

LWVAB Board Meeting – Zoom, February 16, 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, Donna Mann, Cheryl Williams and Sharon Withrow

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

Minutes of January 19, 2023 meeting were approved as distributed (motion: Cheryl; second: Donna).

Finance and Budget Update: Lynn reported that we have 119 members, including 15 households, 2 students and 2 life members.. She mentioned that Constant Contact has switched from annual to monthly payments, which are withdrawn directly from the League checking account.

Membership Committee (Nicole, Sharon)

- **Members meeting:** Scheduled for March 16 from 6:00 to 7:30 at the Cathedral of All Souls, Owens Library. Board members will bring snacks to share; LWVAB will provide beverages and tableware. Lynn will bring the LWVAB sign; Suzanne will bring buttons and nametags; Donna and Cheryl will bring tablecloths. Sharon will ask Julia Coward for brief written directions to the facility.
- **Annual Meeting:** Scheduled for May 18 at 6:00; location to be determined (possibly YWCA). Corinne Duncan, director of Buncombe County Election Services will give a presentation on new voting machines and any other possible changes.
 - Patricia will compile minutes from 2022 annual meeting.
 - Lynn and Nicole will meet to draft a budget to be distributed for approval one month prior to the meeting.
 - Nominations: Suzanne distributed a list of five board members whose terms are ending; she asked that those who did not wish to continue serving to let her know. Donna volunteered to contact an individual identified as a potential board member; Suzanne will send a one-page description of board duties and check back with person who declined last year's invitation but said she might be interested in the future. Officers will be determined once the board composition is finalized.
 - Yvette Wessel Award Nominations: Suzanne asked members to send suggestions for two recipients (outstanding service; up-and-coming). Suzanne will compile and distribute a list of past recipients.
 - Bylaws need to be amended to mirror LWVUS articles I, II, and III; must have identical DEI language; will add definition of "student."

LWVUS celebrating 103 years.

LWVNC

- Suzanne and Cheryl plan to attend the convention. Cheryl volunteered to create a display of LWVAB activities and accomplishments if she can be provided with access to photographs.

Voter Services Committee Update: Cheryl reported that the committee had met once and planned a second meeting for 2/17. They have been informed that the public schools will be handling voter registration for students this year. They want to host an event in high schools before the October 13 deadline. The committee plans to explore the possibility of reaching out to private schools in the area. They hope to host “meet and greet” events for municipal elections in Woodfin and Weaverville. Cheryl will send future meeting dates to Nicole for inclusion in the calendar on website.

ERA Action Team is in a holding pattern pending action on bill that has been introduced on the federal level.

National Popular Vote Action Team: A virtual caucus in connection with LWVNC convention is scheduled for May 15 at 5:00 p.m. Anyone may attend. To date three local leagues (Charlotte, Dare and Moore Counties) have endorsed the proposal to add Direct Election of the President to LWVNC Public Policy Positions. The proposal can still be brought up from the floor if it does not get approved in committee.

Communications Update

- Website and Instagram: Nadine has added a “gift membership” option to the website and will add the announcement regarding internship possibility with Democracy NC. The LWVAB Instagram account has 526 followers.
- Newsletter: Patricia and Julia will be meeting to work on the next issue on February 28; deadline for submitting copy is February 25.
- Twitter and Facebook: Suzanne noted that we have 94 followers on Twitter; impressions range from 1700 to more than 4000 (highest in October and November). She said that our Facebook account has 1,119 followers representing a surprisingly wide demographic range and that responses to posts are varied.
- Constant Contact: Average open rate for mailings is 50%; the highest recently was 71%.
- Women’s Herstory Month: Suzanne requested that within the next two weeks members submit a brief write-up about a woman they admire for posting on our social media sites.

Old Business: Junior League Volunteer Expo on February 11 was yielded good interactions, 19 additions to the newsletter mailing list (including some potential members) and a \$2.00 donation from a school-age attendee. Donna reported that she had spoken with the organizers to request a more prominent location at next year’s Expo since we will be registering voters.

New Business: Nadine has subscribed to the Health Care Reform for the U.S. Tool Kit. She would like to see LWVUS compile and distribute descriptions of what other leagues are doing with the resource.

Next Meeting (combination board and general membership) is scheduled for March 16, 2023 at 6:00 in Owens Library, Cathedral of All Souls.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:00