

LWVAB Board Meeting – Zoom, March 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, and Sharon Withrow.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00

Minutes of February 17, 2022 were approved unanimously with a motion by Ruth P. and second by Nadine.

Action taken by email vote since last meeting – approval of \$200 for Helen Morris Lewis marker event: motion (Kelly), second (Ruth P.) approved unanimously.

Finance and Budget Update (Lynn): Membership stands at 134 now. We received a donation of \$50 (via PayPal) from “Making a Difference for Democracy.” Lynn has finally received a response from the LWVNC Treasurer conveying a copy of the letter from the IRS confirming that they had received her letter clearing up prior confusion regarding our tax status..

Membership Committee (Julia, Nicole, Sharon)

- Annual Meeting
 - Date: Speaker availability is a factor. Kelly is still having difficulty finalizing plans with Asheville’s Equity and Inclusion Director. She suggested that we choose a different speaker for the annual meeting and schedule a different meeting focusing on DEI when a date is settled. Because options for possible dates are extremely limited, it was decided that we pick a date and then find a speaker who is available. **Suzanne will email a list of potential dates.**
 - Speaker: Suzanne suggested Nicole Dozer, a health care consultant who recently spoke to the Charlotte League about why NC is leaving money on the table by not participating in Medicaid expansion. Julia mentioned asking a representative from Pisgah Legal Services. Lynn and Nadine have recently participated in a postcard campaign urging the NC legislature to expand Medicaid; if that campaign is successful, the issue may no longer be relevant by the annual meeting date at the end of May.
 - Location: only 10 responses to survey included in newsletter. The committee will move ahead with identifying a possible outdoor location in Asheville and obtaining cost estimates. Nicole noted that technical requirements would make it difficult to have a virtual (rather than in-person) speaker. This raised the issue of whether we needed to have a speaker for the annual meeting or could we just have a social gathering. One possibility suggested was a brewery and cash bar which would require charging attendees a fee to cover the rental cost. **The committee will work on finding a venue and present quotes to the board.**
 - Awards: Possible recipients were discussed, settling on two, with the possibility of funding attendance at the LWVNC Council for winners. **Suzanne asked that members email comments or other suggestions to Nicole by March 24.**
 - We decided to **conduct the official business (approval of budget, priorities and Board of Directors) of the annual meeting via email to maximize participation of members.**
- Program Priorities (Suzanne): The Program Planning Committee met on March 22. They agreed to retain the four major action areas for 2022-2023, with changes and/or expansion in some areas, and more description to better reflect the work of the action groups. Redistricting will be included in Voter Services; Vote 411 is listed as a specific area because of its

importance in an election year. The biggest change from previous year is expansion of ERA Action Team title to include “Gender Equity” to reflect efforts that will continue as the 28th amendment is established. **Suzanne distributed a draft of the complete document and asked that members email her with any issues or comments.** If she receives none, the document will be put forward as is via email in conjunction with the annual meeting.

- Nominations Committee (Nicole): **Sharon will divide membership list among board members who will send a personalized invitation to each.** Suzanne has contacted folks who signed up at the Junior League Volunteer Expo and at least one person has joined as a result. We need four new board members to fill slots vacated by those who are leaving. Kelly cited the by-laws: “The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the League, six appointed directors and not more than six appointed directors.” **Approval of new board members will be handled via email in conjunction with the annual meeting.**
- Finance Committee (Lynn): The committee reviewed last year’s spending and the proposed draft budgets conservatively with a focus on goals for each expenditure. Lynn noted that our biggest expense is the per member payment, which leaves very little income from membership fees. Donations comprise the greatest part of our income. **The budget will be presented to the general membership for approval via email in conjunction with the annual meeting.**
- LWVUS: Suzanne will attend both the LWVNC Council and the LWVUS meeting at her own expense.
- LWVNC and LWVNC DEI Action Team: no action to report
- LWVNC Healthcare Team (Nadine): Next meeting on 3/22 will focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion issues.
- Voter Services Committee Update (Kelly): Linda Kane is reviewing the script for the History of Voting video based on feedback she has received. The committee is starting to review results from last round of training voter registration volunteers; plan to administer short test to ensure that volunteers provide accurate information at tabling events.
- Vote 411: Getting close to going live for May Primaries; volunteers will be contacted with names of candidates to contact. Ruth O’D. has maximized \$1000 from this year’s budget for print and electronic ads.
- National Popular Vote Action Team Update (Suzanne): A talk at OLLI will be scheduled for Fall; North Carolina is still on the list for the National Office to make a big push in 2023, which will probably include an event in Raleigh and perhaps a tour of the state.
- Website and Instagram (Nadine): Additions include updated redistricting maps and a link to a film documenting the effect of Medicaid on de-segregating hospitals.
- Newsletter (Julia, Patricia): Action teams are asked to submit write-ups (including up-dated “volunteer opportunities” by March 28 for inclusion in April newsletter. Text and images should be sent separately to both Julia and Patricia.
- Twitter and Facebook (Suzanne): Postings on Black History have received lots of hits. Carol Moulton has researched and created an excellent series of posts on Women’s History. Suzanne will send link for those who may have missed them.

- Old Business: 100 LWV Buttons have been purchased (at cost of \$200) for distribution to all members.
- New Business (all)
 - April: Sharon and her daughter will staff a voter registration and information table at Asheville Choral Society. Additional volunteer(s) are welcome.
 - May 17: Nicole volunteered to represent us at a Volunteer Expo at Congregation Beth Ha Tephila. Suzanne will help with preparing a presentation if needed.
 - June 5: We were invited to set up a table at the 1st Annual Asheville Honey Fest but decided that it was not a good fit for several reasons, in particular the timing after the primary and too far in advance of the general election. Suzanne will convey our decision.
 - Patricia volunteered to monitor LWVAB email while Suzanne is out of the country April 9 – 20.
 - Suzanne mentioned the possibility of changing our name to reflect the fact that we have some members from outside Asheville and Buncombe County. This was quickly rejected due to the repercussions that would result for our financial records and tax status. Kelly suggested adding a tagline beneath our name: e.g., *League of Women Voters Asheville-Buncombe County, serving Western North Carolina.*
- Next Meeting – April 21, 2022 via Zoom
- Meeting adjourned at 6:10.