

**League of Women Voters Asheville-Buncombe County Board Meeting**  
**October 19, 2023; Zoom at 6 pm**

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

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 6:00.

**Approval of Minutes** from September 21, 2023 Meeting (Motion—Lynn; second--Cheryl)

**Finance and Budget Update** Lynn reported that the overall picture is positive. We have a large budget because we do a lot, all funded by donations and grants. She emphasized that the budget is a prediction based on past activities and if someone has an idea for another worthwhile project, we can find a way to pay for it. Kelly added that the discipline of a budget is helpful because it forces creativity in using allocated resources to accomplish goals. Nicole encouraged members to join budget committee to help set spending parameters for coming year.

End of year fundraising/Giving Tuesday: Suzanne proposed sending a fundraising appeal via Constant Contact after Thanksgiving. She will distribute a draft for feedback.

**Membership Committee:** Sharon reported that we gained nine new members this month as well as several renewals.

Nadine thinks it is possible to put the **LWV 101** PowerPoint on Website and she will try to do so.

Cheryl and Donna reported that there were about 50 people in attendance at the Weaverville “meet-and-greet” and 30 at Woodfin. Several signed up for our newsletter and/or expressed interest in joining the League. Cheryl has sent thank-you letters and feedback forms to the candidates and will report the results later.

**The Holiday Party** is scheduled for January 18. The committee is still working on securing a venue. Donna will check with the mayor to see if the facility fee for the Weaverville Community Center can be waived or reduced. Serving alcohol at the event will require additional expense for liability coverage. Suzanne noted that several other leagues hold informal get-togethers at wineries or breweries so that members can socialize without incurring this expense.

Future meetings include a presentation on misinformation scheduled for February 15 and a possible presentation at an annual meeting by Barbara Conrad (League member) who writes poetry on social justice issues.

Annual Meeting Date: Sharon recommends that we use the customary Thursday date, May 16.

**LWVUS:** Suzanne shared the article from the **Washington Post** in which the League was cited more than any other organization in response to a question about how people remained civically engaged.

**LWVNC:** Suzanne has agreed to serve on the board. Linda will submit a report on the September Presidents Call when she has access to her notes. There was no call in October.

**Voter Services Committee:** Cheryl reported that the committee is looking for indoor events between now and February in anticipation of the March primary as well as creative ways to encourage people

to come out and vote (perhaps postcards). She will check out what is needed to apply for the \$400 general activities grant.

**Vote Early Day** will be featured on Facebook, Twitter, etc. It is anticipated that the smaller municipal elections will provide a good opportunity to assess the effects of the new laws enacted by the NC legislature.

**Vote 411:** Kelly explained the process for soliciting and entering candidate data into the website. She reported that we did not participate for this municipal election cycle but will definitely do so for the primary election. She noted that last year's grant funding was used for advertising to create awareness of the site. Suzanne recommended having members assist with phoning candidates who don't respond to the initial invitation to provide their information to the site.

Suzanne and Kelly will be interviewed on a local podcast (Blaine's World) in 2024

**ERA Action Team:** Suzanne reported that the team will be making a presentation at the Woman Up event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **National Popular Vote Action Team**

Suzanne made a presentation on LWV with some emphasis on National Popular Vote for North Buncombe Democrats at Asheville Pizza and Beer on October 24. She noted that she would make the same presentation for the local Republican group if invited.

Suzanne will be giving a talk for the OLLI class: "Doom and Gloom Meets Hope and Solutions" at a session on "Voting is Step One: Democracy in Peril." She will be focusing on LWV and National Popular Vote on October 26. She plans to address issues in addition to NPV (e.g., redistricting).

**Communications:** Nadine expressed appreciation for the great photos submitted by the Voter Services team. Patricia asked that items for the newsletter be submitted by the end of the month. Suzanne noted that she has tried to make posts more general to include other counties and that some items on our Facebook and Twitter pages have been re-posted by readers.

### **Old Business**

Unite NC Town Hall: Cheryl noted a wide range of interest between students at UNCA, Mars Hill and Warren Wilson. She feels we are not reaching younger voters. Kelly wondered if the highly engaged students at UNCA would have ideas about ways to reach students at other universities. Cheryl reported that Mars Hill and Hot Springs have reached out for information on how to conduct a candidate forum.

### **New Business**

Suzanne will include a statement of appreciation for volunteers in her column for the November and a list of individual volunteers in the December newsletter. Nicole would like to think of inexpensive ways to acknowledge individual volunteers, perhaps with a handwritten letter. Suzanne will send the LWV-AB letterhead template.

**Next Meetings:** November 16, 2023; Suzanne will poll members to determine a date for the first week of December; 2024: February 15 (All member; presentation on Zoom); March 21 (in person); April 18 (Zoom); May 16 (Zoom); June 20 (in person).