

**LWVAB Board Meeting – Zoom, January 20, 2022**  
**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, Kelly Fowler, Nadine Hamby, Ruth Planey, Ruth O'Donnell, and Sharon Withrow.

The meeting was called to order at 5:05

- Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2021 Meeting (Motion by Kelly, seconded by Lynn) approved unanimously. Compilation of reports submitted by members in lieu of December 16 meeting approved by consensus.
- Finance and Budget Update (Lynn)

Lynn pointed out that we are approaching the end of the League's membership year (1/31). New members recorded at this point would expire in June 2022; therefore, she is holding them to report after February 1 so they will be valid until June 2023. She proposed transferring \$2,500 from the LWVABC Home Trust checking account to replenish the FREF money market account at the Self Help Credit Union after last year's expenses around the election. Kelly's motion in support of this action, seconded by Patricia, was unanimously approved.

We currently have 122 members, including 17 households, 1 student, and 2 life members. So far this year we have received \$3,878.40 in donations. Lynn is still working to resolve issues regarding LWVAB's inclusion on LWVNC list of 501c)(4) tax-exempt groups.

- LWVUS: Suzanne reported that she had completed and submitted the survey on 11/28/21.
- LWVNC
  - November LWVNC Presidents' Meeting: As part of "Making Democracy Work" project, local leagues will earn cash awards for any in-person or zoom events about engaging the public on redistricting; voting rights; mis/disinformation; civics education; election education; and/or voter services. Suzanne has submitted the initial report which was due December 30; subsequent reports are due at the end of January, February, March and April. The award is \$200 for the first submission and an additional \$300 at the end of April for complete participation. Potential items to report in the coming months include a video about the history of voting in NC that Voter

Services Action Team is finalizing; Suzanne's presentations on the National Popular Vote initiative for various groups; and LWVAB's regular representation at Board of Elections meetings. Suzanne plans to argue at LWVNC meeting that the definition of "events" should be broadened to include maintaining our presence on the website and other social media.

- LWVNC DEI Action Team (Kelly): No action at state level to date. Kelly proposes inviting Brenda Mills (Asheville Equity and Inclusion Interim Director) to speak at a general membership meeting.
- LWVNC Health Care Team (Nadine): Group is studying state's health policy for possible revision; meetings scheduled for early February and March. Ruth suggested that this effort may be a prelude to advocating changes in the LWVUS position on health care. Kelly noted that the end result of this study might be the adoption of a position already worked out in another state (e.g., California).
- LWVNC Advocates (Nadine and Suzanne): No activity to report. The group was meeting at the same time as our board. They will share results with us.
- LWVNC Council scheduled for April 1 & 2. Suzanne will attend. "WE DID IT" Awards are being offered for a 3-5 minute skit, poem, PowerPoint, video, song, or dance depicting an event, project, or action that LWVAB wants to showcase. Live (vs. recorded) entries are preferred and will be judged for content and creativity. Kelly offered to reach out to Melissa Murphy to see if her daughter might be able or willing to organize something with high school students. Sharon will contact drama and political science groups at UNCA.
- Membership Committee (Julia, Nicole, Sharon)
  - Suzanne will deliver a presentation via Zoom on the National Popular Vote campaign at the February meeting.
  - Annual meeting will be scheduled for late May or early June (at the end of our program/fiscal year). Suzanne will brainstorm with the committee about the agenda. Kelly will contact Brenda Mills regarding her availability and preference for in-person or virtual event. Sue will brainstorm with committee about alternative venues and formats. Nicole suggests that scheduling the event on a weekday evening might result in better attendance than a Saturday at midday.
- Voter Services Committee update (Kelly; Ruth O'Donnell)
  - Redistricting: Oral arguments will be presented at State Supreme Court in February.

- Voter Registration: Team meeting is scheduled for next week to map out events for the coming year.
  - Civics Education: LWWNC may have grant money to assist local leagues; they are looking for ways to generate material on state and federal topics that local leagues can use.
  - Voting Restrictions: The committee continues to monitor the situation.
  - Vote 411: Ruth O'Donnell has participated in training on the new system; need more clarification on how responsibility will be divided between state and local leagues; follow-up calls to candidates will take place when primary date is settled.
  - Kelly requested the updated list of members' preferences. Sharon provided the link where it can be accessed.
- ERA Action Team (Suzanne): January 27 is 2-year anniversary since Virginia ratified; should go into effect but remains in question. Archivist is retiring which may or may not bode well. In related matter, Jo Nicholas (President of LWWNC) will attend the Helen Morris Lewis event on May 22 at the Parker House. Girl Scouts are working on a HML patch which will require attendance at event and include information about ERA.
- National Popular Vote Action Team Update: Suzanne is making a presentation at LWWNC board meeting February 2; hope to add the issue to the public policy position for the next year. Five local leagues have already agreed to support; Suzanne will continue reaching out to those who have not responded.
- 2022/2023 Program Priorities
    - Suzanne will request volunteers for an ad hoc group in her newsletter column and with an email via Constant Contact.
    - Finance committee (Lynn, Ruth O'Donnell and Ruth Planey) will present a proposed budget at the March meeting. Lynn requests that each action team submit a draft budget by February 20.
    - Nominations committee: Nicole volunteered to work with Suzanne on this. Suzanne will send Nicole a list of board members whose terms are expiring. Kelly will reach out to Voter Services team members for possible new members.
- Communications Update
    - Website and Instagram: Nadine will post reports from observers at Election Services meetings on our website, with a disclaimer that they are not "official" and a link to the BOE website.
    - Newsletter: Julia requested that each action team leader review and update the volunteer opportunities list included in each newsletter.
- Old Business: Suzanne, Ruth Planey and Lynne Joshi plan to represent LWWAB at the Junior League Expo scheduled for March 12 from noon to 3:00

p.m. (with March 19 as rain date back-up). Kelly will attend and bring voter registration materials. Additional volunteers are welcome and will mean that individuals shifts can be 90 minutes. Nadine emphasized the importance of taking pictures of the event.

- **New Business:** LWVAB received a request for support of an Open Meetings Policy for Asheville. After reviewing and discussing the proposed policy, the board decided not to support the proposal. The motion by Ruth O'Donnell, seconded by Lynn was unanimously approved. Suzanne will send a letter conveying this decision.
- **Next Meeting:** Scheduled for February 22 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 6:10.