

LWVAB Board Meeting – Zoom, June 15, 2023
Submitted by Patricia Hearron, Board Secretary

In Attendance: Suzanne Fisher, President; Nicole Wheeler-Schumacher, Vice President; Patricia Hearron, Secretary; Lynn Lederer, Treasurer, Board members: Nadine Hamby, Donna Mann, Ruth Planey, Cheryl Williams and Sharon Withrow

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

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

- Finance and Budget Update: Lynn reported that we are “in a good place” with regard to finances and that a full end-of-year report would be sent in mid-July.
- Membership Committee
 - Annual Meeting – Ballot results: Suzanne reported that all items submitted for a general membership vote after the May meeting had been approved unanimously except the proposed program priorities (which was nonetheless approved by a majority). She noted that the number of members voting was lower than in 2022.
 - New Member: The consensus of the group was that an individual contact for each new member was not needed. Sharon sends a welcome letter and survey of interests to each new member and relays responses to corresponding action group chairs who then contacts the member.
 - Orientation Session: The group agreed to the suggestion of an orientation session (perhaps conducted annually) to provide an overview of the organization’s goals and practices, ideally holding the session in person with several speakers contributing.
 - Suzanne mentioned that other leagues have had success with board members contacting those who have not renewed; we decided to do this in August. She also mentioned that LWV Henderson County holds periodic informal get-togethers for members with coffee, cookies, etc. Donna volunteered to host such an event on her deck sometime during the summer.
 - Suzanne agreed to contact Dr. Amanda Sturgill, an Associate Professor of Journalism at Elon University who spoke at LWWNC Convention to address a general membership meeting via zoom on the topic “How you can protect Democracy in an Age of Misinformation.”
 - Suzanne reminded everyone to read and submit feedback on the Handbook update that was emailed to board members recently.
- LWVUS
- LWWNC – Suzanne reported on the results of the LWWNC Convention:
 - PMP unchanged (\$12 individual; \$18 household)
 - Direct Election of President was included as a priority.
 - Additions included
 - Nonpartisan election of school board to Representative Government/Nonpartisan Elections (already had judges and option for county commissioners)
 - Areas of emphasis added
 - Protecting and supporting reproductive freedom

- Supporting public education (Sharon noted that North Carolina is unique in that the state constitution mandates the General Assembly to provide funds for equal public education opportunity for each child. Suzanne predicted that, given the education budget currently under consideration, LWVNC will actively address the issue in the coming year.)
- Voter Services Committee Update: Cheryl reported that 22 people had attended the June 8 voter registration training and that 14 had taken (and passed) the test. Topics that will need greater emphasis in future training include the need to refrain from offering partisan suggestions and the new requirement that felons must re-register to vote upon completion of their sentences. Cheryl emphasized the continued importance of avoiding any appearance of partisanship in public interactions and the need to adhere to LWVNC guidelines for all registration training. Donna noted that this is the reason the action team sends an experienced team member with each new volunteer at tabling events.

The Voter Registration page on our website has been completely updated with new requirements. There were 9 or 10 observers at the recent Buncombe County Board of Elections meeting.

- The ERA Alliance (US) is working on identifying specific laws containing gender bias as an interim strategy until the ERA is finally published.
- National Popular Vote Action Team Update: Suzanne mentioned that one possible approach would be a separate newsletter specific to the issue, but the idea was deemed impractical. She and Ruth had recently made a presentation at a community gathering which was well received.
- Communications Update
 - Website and Instagram: Nadine reported that the website had 52 visitors and 133 views in the past week. She tries to keep the site updated with new information as it is provided by LWVNC. She was complimented by Cheryl for her work in updating voter registration information.
 - Newsletter: Patricia asked that articles be submitted within the week and agreed that pictures from the annual meeting will be featured.
 - Twitter and Facebook: Suzanne said that there has been little activity lately.
- Old Business
 - Common Cause is planning several town hall events on Gerrymandering and NC Supreme Court; LWVAB will be able to support the one scheduled for Hendersonville.
- New Business
 - Suzanne asked for volunteers to chair and serve on a subcommittee to review Bylaws. It was agreed to re-visit the issue after the November election.
 - Instruction for speaker and microphone are now on Google drive.
 - Kelly (who is out of the country) had submitted a suggestion that we use Google Drive calendar with RSVP capability for scheduling future meetings. Suzanne will ask her to demonstrate how this would work at a future board meeting.

- Next Meeting will be held via Zoom on July 20, featuring a presentation on **Preferences, Traditions, Requirements** by Jessica Rohloff. A brief business meeting will be held after the presentation if needed.

Dates for 2023: August 17; September 21; October 19; November 16: meet in person for some.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.