

LWVAB Board Meeting – Zoom, January 18, 2023
Submitted by Patricia Hearn, Board Secretary

In Attendance: Suzanne Fisher, President; Patricia Hearn, Secretary; Lynn Lederer, Treasurer, Nicole Wheeler-Schumacher, Vice-President, Board members: Kelly Carlson, Nadine Hamby, Linda Kinsinger, Donna Mann, Ruth Planey, Cheryl Williams and Sharon Withrow (and a fluctuating number of cats)

Meeting was called to order by President Suzanne Fisher at 6:05.

Minutes of October 20, 2022 meeting were approved as distributed (motion: Ruth; second: Linda).

Finance and Budget Update: Lynn reported that we have 116 members, including 2 households, 2 students and 2 life members. She noted that the Amazon Smile donation program which would be ending in February has generated a very small amount of revenue. She mentioned that Constant Contact has begun billing bimonthly, but that the annual charge remains the same and ascertained that we use the platform for our newsletter and any other group mailings. She reported that several regular donors had continued to make contributions. Kelly asked whether there was a way to designate recurring donations to FREF so that they are tax-deductible.

Membership Committee (Nicole, Sharon)

- Option to print and mail newsletter to select members without access to email was approved; Sharon will provide the list and Suzanne will print and mail with assistance from Cheryl as needed.
- **Members meeting:** In view of the low response rate to the survey of members (26 total) as well as the recent upsurge in Covid and other respiratory infections, the committee decided not to attempt a winter meeting, but to aim for some time in March, hopefully in person at an outdoor venue.
- **Annual Meeting** to be scheduled sometime in May or June. Recommendations of the Program Priorities Planning Committee were approved to be brought to the general membership for a final vote at that time. (Motion by Ruth, second by Nadine)

LWVUS is encouraging local leagues to schedule something on February 14 to recognize the 103rd birthday of the League. Given the short timeframe, LWVAB will probably limit participation to postings on our social media platforms.

LWVNC

- Suzanne called attention to Convention/Survey that had been mailed to all members: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnW5zNR7moyljUrrIEZFzkxYzFIXAwtgEV1_eWVGuOI54OEA/viewform
She noted that responses, which are due February 13, can be submitted by a chapter, committee, Action Team or individual. LWVAB will support two issues as a board:
 - (1) adding Direct Election of the President to LWVNC Public Policy Position and urging other Leagues to support this (Motion by Lynn, second by Ruth)
 - (2) requesting an update of the Tax Policy (Motion by Nadine, second by Cheryl).
- Convention is May 19-21 in Charlotte: Suzanne and Cheryl plan to attend. Others may as well. Lynn noted that the budget allocates funds to support attendance. Deborah Turner, President LWVUS will be speaker and there is an option for display on activities of our chapter

Voter Services Committee Update: Suzanne reviewed current schedules for Board of Election Meetings in Buncombe, McDowell, and Madison Counties. A spreadsheet with dates of meetings and volunteer observers is available at

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zgjywZmXsWunOZBJWk3x3mqteRULa2NG/edit?usp=sharing&oid=114567844687436702140&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Vote 411 Kelly reported that there had been no news since she sent the Google analytics report in November; the site may be temporarily inactive. Suzanne noted that there are only 2 elections upcoming in Buncombe County (Woodfin water district, Weaverville mayor and council); none in Madison or McDowell Counties. Therefore, LWVAB has opted not to spend the \$400 required to participate in the NC Vote 411 project by following up with candidates, but we will publicize the site as a source of voter information.

ERA Action Team will be pushing for North Carolina to ratify the amendment. They are considering an effort to add the issue as a proposition in the 2024 election. Suzanne has suggested that more emphasis be placed on gender equity, with the possibility of providing a speaker for a general membership meeting or state convention.

National Popular Vote Action Team: Suzanne gave a Zoom presentation for Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties with 53 people in attendance. The action team has contacted members of the legislature to discuss the issue. They have received positive responses from Prather and Mayfield and will be scheduling meetings with Rudow and Agar.

Communications Update

- Website and Instagram: Nadine requests photos from any events attended (e.g., Volunteer Expo).
- Newsletter: Patricia and Julia will be meeting to work on the next issue within the next few days.
- Twitter and Facebook: Suzanne noted that participation has slowed.

Old Business: Junior League Volunteer Expo is February 11 from noon to 3 pm at Crown Plaza; Suzanne, Donna, Juanita Carrier, and Karen Tracey will attend. They will display posters and distribute stickers, and bookmarks. Kelly will take posters from last fall's registration events to Lynn's home for pick-up. Suzanne will take her iPad to screen the voter education video and enable people to check their registration status.

New Business: Nadine proposed adding a category for "Gift Membership" to our website. She will explore how this might be accomplished with Chris Chromey, the website manager.

Goals for New Year/Brainstorming: Donna said she wanted to get back into the high schools to register students and she planned to contact Melissa Murphy about steps needed to accomplish this. Suzanne added that we need to make sure people know that they need to update registration when they move. Lynn reminded us about a voter education video created by Melissa's daughter (available on our website).

Next Meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2023 on Zoom.

Dates for 2023: March 16; April 20; May 18; June 15; July 20; August 17; September 21; October 19; November 16; December 21

Meeting adjourned at 7:00