

League of Women Voters Asheville-Buncombe County Board Meeting
April 18, 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, Lynn Lederer, Ruth Planey and Cheryl Williams.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06.

Minutes from March 21, 2024 Minutes were approved by consent.

Finance and Budget Update: Lynn reported that we are doing well financially. She said that Sharon had taken on a huge part of the treasurer's job (maintaining membership roster) and that she would amend her previous estimate of the time commitment required of the treasurer to one to two hours per week. She emphasized that budget line items are meant to be flexible and invited members to think about items that should be added. She suggested that annual meeting expenses should be included in the membership committee's budget. Ruth asked whether costs for activities around the November election were included in the budget. Kelly noted that \$1000.00 was earmarked for VOTE 411.

Finally, Lynn said she was willing to continue in her role until a new treasurer is found. Suzanne remarked that we could appoint her for one year to cover the time needed for the transition.

Membership Committee

- League 101 presentation is scheduled for June 5 at 6 pm at North Asheville Library
- May 16 Annual Meeting: Suzanne distributed information regarding LWVUS requirements for the meeting, a list of current/continuing members and a list of steps needed to put a new treasurer in place. The group agreed to postpone accepting a volunteer who had indicated interest in the position until she became a full-time local resident. We have vacancies for up to four elected members.

Following a motion by Nicole and second by ??, the board approved a change in the text of Program Priorities from "Direct Election of the President" to "Election of the President by Popular Vote."

Nicole asked that nominations for the Yvette Wessel award (including a short statement of the candidate's contributions) be emailed to her no later than April 25. The committee has received three nominations to date. Although the traditional practice has been to make two awards, the bylaws do not specify a limit. She said an announcement with a request for RSVP would be sent out soon. Board members are invited to come to help set up for the meeting at 5:00. Cheryl will bring banners and a projector. Lynn noted that LWVAB has a history of collaboration with

Democracy NC, and she will bring a copy of a 2019 letter to the editor of the **Citizen Times** as an example.

Suzanne distributed a draft of the Power Point presentation and requested action team leaders to submit reports for inclusion in the final draft (Membership Committee, Voter Outreach activities re: Board of Elections observations, VOTE 411 and events attended).

LWVUS

- 2024 Convention: we are allowed three voting delegates; two spots open for in person or virtual attendance Cost is \$125; we have \$600 in budget. <https://web.cvent.com/event/07627034-5f27-44a8-8363-5805fab4b0ef/summary>
- Susan noted that in comparison with other leagues, we have been under-reporting volunteer hours. We should begin to do so on an ongoing basis, keeping track of people and hours, including travel, preparation and development of social media content or other documents.

LWVNC

- Cheryl, Sharon, George Elam, and Elaine Elam will attend the Western Regional Meeting in Hickory on April 27, 2024 (Saturday) 10 am to 3 pm.
- Council will be virtual on May 20 and 21 from 6 to 8 pm with a speaker from LWVUS.
- LWVNC Redistricting Action Team is being formed.
- The next "Presidents Call" on May 13 at 5 pm will focus on Voter Services; everyone is welcome to attend via Zoom.

Voter Outreach Update (Cheryl)

- Cheryl reported that the team had participated in a successful senior resource fair at Madison High School involving 80 students, most of whom were already registered to vote. They did register 4 individuals, including one new citizen. They are continuing to host an information table at Asheville Community Theater performances and to observe at Board of Elections meetings. They will be hosting a table at Vegan Fest in June. They plan to ramp up registration activities after the May 14 primary and to build messaging around data regarding numbers of rejected votes to emphasize the importance of checking one's registration status. Volunteer training is scheduled for June 13 at North Asheville Library and a registration event will be held at Gracious Living Retirement Center on June 18.
- Suzanne relayed a report from Linda (who answers our phone) that a member from Yancy County had inquired if we could be involved in a candidate event for Yancy County. Cheryl said she had received similar inquiries from Madison County. She had offered to confer and provide information but not take the leadership role; she will contact the Yancey County individual with the same information.
- LWVNC is offering local leagues a Presentation on Voter ID requirements, but the group decided that rather than request a presentation we will continue to publicize the requirements through other means.

Vote 411: Kelly noted that the site is becoming active in advance of the second primary election on May 14. Cheryl noted that one candidate in Madison County had already provided information on the site.

Election of the President by Popular Vote: Suzanne noted that the group continues to work to identify opportunities for talks and that five local leagues have designated liaison for LWWNC Action Team. Monthly Zoom meetings are presented at <https://my.lwv.org/north-carolina-state/election-president-popular-vote>

Moonshot: One Person/One Vote will be featured in a plenary session at LWWUS Convention. A designated campaign manager is being hired with digital launch for the effort expected in mid-May.

Communications: Kelly called attention to a recent email from LWWUS regarding a petition to support statehood for Washington D.C. She suggested adding links to this and other non-partisan organizations that might appeal to younger voters. Suzanne cautioned that not all organizations describing themselves as non-partisan actually advocate for partisan positions.

Nadine reported that she had been busy updating the website, Instagram and Tik Tok. Patricia asked that newsletter submissions be received no later than April 30 for a publication date of May 5, with prominent mention of the annual meeting. Suzanne will check with Linda about the need to purchase a new phone and/or additional minutes in order to record messages.

New Business

- Suzanne reported that we had received a voice mail message from Lisa Grant, of the Asheville Citizen-Times, inviting LWWAB to publicize events. Her number is 567-218-2675.
- Suzanne volunteered to write a handbook section advising new board members regarding social media participation. She asked that for the next meeting board members think about the question of whether we should encourage board members (or all members) to engage in a number of “continuing education” activities each year, such as events we sponsor (mis/dis information, LWV 101) or those sponsored by LWWNC and LWWUS. Cheryl recommended that we put announcements of these events in a newsletter calendar.

Next Meeting – May 16 (Annual Meeting); June 20 (in person farewell to departing members?)

Meeting adjourned at 7:05