

**LWVAB Board Meeting – Zoom, November 18, 2021**  
**Submitted by Patricia Hearron, Board Secretary**

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:04

- Approval of Minutes from October 21, 2021 Meeting (Motion by Lynn, seconded by ?) approved unanimously
- Finance and Budget Update (Lynn)

Lynn reported that as of 11/16, we have 101 members, including 12 households, 1 student, and 2 life members. This does not include 4 individuals who have submitted membership forms but not paid. She has followed up with emails. Account balances as of 10/31/21 were \$14,653.39 (LWV-AB and \$9,298.06 (FREF). She continues to struggle with IRS filing issues due to LWV A-BC having been removed from the LWV-NC group exemption. PayPal also has questions about our EIN--which might be related. An end-of-year fundraising letter was sent 11/14/21.

- Vote 411 (Ruth)

Suzanne mentioned that the call for volunteers that Ruth sent to all members via Constant Contact had a 59% open rate. There have been 5 responses from individuals willing to help with the March primary election and plans to start contacting candidates in February 2022. She will be getting training on changes to the system's database in December and is still hoping that someone will step forward to work with her this year and take over her role as coordinator the following year.

She raised the issue of whether we wanted to develop our own list of questions for candidates or use the ones provided by the state leadership, emphasizing the importance of insuring that any questions developed be completely non-partisan. **The consensus was that we would use the questions provided by LWVNC rather than adding our own.**

- LWVUS Survey

Suzanne shared the responses for the LWVUS Survey that she had developed with input from action group leaders. With regard to a survey question about demographic composition, it was noted that LWV-AB does not ask members for this information because that could be perceived as discriminatory. At the next state meeting, Suzanne will check with other leagues about whether they do this and how. The due date for the survey is 12/10/21; with plans to repeat the process twice a year.

- LWVNC

- October LWVNC Presidents Meeting: The group is still trying to gather support for a LWV specialty license plate. 500 subscribers are needed. **We will put the information in the next newsletter.**

- LWVNC Healthcare Team: Nadine reported via email that the first meeting of this small group was held November 9<sup>th</sup>. Rebecca Klase, LWVNC's point person for action teams will facilitate the next few meetings to help with organization.
- No activity to report for either LWVNC DEI Action Team or LWVNC Advocates:
- Membership Committee (Julia, Nicole, Sharon)
 

Sharon listed new members and their stated interests. Nicole met with Ruth in preparation for transferring membership information from google docs to Constant Contact. Julia mentioned that there were 3 new members at the October 26 general membership meeting. With regard to plans for the winter membership event, the consensus was to forego any social gathering due to ongoing concerns about COVID, and instead to send a message of appreciation to members with a postcard similar to one sent last year. **Ruth will send digital copies of that design to Julia, Nicole, and Sharon.** A spring social is still a possibility.
- Voter Services Committee Update (Kelly, via written report)
  - Redistricting: group is pausing to see what happens next with the maps approved by the legislature.
  - Voter Registration/Civics Education/Voting Restrictions:: The video on the history of voting is in the final editing process. Suzanne suggested that we might want to organize a "Zoom Premiere" of the video when it is complete. The group will be setting the election year agenda soon.
  - Lynn suggested a virtual event around the time of International Women's Day in March. Sharon mentioned that the weather might make an in-person event possible later in the month to celebrate.
- ERA Action Team Update (Suzanne)
  - Federal and State Level – both pushing signing petition and writing to Justice Department to have Archivist act on 28<sup>th</sup> amendment
- National Popular Vote Action Team Update: Suzanne reported that she expects requests for presentation to pick up after the first of the year.
- Communications Update
  - Website and Instagram: Minutes of Board Meetings posted on the website have been viewed 10 times in the past month. Nadine has added National Popular Vote as a link. The calendar is now updated on the website. Nicole is still struggling with items that "disappear" after she has posted them on the calendar. **Nadine will investigate other calendar formats that may be easier to use. Nicole will add the March 2022 primary election to the calendar**
  - Newsletter: **November 28 is the deadline for submitting items to be included in the December issue.** Nicole asked that we continue encouraging folks to join the board. Lynn emphasized that personal invitations are probably more effective than general announcements. **Suzanne will approach a candidate after Thanksgiving.**
  - No activity was reported for Outreach Circle, Twitter or Facebook.

- Constant Contact Statistics through November 8: 42 Campaigns; 25,799 emails; 40% Open average; 8 % Click average; added 33 people; Sunday at 3 pm best time to send
- Old Business
  - UNCA Scholarship; University Merit Scholarship  
Suzanne reported that channeling scholarship funds through UNC Asheville would require a commitment of \$1000 per year or putting money into a general pool where a specific recipient would not be identified or know that funds came from LWVAB. **The consensus was to drop the scholarship idea.** Lynn emphasized that the intent of Yvette Wessel award was to honor her memory and that a financial component is not necessary.
  - Suzanne reported that members of action groups seem to appreciate the convenience of meeting virtually instead of traveling long distances. **We agreed to continue encouraging action groups, committees, etc. to make this option available.** If issues arise and a more formal requirement proves necessary we can re-visit the topic in the future.
- New Business (all)
  - Junior League Expo (March 12 / 19): Our application to participate was accepted. The Expo will be held from 12:00-3:00. There will be a symposium for non-profits from 11:00-12:00. Cost to participate is \$25.00.
  - Invitation from AAUW to collaborate on the Braver Angels event scheduled for 11/30: The consensus of the group was to decline rather than endorse the project or allow LWVAB to become an advertising mechanism for another group, particularly since some of the stated goals of the project's leadership are contrary to League principles. **Suzanne will send a letter conveying this decision.**
- Next Meeting: Scheduled for December 16 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom (May be cancelled if no business to discuss.)

Meeting adjourned at 6:11.