

League of Women Voters Asheville-Buncombe County Board Meeting

March 21, 2024; Zoom at 6 pm

Submitted by Patricia Hearron

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

Minutes from February 29, 2024 Meeting were approved (motion by Linda, second by Nicole).

Finance and Budget Update: Suzanne has heard a few presentations about ChapterSpot (a membership management platform provided by LWVUS and said it is not likely to roll out until January. She felt it would be an improvement in the long run, although the initial transition might be a little painful. It will include an option for memberships up to \$500; donations which would be split with LWVUS and LWVNC. Otherwise, donations would have to be made directly to us.

Membership Committee

- Suzanne has ordered 500 copies of the **Membership Trifold**
- Suzanne distributed a draft **Membership Survey** derived from questions proposed at the Power the South conference with suggested additions from Ruth Planey. Nicole suggested that response options include a range (yes/no/unsure). Suzanne will convene a committee to finalize the survey after the May general membership meeting for distribution after July 1.
- The idea of offering "**League 101**" was approved, with the suggestion that an in-person format would be more welcoming. Sharon will make arrangements with the library to hold the event at 6:00 p.m. on June 5.
- Suzanne distributed the list of league requirements for the **Annual Meeting, May 16 at 6:00**.
 - **Nominations:** Suzanne will add a call for nominations to her newsletter column. We will need a treasurer and up to 4 elected board members. Sharon will draft an email announcement inviting nominations and will check with Lynn to include details regarding specific duties and time commitment. Kelly reiterated her opinion that the job might attract more volunteers if it could be shared by two people. Lynn has agreed to mentor the new treasurer and provide a detailed written job description. Nominations must be submitted no later than April 30.
 - Lynn had submitted **proposed budgets** for FREF and LWVAB. The consensus was to accept these as submitted.
 - Suzanne distributed a list of specific **changes to bylaws** required by LWVUS which we will implement in 2025.
 - Nicole is contacting Democracy NC regarding a speaker for the meeting; Asheville Watchdog is a backup possibility.
 - The membership committee has reserved a meeting space at the East Asheville Public Library and will provide refreshments.
 - Suzanne is starting to work on the power point presentation and needs updated bullet points for the Membership Committee, Voter Outreach, VOTE 411, ERA/GE, and NPV. She will bring our computer as a backup in case of problems with library equipment.
 - Nominations for the Yvette Wessel Award are being developed.
- **LWVUS:**
 - We are allowed three voting delegates; two spots remain open. Interested individuals should contact Suzanne.
 - Sharon has agreed to be our point of contact for the new dues management system (<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/membership/chapterspot-resources>)

- **LWVNC**
 - Western Regional Meeting in Hickory on April 27, 2024 (Saturday) will include Asheville-Buncombe, Hendersonville, Catawba Valley, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Cheryl Williams will attend; need additional volunteers. Suzanne will be in Sweden.
 - Council will be a virtual event on June 20 and/or 21 likely in the evening; each League has 2 voting delegates, so we need a volunteer to fill the second slot.

- **Voter Outreach**
 - Information effort at Asheville Community Theater was helpful; next event will be during performances of *Matilda*; volunteers will be able to stay and watch performance.
 - Team is gearing up for second primary in May (Republican only); light turnout expected.
 - They will be at two community events: 4/3 Library Books to Action Book Club at Election Services and a High School Senior Resources Fair in Madison County.
 - They will be tabling at festivals beginning in late May; currently updating online training materials in preparation.
 - Cheryl will apply for the \$400 grant that is still available from LWVNC.
 - “Voter Girl” project undertaken by other leagues; consensus was to look into doing it next year to maintain working relationship with Girl Scouts.
 - LWVAB is invited to participate in Alternative Voter Guide organized by Ron Katz. Suzanne will check with LWVNC regarding possible overlap or conflict with VOTE 411.

- **VOTE 411**
 - Cheryl will have yard signs available for the November election; asks members to think of locations display for maximum exposure.
 - Blue Ridge Orchestra is including an ad in its printed program rather than inserting our bookmarks.
 - Kelly is rotating off the board but will continue managing VOTE 411 through the election and will help mentor a replacement; recommends at least two people share responsibility.

- **Election of the President by Popular Vote:** Suzanne noted new name for Action Team. Upcoming events scheduled for LWV Catawba Valley and Dare County as well as a public one for Buck County, PA

- **Communications**
 - Nadine and Suzanne have posted “Herstory” entries on Website and Instagram
 - Newsletter deadline for submissions April 2
 - No analytics are available for Twitter unless we pay for premium account.

- **Old Business:** Junior League Volunteer Expo March 23, 12 pm to 3 pm at Crown Plaza 11 am to 1:30 pm (includes set up) Suzanne and Ruth; 1:30 pm to 4 pm (includes take down) Suzanne and Kelly

- **Next Meetings:** April 18; May 16 (Annual Meeting); June 20

Meeting adjourned 7:03