

League of Women Voters Asheville-Buncombe County Board Meeting

February 29, 2024; Zoom at 6 pm

Submitted by Patricia Hearron

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

Minutes from January 11, 2024 Meeting were approved (motion by Linda, second by Nadine).

Finance and Budget Update: Lynn had no additions to the report she had emailed earlier. She noted that we are in good financial shape due to generous donations from members as well as non-members who learn about LWVAB through our voter education efforts, newsletter and social media presence. She announced that she will be stepping down as treasurer and needs to complete the transition to a new treasurer before she moves in June. She anticipates that the process will take a few weeks because it involves changes to names on accounts and other systems. Suzanne asked that all board members give thought to replacement possibilities. She will mention the opening in her newsletter column.

Membership Committee:

- Suggestions gleaned from **Power the South Conference**
 - Produce a membership flyer with a QR code which was designed by LWVNC and provided at no cost to be displayed at tabling events. (Suzanne will send a link.)
 - Create a membership trifold brochure which can be printed at a cost of \$244 for 500 copies. It was noted that a paper brochure is a little “old school” but we still receive a significant number of membership applications and renewals in that format. Suzanne will follow up to learn how much we can customize the copy provided by LWVNC (need to change language to say the league has existed for “over 100 years” and make sure it includes a membership form, a QR code and mention of the option to join online.)
 - Suzanne distributed a list of possible questions for a survey of our membership and asked board members to think about possible modifications for our next meeting.
 - Board members agreed that it was a good idea to present “League 101” sessions for new and continuing members annually. Suzanne will investigate possible dates in June.
- **Annual Meeting:** May 16, 6:00-7:30, at East Asheville Library. Sandwiches, fruit and cheese are to be provided using funds allocated for membership committee. The announcement will include a method to RSVP. Nicole is contacting DemocracyNC (a nonpartisan organization) to provide a speaker. Suzanne suggested Common Cause as back up if DemocracyNC is unavailable.
 - Bylaws review: Suzanne shared the suggestions from the review committee. After some discussion it was agreed to use the verb “shall” with reference to term limits for officers. Suzanne asked that any comments be submitted to her by March 21.
 - Nominations: Ruth Planey said she planned to leave the board at the end of her term. Suzanne requested that any other members inform her of decisions to step down from the board within the week.
 - Yvette Wessel Award: Members are asked to send nominations to the membership committee along with a brief statement about why that person is being nominated.
 - Volunteers are needed to handle counting ballots submitted after the meeting.
- **LWVUS**

- Suzanne has posted the updated DEI Policy and will announce it in her newsletter column. The bylaws and Program state that we will follow the LWVUS Policy but do not include specifics.
 - 2024 Convention (June 27-29): We are allowed three voting delegates. Suzanne and Cheryl plan to attend. Suzanne will send the link with information. Lynn noted that there is \$600 earmarked in the budget to support expenses for two participants.
 - Requests from LWV Vermont and LWV Denver to support initiatives regarding privatization of healthcare and LWVUS handling of dues: no action was taken because these are both issues that will likely be addressed at the state level.
- **LWVNC**
 - The Western Regional Meeting will be held in Hickory on Saturday, April 27. We can send 4 people. Volunteers are needed because Suzanne will be in Sweden. Cheryl plans to attend. Suzanne asked that board members interested in attending notify her by March 21, after which she will send the announcement to the entire membership.
 - **Voter Outreach:** Donna reported that the team is reaching out to all upcoming festivals (e.g., Vegan Fest, Hard Lox) and trying to reach younger and more multicultural groups.
 - **Vote 411:** Kelly noted that we had run an ad in the Mountain Xpress. Suzanne submitted letters to the editor of six area publications; two have been published so far.
 - **Old Business:** We have received a request from a member of the DAR to help honor Lula Roberts Platt, an early 20th century suffragist. The consensus was to decline given that the person was also a member of the Daughters of the Confederacy. Linda will follow up.
 - **New Business:** One more volunteer is still needed to staff each shift for our booth at the Junior League Volunteer Expo on March 23. Suzanne and Ruth will cover 11:00-1:30, including set-up; Suzanne and Kelly will cover 1:30-4:00, including take down.

Next Meetings: March 21; April 18; May 16; June 20. Let Suzanne know if there is interest in making any of these in-person meetings rather than Zoom.