

LWVAB Board Meeting – Zoom, September 16, 2021

Submitted by Patricia Hearron, Board Secretary

In Attendance: Suzanne Fisher, President; Nicole Wheeler-Schumacher, Vice- President; Board members Sue Casey, Kelly Fowler, Nadine Hamby, Ruth O'Donnell, and Sharon Withrow.

The meeting was called to order at 5:05

- Approval of Minutes from August 24, 2021 Meeting (Motion by Ruth, seconded by Kelly, approved unanimously)
- August LWVNC Presidents Meeting Report (Suzanne)

Suzanne attended her first meeting at the end of August. So far, only LWVAB has named a representative for the Advocacy committee. They need 500 applicants to create the LWV license plate and as yet have only a few. Ideas from other chapters include a virtual town hall with county sheriff, voter registration information at public libraries, partnering with high school debate teams for civics education. Some groups have interns but the concern is that that would create a lot of supervisory work so probably not practical for us. Noted with interest that LWVNC does not require local groups to have a president, can have co-presidents or other arrangement. One chapter has a committee of 6 people, rotating leadership among pairs of members.

- Membership Committee Update (Nicole, Sharon)

Sharon reported that they are waiting until after members return from September travels to schedule a meeting with Ruth to facilitate transition. Ruth reported that a couple of new members joined this month.

September 20 picnic: Ruth will bring the banner, tablecloths, paper products, etc.; Sharon will bring drinks; Suzanne will bring ice and name tags; Kelly will bring the donation jug. Weather should not be a problem because the pavilion is large, but if necessary, Suzanne will put out a notice of cancellation at 4:00.

- Voter Services Committee Update (Kelly)

Redistricting: The committee is trying to spread the word about hearings with a push for hearings to be scheduled AFTER the maps are drawn. Kelly noted that individuals can enter comments in the portal every day if desired. Recordings of past hearings are available on YouTube at <https://ncleg.gov/Documents/493#Video>

Voter Registration: September 28 is National Voter Registration Day. The committee is planning several activities in conjunction with UNCA; they will also be tabling at the East Asheville Library and perhaps at city parks (where they have established that no permit is needed)

Voting Restrictions: Kelly is monitoring and will forward news of any developments.

- ERA Action Team Update (Suzanne)

Federal and State Level: Not much is happening. Jimmie Cochran Smith was interviewed on the August 26 edition of the podcast, Her Two Cents: We the People? What about the Women! The Equal Rights Amendment and What All Women Need to Know with Guest Jimmie Cochran Pratt (<https://hertwocentspodcast.com/>)

Helen Morris Lewis event at Patton Parker house originally scheduled for November 20, 2021 (the anniversary of the first suffrage meeting) has been postponed to May 22, 2022.

- National Popular Vote Action Team Update (Suzanne)

The Newcomers Club canceled the scheduled presentation because a long-time member claimed the topic was too political; however, they do want a general voter registration event. The local Sierra Club chapter and the Unitarian Church have both expressed interest in having a presentation on the topic.

- Communications Update

Suzanne is trying to post a lot about redistricting on Instagram and Twitter; she noted that it is possible to exceed the character limit on Twitter by putting additional content in a comment on your own post.

A couple of glitches were reported: the link to Nicole's email in the September newsletter did not work; she will run her request for volunteers to join the board in the October newsletter with a corrected link; some folks have had difficulty finding the calendar on our webpage. Action Team meeting dates are not showing on sidebar calendar; Nadine will work with Chris to fix this.

- New Business (all)

Suzanne introduced the idea of using funds from Yvette Wessel for student scholarship, rather than for League member; still give awards to League members but not monetary (recipients have not been using funds awarded). Ruth noted that scholarships for returning college students would be easier to administer than for high schoolers since the process would be handled by the UNCA's foundation within the parameters we establish. The topic will be added to next month's agenda for discussion when more board members are present.

- Next Meeting – October 21 **Zoom at what time 5:00 or 5:30?**

Meeting adjourned 5:54 p.m.