

LWVAB Board Meeting – Zoom, April 20, 2023  
**Submitted by Patricia Hearron, Board Secretary**

In Attendance: Suzanne Fisher, President; Patricia Hearron, Secretary; Lynn Lederer, Treasurer, Board members: Kelly Carlson, Nadine Hamby, Linda Kinsinger, Donna Mann, Cheryl Williams and Sharon Withrow

Meeting was called to order by President Suzanne Fisher at 6:03.

Minutes of February 16, 2023 meeting were approved as distributed (motion: Ruth; second: Cheryl).

**Finance and Budget Update:** Written report submitted by Lynn was reviewed with no comments or changes.

**Membership Committee** Sharon reported that we have one new member in Black Mountain. The committee will begin sending membership renewal notices next month.

- **Presentation on Ranked Choice Voting** scheduled for 4/25; Suzanne will host the zoom meeting.
- **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for May 18 at the YWCA. Suzanne reviewed the outlined plan, noting that the notification must be sent to membership by May 1 (15 days in advance, as required by bylaws). At least 10% of the membership must be present for a quorum. Sharon noted that we have already received nearly that number of RSVPs.
- Two nominees were approved to receive Yvette Wessel Awards (motion: Linda; second: Ruth).
- Suzanne reviewed the agenda and asked that each Action Team Chair provide a brief statement of their group's accomplishments and plans for the coming year.
- Following the meeting, a ballot will be sent to the membership to include:
  - Statement of Priorities
  - FREF budget
  - LWV A-BC budget
  - Nominees for Board
  - Proposed Bylaw change
- **Bylaws:** Suzanne will convene a small committee to review and propose an upgrade of bylaws for next year, with particular attention to President elect position, even and odd numbered years for officers, external review of systems control, etc.

**LWVUS:** Suzanne reminded us that survey responses are due by April 22

**LWVNC**

- Cheryl has the materials she needs for the convention display.
- Board has approved proposing adding Direct Election of the President to Public Policy Positions. There will be virtual caucus on May 15 at 5 pm; Suzanne has a powerpoint prepared and anyone can attend.

**Voter Services Committee:** Cheryl reported that their first tabling event is planned for the weekend of April 20-22 (Asheville Hemp Fest). They have reviewed and modified materials on redistricting and verified accuracy of the voter registration guide with the Board of Elections; they have postcards with QR codes ready for distribution at tabling events. They need to work out a few technical glitches with the email sign-up system for volunteers. They continue to monitor Board of Elections meetings and are currently working with three senior living facilities in Weaverville and Woodfin to provide packets of voter registration

information. They are also participating in a non-partisan coalition of organizations focused on voter education to share information determine where they can help each other.

**National Popular Vote:** Suzanne reported that Nevada, Alaska, and Minnesota are moving ahead on this, but that the action team feels it is not yet time for a major push forward in North Carolina.

**Communications Update:** Suzanne plans to continue using Twitter as long as LWVUS and LWVNC do so. She reported that our Facebook page has 1,129 followers and that posts regarding people (such as the “Herstory” series) receive the highest rate of response. Our communications on Constant Contact generally have an opening rate over 50%, with some above 70%. Average opening rate for comparable nonprofit organizations is 38%.

### **New Business**

- Susanne distributed correspondence with the organizers of “Red, Wine, and Blue,” noting that we had declined their invitation to collaborate since they are not non-partisan.
- Cheryl and Suzanne attended a meeting with Common Cause on Gerrymandering and NC Supreme Court on April 18 where participants argued that Western North Carolina needed more organization. They would like to organize a Town Hall event and invite area legislative representatives to share their positions on legislation currently under consideration in Raleigh. Suzanne noted that the Carter Center will be doing something similar to their *Trusted Elections Tour* for 2024. Cheryl is keeping in touch with this group.
- Suzanne reported that she had attended an informative presentation by LWVUS on *Traditions, Preferences, and Requirements* for Board, Board and Committees, or all Members. PTR, (preferences, traditions, and requirements) is a tool that can help groups focus on what really matters so that they can mitigate bias and get to better outcomes. We agreed that this would be a good topic for a future retreat. Suzanne will explore possibility of scheduling the presentation via Zoom.
- ***The Mountain Express*** is running article(s) on non-profit, non-partisan organizations. She asked for suggestions in response to the questions, “Why is it important for your group to be non-profit/non-partisan?” and “What challenges or benefits arise from non-profit/non-partisan status?” In the discussion that ensued, members emphasized that our function is to advocate for education and rights of voters—not for any particular party or individual, and that our non-profit status likely enhances our trustworthiness.

### **Next Meetings**

- May 18, 2023 – All members
- June 15, 2023; July 20; August 17; September 21; October 19; November 16;

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.