

LWVAB Board Meeting – Zoom, February 17, 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 January 20, 2022 Meeting (Motion by Sue, seconded by Ruth O.) approved unanimously.
- Finance and Budget Update (Lynn)

We currently have **127** including: **18** households, **1** student, **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 LWWNC list of 501c)(4) tax-exempt groups.

We have received \$200 from LWWNC's Making Democracy Work project. We will receive another \$300 when reports for March and April are submitted.

Because the member count upon which our PMP (per member payment) is paid to LWWUS and LWWNC is based on what is in the system on January 31st, Lynn has held memberships which have come in after January 15th to enter them into the system in early February. This is to give them a membership through June of the following year (e.g. June 2023) instead of the current year and to avoid paying a PMP (currently \$44) on that member. Ruth Planey wondered if we might take the date back to December 31st. When this has happened now (for a household and a new member), the Membership committee sends out a welcome and all new info...they just aren't entered into the system (which enables emails from LWWUS and LWWNC). Consensus was to accept this plan, with the suggestion that we add a sentence to the membership renewal notice encouraging members to renew early.

Lynn continues to seek the assistance of the LWWNC Treasurer regarding our IRS status.

- LWWNC
 - No action to report on the President's Meeting or LWWNC DEI Action Team.
 - LWWNC Health Care Team: Nadine reported that she had attended a Zoom meeting with a presentation by one nurse and three doctors from the Triad (not League members). The consensus was that health care reform is a social justice issue that will likely require a grass-roots educational effort to bring it about. The group's next meeting in March will review the book, **Medicare for All**. Nadine has added a page to the LWVAB website summarizing the history of Medicare.
- Membership Committee (Julia, Nicole, Sharon)
 - February 24 All Members meeting: The Zoom link will open 15 minutes early to give folks an opportunity to chat. Suzanne will welcome everyone and ask at least new members to introduce themselves and then request brief reports from action teams: Membership, Voter Services, and ERA. The report from the National Popular Vote team will be Suzanne's presentation. **Suzanne will send the Zoom link to Julia, who will send it out via Constant**

Contact on February 23, as well as a reminder on February 18. The meeting will be recorded for access by those unable to attend.

- Annual meeting in May
 - Speaker: Kelly reported that she is still waiting for a response from Asheville's Equity and Inclusion Director. She will continue trying and if no success, approach the County Equity Officer.
 - Awards: Suzanne asked **board members to think about this and email her with suggestions between now and March**. We need to decide whether to give one or two awards. Lynn noted that no past winners have ever cashed the checks received, considering the foregone amount a donation to LWVAB.
- Voter Services Committee update (Kelly; Ruth O'Donnell)
 - Redistricting: first meeting was a few weeks ago; still in planning stage.
 - Voter Registration: Committee met January 25 and identified three primary activities
 - Voter registration: one obstacle will be training volunteers in light of new requirements (e.g., voter ID)
 - Voter education: emphasis will be on making sure folks know requirements and know how to check their registration status.
 - Voter turnout: plan to partner with groups such as You Can Vote and Democracy NC
 - Candidate meet and greet: undecided about whether to schedule this in April/May before the primary or in October before the general election
 - Civics Education: **History of Voting** video is on YouTube.
 - Vote 411: Awaiting final list of candidates so that committee members can begin encouraging them to post their information on the platform.
- ERA Action Team (Suzanne): The issue is in a holding pattern at federal and state level; trying to convince archivist to publish the amendment.
- National Popular Vote Action Team Update: Suzanne reported that her presentation at the LWVNC board meeting was well received. She will speak at the LWVNC Council Meeting on April 1 and 2, with the goal of having the state include the issue in their priority areas. She has made 3 presentations in February and has 4 scheduled for March (including Democratic Club at UNCA and Dare County LWV), 1 in May, and possibly another for OLLI in the fall.
- 2022/2023.
 - Program Priorities: Committee meeting scheduled for March 1 at 11:00
 - Nominations Committee (Nicole): Terms of four current board members (Julia, Kelly, Ruth O and Sue) will be stepping down when their terms expire June 30. Ruth Planey is considering becoming a board member, meaning that we still need to fill three slots by July 1. Ruth O. noted that according to our by-laws, we can have 11 elected board members and that those members can appoint up to 6 additional members. Julia suggested dividing the membership list among current board members and having each of us send a personal email inviting individuals to join the board. **Julia will start an email with talking points that each board member can personalize as desired. The membership committee will divide the membership list for assigning to individual board members.**
 - Finance **committee will meet with Lynn on March 10.**
- Communications Update
 - Newsletter: Julia requested that **Action Teams submit their updates by February 27** to enable a publication date of March 5.

- Old Business: Suzanne, Ruth P., Lynne Joshi and Kelly Fowler plan to represent LWVAB 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 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: The consensus was to authorize **spending up to \$200 to provide LWVAB buttons to all members.**
- Next Meeting: Scheduled for March 17 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 6:10.