

LWVAB Board Meeting – Zoom, October 21, 2021
Submitted by Patricia Hearron, Board Secretary

In Attendance: Suzanne Fisher, President; Patricia Hearron, Secretary; Lynn Lederer, Treasurer; Board members: Sue Casey, Julia Coward, Kelly Fowler, Nadine Hamby, Ruth O'Donnell, and Sharon Withrow.

- Approval of Minutes from September 16, 2021 Meeting (Motion by Julie, seconded by Sue) approved unanimously
- Finance and Budget Update (Lynn)

Lynn reported that as of 10/16/21, we have 98 members, including 12 households, 1 student and 2 life members. Checking and Money Market Account balances as of 9/30/21 are \$18,599.05 (LWV of Asheville-Buncombe County) and \$9,298.06 (Florence Ryan Education Fund). We have received a total of \$6.40 from Amazon Smile. She has paid our membership fees to both the state and national League. She reminded us that, in order to be tax-exempt, donations via check or PayPal must be made payable to the Florence Ryan Education Fund. Transfer from the LWV-AB account is possible but cumbersome. Lynn is currently dealing with challenges regarding taxes (we have been dropped from the state league's list of tax-exempt groups) and PayPal (which is claiming that our EIN is not correct).

- LWVNC
 - September LWVNC Presidents Meeting – no report
 - LWVNC DEI Action Team—Kelly said the group has not met since the first time; She is currently taking a course called “Building Bridges” and will keep us apprised of what she learns.
 - LWVNC Healthcare Team—Nadine is currently awaiting the first meeting scheduled for November. Lynn shared that she had been active with a group working for Medicaid expansion representing LWV AB. Linda Weldon (now one of our members) represented LWV Hendersonville. Ron Katz was a key member (representing both United Way and Carolina Jews for Justice). This group of about 20 different organizations met for 4-5 years and was last chaired by Pisgah Legal. It is no longer active.
 - LWVNC Advocates—Suzanne reported that LWVAB is the only league that has responded to the initial call so far.

- Membership Committee

Julia reported that she, Sharon, and Nicole had met with Ruth to facilitate the transition and allocate duties. **Sharon will take on new and renewing members. Julia will prepare the letter to non-renewals and send it with committee assistance; update the Member Guide as needed; put together proposed budget when due. Nicole will meet with Ruth in November to start getting the lists of new members and member interests merged on Constant Contact. Ruth will make sure everyone has access to google docs and send files from her computer to appropriate person.** Sharon has already added one new member and sent her the member guide and welcome email.

Julia asked that everyone bring whatever they had originally planned to the rescheduled picnic on October 26. She will be at the park by 4:45. **Suzanne will handle the agenda.**

- Voter Services Committee Update (Kelly)

- Redistricting: the group is meeting next week. Draft maps are starting to flow out. So far all have been graded “F” or “C” by the Princeton Gerrymander Project <https://gerrymander.princeton.edu/redistricting-report-card>. Buncombe County will probably stay intact.
- Voter Registration Day on September 28 was a success.
- Civics Education—Linda Kane is continuing to record her presentation on the history of voting for distribution to interested groups. Melissa Murphy is still involved with the voter services group and her daughter has created a video about voter registration which will be available for use in schools in lieu of the on-site League presentations which have been suspended due to COVID.
- Voting Restrictions—Kelly will share Ron’s report when she receives it.
- ERA Action Team Update—Suzanne reported that there has been no change on either state or nation level since our last meeting.
- National Popular Vote Action Team Update—Suzanne reported that after a few presentations in October and November, there will probably be a lull until after the holidays. Meanwhile she is trying to get other local leagues to agree that this issue should be formally added to the LWV-NC agenda.
- Communications Update
 - Website—Suzanne has discovered that not every local league has a website and that ours compares favorably to those that do. One tweak recommended was to make the calendar a direct link on our site so it is easier to find.
 - Instagram—Nadine said that she tries to keep the postings current to maintain interest. Ruth noted that our newest member has indicated an interest in communications and she might be able to help with these tasks.
 - Newsletter—Julia reminded us that the deadline for submissions for the November issue is October 28.
 - Outreach Circle—Kelly had no news about this.
 - Twitter and Facebook—Suzanne said she generally forwards notices received from the state and national league and that she does get comments on Twitter.
 - Sign at Patton Parker House—Dedication will occur May 22, 2022; Jo Nicholas (President, LWVNC) will attend.
- Old Business
 - Posting of Board Minutes—It was decided to include minutes from the current membership year (July 1-June 30) and the one prior.
 - Dates of Action Team meetings on website calendar—Nicole has posted these as requested.
 - Use funds from Yvette Wessel for student scholarship, rather than for League member; still give awards to League members but not monetary. Suzanne reported that UNCA requires a commitment of \$1000 a year for 5 years for a named scholarship. **She will follow-up to see if there are alternatives for an “un-named” scholarship.** Lynn said that Yvette Wessel’s family has generously donated at least this amount for the past few years but we should not assume it will be ongoing. She emphasized that we should keep in mind the family’s intention in making the donation, which is to support the work of the league.
- New Business

Suzanne suggested that action groups, committees, etc. offer an opportunity to participate virtually when scheduling in-person meetings. This would accommodate individuals who live at a distance as well as those who have health concerns. Ruth made a motion, seconded by Sharon that *“Until further notice, meetings will be virtual or hybrid with a virtual option, except for primarily social events.”* Several questions about how this would be implemented arose in the ensuing discussion and Suzanne recommended that we think about it and take it up for a vote at our next meeting.

- Board Logistics
 - Suzanne plans to send a fundraising letter via Constant Contact around the time of “Giving Tuesday.”
 - Julia asked that we think about what we want to do as a holiday social for the general membership.
- Next Meeting – November 18; probably via Zoom. Julia will let us know as soon as All Souls makes a decision about use of the Library.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:04