

**LWVAB Board Meeting--Asheville YWCA--August 17, 2023**  
**Submitted by Patricia Hearron, Board Secretary**

In Attendance: Suzanne Fisher, President; Patricia Hearron, Secretary; Lynn Lederer, Treasurer, Board members: Kelly Carlson, Nadine Hamby (via Zoom), Linda Kinsinger, Ruth Planey, Cheryl Williams and Sharon Withrow

Meeting was called to order by President Suzanne Fisher at 6:01.

Minutes of June 15, 2023 meeting were approved as distributed (motion: Lynn; second: Cheryl).

Finance and Budget Update: Lynn reported that she had resolved IRS issues and that as of 8/14, we have 76 members including 10 household, 1 student and 2 life (ahead of where we were last year).

#### Membership Committee

- New Member/Any Member Orientation is scheduled for October 5 at YWCA. We have the room from 5:30 to 7:30. After initial meet and greet, there will be a presentation lasting 30 – 45 minutes. Suzanne will send the presentation she has created to board members and would like individuals to volunteer to help narrate portions.
- On February 15, Dr. Amanda Sturgill, an Associate Professor of Journalism at Elon University who spoke at LWVNC Convention will address a general membership meeting via zoom on the topic “How you can protect Democracy in an Age of Misinformation.” There will be no fee for this event.
- Other events proposed for 2024 include a new year celebration in mid-January, an informative event in mid-March or early April, the annual members’ meeting in late May or early June, an informal “happy hour” in July, and an informative event in October—all in person if warranted by Covid conditions. Suzanne emphasized the need to finalize dates as soon as possible.

LWVUS: Three members of the LWVNC Board attended (Jennifer Rubin, President; Mary Thompson, Treasurer, and Regan Aduddell). The overall theme of the event was “One League” and an emphasis on speaking with one voice. Major outcome was establishing a “Moonshot to Abolish the Electoral College by Constitutional Amendment.” First Phase is implemented by the National Popular Vote as an interim measure. All league chapters are to be involved, are expected to be well informed about National Popular Vote, educate voters about National Popular Vote, seek partners in this effort. Resources are on League Management section of LWVUS (<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/advocacy/abolishing-electoral-college-resources>).

LWVNC: Suzanne attended the President’s Zoom Meeting on 8/14.

- There was a discussion of upcoming changes in dues structure. LWVNC would like to have all local leagues charge same amount, but it is not required. We can keep current rate (which is lowest in state) but may have to eliminate student membership category. Cheryl suggested that this might be a reaction to potential infiltration by individuals hoping to find evidence that leagues are biased and emphasized the need to be scrupulously non-partisan in all interactions with public.
- Two new political parties that are active in North Carolina; League chapters should not be involved in either of them: (No Labels has been approved by NC State Board of Elections

after gathering signatures; NC Forward is not approved at this time; has approached some local chapters including LWVAB.)

- NC MedAssist (<https://medassist.org>) is an organization that provides free over the counter medications, vitamins, etc. for children and adults. Individuals can place an order in advance or get a standard bag of items. Cheryl set up a registration table at an event in Madison County which had 800 people attend.
- Cheryl and Suzanne attended the Education Advocacy Meeting on August 9; our members are welcome to join LWV Henderson County Education Team which meets via Zoom on the second Thursday at 1pm; register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpeyupjkuE9EevZABdmZVdkIPGQbDbIMU#/registration>
- Suzanne suggested that LWVAB should schedule an informational meeting to explain the laws pertaining to education currently under consideration in the state legislature.
- Voter Services Committee Update: Cheryl reported that the committee made a connection with Goodwill administrators at the NC MedAssist event in Madison County. They want their clients to be registered. Registration tables are scheduled for the Hendersonville Apple Fest, Comic Con, Pride Fest and Vegan Fest. The public schools will be conducting student registration events internally; LWVAB will help train student volunteers. Cheryl will send a list of student IDs currently approved as voter IDs. She noted that IDs can be obtained at no cost at the Board of Elections, but that individuals should register BEFORE going in to get their ID. Cheryl also related an incident in which a director of election services in a rural county had been refusing to accept “unaffiliated” registrations. Kelly pointed out the importance of VOTE 411 for individuals to verify their registration status as well as get information on candidate
- The ERA Alliance (US) is working on identifying specific laws containing gender bias as an interim strategy until the ERA is finally published.
- Communications Update
  - Website and Instagram: Nadine emphasized the need for photos of voter registration activities.
  - Newsletter: Patricia asked that articles be submitted by August 28 so that the newsletter can be published in the first week of September.
  - Twitter and Facebook: Suzanne noted that more individuals have been sharing our posts recently.
  - Suzanne reported that she had attended a Building Trust in Elections webinar (<https://electionlab.mit.edu/research/projects/learning-from-elections/building-trust-webinar>), which emphasized the importance of
    - Strong words: trusted, accurate, official, safe, secure, transparent, accurate
    - Poll workers are friends, neighbors, dedicated, heroes
    - Election officials care about democracy; trust system, people
    - Emphasize nonpartisan nature of Boards of Election
    - Ads in press good for encouraging registration as well as voting
- Old Business

- Town Halls with Common Cause <https://www.commoncause.org/north-carolina/unitenc/>): seven events conducted so far have reached over 600 participants; upcoming events will be in Hendersonville (September 5), Brevard (September 6), Silva (September 7), Hickory (September 19) and at **Asheville Ollie at UNCA (October 11)**. LWVAB may be able to speak or register voters; need to help publicize to encourage good attendance. Registration required: <https://www.commoncause.org/north-carolina/unitenc/>
- Gerrymandering 5k: There is renewed interest in this; LWVAB members can participate as individuals.
- New Business
  - Google Drive calendar with RSVP capability: Kelly concluded that it would not be useful to adopt this technology since not all board members use Google calendar.
  - Pay Pal Charity; we need to have a Pay Pal business account to sign up; Lynn explained that this would not be useful since Pay Pal Charity does not list FREF as an option. Kelly volunteered to explore the idea of adding a statement encouraging people to use checks or add a “tip” when joining on line to offset the fees charged by Pay Pal and other credit card companies. Lynn will send the total Pay Pal fees paid in the past year.
- Next Meeting – September 21 (Zoom) Nicole will lead.
  - 2023: October 19 (Zoom); November 16; no Board meeting in December
  - 2024: January 18; February 15 (All member; presentation Zoom); March 21; April 18; May 16; June 20: propose meet in person in March and June

Meeting adjourned 7:25