

League of Women Voters Asheville-Buncombe County Board Meeting May 27, 2025; Zoom at 6 pm

In Attendance: Suzanne Fisher, President, Nicole Wheeler-Schumacher, Vice-President, Kathy Schofield, Treasurer, Patricia Hearron, Secretary, Board members: Nadine Hamby, Cheryl Williams, and guest Linda Weldon

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 6:04

Minutes of April 10, 2025 Meeting were approved (motion: Kathy, second: Cheryl)

Finance and Budget Update: Kathy affirmed that the organization is in sound financial shape at 10 months into the fiscal year. She has transferred interest from the CD held in the FREF account to the LWWAB account. She will not have final June figures until July, so the report for the annual meeting will cover through May.

Membership Committee: Prior to the meeting Sharon distributed a report summarizing new members and activities since the last meeting. She reminded us that a volunteer is needed to manage the roster after she leaves the board in June. Current membership stands at 134. Renewals are being processed via Stripe in the new Chapter Spot system. Cheryl volunteered to conduct a coffee chat in September. Nicole asked that the date change for her chat (June 6 to June 12) be publicized with the reminder about the annual meeting via Constant Contact.

LWWUS:

- Suzanne called attention to the League's new effort *Unite and Rise 8.5* which is intended to activate 8.5 million individuals to address the current constitutional crisis. She urged board members to learn more about it at the League's website: https://www.lwv.org/uniteandrise?utm_source=salsa&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=U&R8.5&utm_content=05.01.25&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=a7db4471-164f-4739-b467-74d0319fc4da
- She noted that some attendees at the Convention were not aware of Making Democracy Work (<https://www.lwv.org/making-democracy-work>) or thought it was no longer active. It was started in 2016 and continues to define the efforts of the League (Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, Redistricting, Direct Election of the President by Popular Vote). Other efforts such as One Person One Vote (<https://www.lwv.org/opov>) and Unite and Rise 8.5 are within the framework of Making Democracy Work.
- She will include this information in her next newsletter article.

LWVNC: Suzanne distributed a report on the Convention prior to the meeting. She noted that the Public Education Action Team would like a representative from each local league to attend a zoom meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. and suggested that a LWWAB member with children in the public school system would be a good fit.

Annual Meeting will be held June 19 at Weaverville Community Center. Suzanne reviewed tasks required in preparation. Nicole asked that each board member contribute a beverage and arrive at 5:00 to help set up.

- **Nomination Slate:** We still have room for two board members. Suzanne suggested that we review the list of new members to identify potential nominees. Kathy agreed to contact one person she recognized on the list. We will be able to appoint as many as six new board members after the meeting if needed.
- **Budget Committee:** A motion to accept the budget developed by Kathy for presentation at the annual meeting (by Cheryl, seconded by Nicole) was approved unanimously.
- Cheryl offered to bring the projector and pull-up banner while Suzanne will handle the computer and speaker. Patricia will bring awards plaques; Nicole and Cheryl will make presentations.

Voter Outreach: Cheryl reported that new state board members are in place although Governor Stein's appeal of the legislation that moved the authority to appoint members from the governor to the auditor is still pending. She noted that the outreach team held two registration events in May and that they have several scheduled for the summer, including a multi-day celebration of Juneteenth. The board discussed strategies for reaching new audiences, particularly younger voters, through races and events, noting the changing landscape of festival participation.

Suzanne reminded members that LWVNC wants each league to create an observer corps to monitor public meetings in addition to the Board of Elections and that they are looking for a volunteer from each league to serve as a contact person.

VOTE411: Kathy concluded that the direct mail campaign in September had been more effective than postcards, although rising postal rates will make similar initiatives much more expensive in the future. It targeted 2900 women ages 19-41 in Buncombe County. 1085 voted in November, of which only 39 had voted in the primary.

ERA/Gender Equity: No one has stepped forward to take Lynne Joshi's place as leader of this group. Suzanne has recommended that they broaden their scope to emphasize gender equity since the ERA issue seems dormant at present.

Election of the President by Popular Vote: Suzanne reported that this team is getting local presentations lined up and that there is also an activity at the state level.

Communications Update: Patricia reported that Julia has resigned as editor due to pressing family responsibilities. A request for a volunteer to partner with Patricia going forward will be included in the next newsletter.

Board Retreat Outcomes: Suzanne reported that the scholarship at UNCA is in process, awaiting signatures. Once finalized, we will develop a publicity plan and announce the scholarship at the annual meeting. The names of recipients will be sent to

us. Funds for assisting UNCA student efforts around voter education and registration will be included in the 2025/2026 budget.

Progress regarding other civics initiatives proposed at the retreat include a possible collaboration with Henderson County LWV on a video contest and book donations for local libraries. Suzanne presented overviews of a few possible titles. Cheryl will check with the library board about procedures for making donations.

Old Business: Nicole will ask the accountant at Helpmate about the required length of time to maintain federal tax returns.

New Business: Suzanne and Nicole will attend the Chamber of Commerce's next *Woman Up* event on August 7 at AB Tech.

Suzanne asked board members to let her know whether they wanted pronouns included in their bios on the LWVAB website.

She suggested that we consider holding a joint meeting with the Henderson County LWV this summer.

Schedule of Meetings; 6 pm via Zoom: 2025: June 12 (2nd Thursday); June 19 Annual Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.