

League of Women Voters Asheville-Buncombe County Board Meeting

July 18, 2024; Zoom at 6 pm

Submitted by Patricia Hearron

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

Minutes from June 20, 2024 were approved by acclamation.

Finance and Budget Update: Kathy reviewed the end-of-year report that had been distributed with the agenda. She noted that dues account for slightly less than half of the total income and that there had been significant income from non-member donations. She has obtained a debit card to handle recurring payments and reimbursements and purchased a year's worth of additional minutes for the league's phone.

Membership Committee

- Currently have 80 members, similar to the same period last year. Reminders will be sent via Constant Contact.
- Sharon noted that the new membership system will include an auto-renew option. It will be introduced a few states at a time rather than all at once nationally. It will be a rolling renewal process, starting from the actual date of enrollment rather than July 1 each year.
- Summer Social is scheduled for July 31 at Wedge Brewery on Foundry Street; board members are asked to wear League clothing if possible.
- An educational meeting with a presenter from the **Asheville Watchdog** is planned for September.
- Sharon asked if members would be interested in another educational meeting in October with presenters suggested by UNCA Political Science faculty to discuss roles and responsibilities of elected officials. Collaborating with UNCA may mean we will be able to use the student center at no charge. Cheryl mentioned that she had participated in an enlightening exercise on the topic presented by Democracy NC.

LWVUS

- [Civic Listening Corps](#): Suzanne distributed a description of this project with the agenda; she asked board members to review it and suggested that it be included in the next newsletter for possible participation by members. Participation requires use of the Slack platform.
- Suzanne reviewed a report on the Convention and noted that the League will undertake a study of the judiciary, with a report anticipated in one year.

LWVNC

- Sharon attended the Western Regional Meeting in Hickory on April 27, 2024, and reported that the information about the new membership system was helpful, as were the resources shared for communications and public relations.
- There will be regional meetings again in 2025.

Voter Outreach

- Cheryl reported that the NC State Board of Elections is offering free training events addressing photo ID for voters, accessibility, and registration. She suggested that we might want to use one of these as a focus for one of our meetings and that board members let her know their preference.
- In anticipation of listing our events on Ron Katz's shared activities calendar, Cheryl asked for clarification of requirements for volunteer participants in voter registration activities. Current policy requires volunteers to complete our on-line training, take the quiz and be a member of

LWVAB. The consensus was that volunteers who have completed the training and quiz and are paired with an experienced member need not be league members unless they want to lead an event.

- She reported that there were 20 participants at the most recent training. The team is focusing more on small events and not as many festivals as last year; however, the number of registrations completed is on par with last year. Upcoming festivals include Goombay (Cheryl will apply) and Pride Fest (Donna will apply).
- The Board of Elections is now charging \$.10 per copy for registration forms, not technically legal but necessitated by high demand. Volunteers who pay for copies need to get receipts to be reimbursed.
- Cheryl will investigate purchasing bibs for volunteers and apply for the LWVNC grant to fund outreach activities.
- Nicole reported that the 12 Baskets organization would like to have a voter registration table at their functions. Cheryl will follow up.

Vote 411

- Kelly reported that she has received nothing from LWVNC yet. Suzanne urged her to ask for help in contacting candidates with reminders to post their statements.
- She will work on a budget for advertising, probably to include the same print media outlets as in previous years. We will share an ad with the Henderson County League in October.
- Kathy suggested that a comprehensive plan to address all our advertising would be advantageous. Kelly agreed and will serve on a committee to create this plan with Kathy and Nadine. Cheryl recommended contacting LWVNC for suggestions. Suzanne will send a link to graphics provided by LWVUS.

ERA/Gender Equity Action Team is working with the ERA coalition statewide to identify young women with sporadic voting histories and encourage them to vote.

Election of the President by Popular Vote

- Suzanne distributed her report from the Convention with the agenda.
- The action team will contact candidates in August.
- The documentary about the electoral college will air on PBS beginning September 30, 2024 ([One Person/One Vote](#)).
- A state-wide petition drive is planned for 2025.

Old Business

- Suzanne distributed revised Board Member Expectations with a single addition regarding board member responsibilities. Since there were no objections or suggested changes, she will post the document on our website.
- Nadine has volunteered to monitor the league telephone.

New Business

- Getting ideas from members: Sharon proposed sending a survey after the November election; she has a list of potential questions and Suzanne may have access to a sample.
- Schedule of Meetings; third Thursday at 6 pm
 - 2024: August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21, December 19
 - 2025: January 16 (Winter Social), February 20, March 20, **April 10** (note change), May 15 (Annual Meeting), June 19

Next Meeting – August 15, 2024, at 6 pm via Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 7:10.