Suzanne has recently given NPV talks to 2 groups: the Yale Alumni Club and the Swannanoa Valley Friends. **She will speak to the Asheville Newcomers group in the Fall. Suzanne will send Kelly the contact info for Swannanoa Valley Friends.**

One-Year Appointment to the Board for Kelly Fowler

Sue so moved; Suzanne seconded. The motion appointing Kelly to a one-year term as a Board Director was approved by a voice vote.

Board Responsibilities Document (Kelly)

Kelly will correct the word "Alliance" to read "League". Kelly will post this document on Google Docs under the section "Board Training." She will also put League 101 documents from Wake County League in that section.

Future Meetings

Consensus is that the August Board meeting doesn't have to specifically be a "retreat." However, we should have it in-person. **Kelly will begin a Doodle poll to choose the date and time for this meeting. Julia will reach out again to her daughter Abby to see when All Souls Cathedral will resume renting out Owen Library (the site of our previous Board meetings.) Suzanne asked Board members to consider having meetings on Zoom during the winter months.**

Other Items

Vicki Willard, who is ending her term as a Board member, spoke briefly about her experience on the Board. Board members thanked her for her exemplary service and wished her well. Her presence on the Board will be greatly missed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm.

Submitted by Julia Coward, Board Secretary