

**League of Women Voters Asheville-Buncombe County Board Meeting**  
**September 19, 2024; Zoom at 6 pm**  
Submitted by Patricia Hearron, Secretary

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

Suzanne called the meeting to order at 6:06.

**Minutes** from August 15, 2024 Meeting were approved by acclamation.

**Finance and Budget Update (Kathy)**

- Kathy will make all payments involving the debit card; she used it to pay for three quarter-page inserts in *La Noticia*.
- One half of the recent donation has been invested in a 7-month CD; suggested uses for the remaining half include a voter education effort in public schools; supporting board member attendance/participation at state and national conferences; creating an internship for college students; paying rental fees for league-sponsored programs; and producing a voter-education video that can be used in multiple ways.

**Membership Committee**

- 40-50 people (students, OLLI members, league members) attended the very informative September 11 event at UNC Asheville, co-sponsored with Common Cause.
- A general membership meeting featuring a speaker from the *Asheville Watchdog* is scheduled for 6:00 on September 24 at the East Asheville Library. Board members are asked to arrive a half hour early to help set up. Nicole will introduce the speaker.
- Julia will send one last reminder to folks who have not renewed their memberships.
- Sharon proposed a social event at The Mule as a way to thank Board of Election observers, poll workers, or other volunteers. Suzanne asked that this event not be scheduled for November 14 when she will be making a presentation at Nerd Nite, which she plans to announce for LWVAB members to attend. Sharon encouraged members to brainstorm other possibilities of ways to thank volunteers.
- Given the large number of new members, a League 101 event will be scheduled in February.

**LWVNC**

- An Election Tool Kit was rolled out at the all-member meeting on September 3. Suzanne urged everyone to consult it for voter-education resources.
- The Western Regional Meeting Saturday March 22 in Hickory; 5 people from each local league can attend. Asheville-Buncombe, Henderson, Catawba and Charlotte-Mecklenburg are represented.

- The State Convention will be held May 2-4, 2025 in Durham. Any member can be involved in convention committees: Program, Bylaws, Budget. Suzanne asked that members let her know if they are interested.

### **Voter Outreach**

- In addition to a written summary distributed prior to the meeting, Cheryl reported that the action team had registered one new voter at the 9/11 event and that 12 teams would be staffing tables at six locations on September 17 (including two Spanish speaking volunteers).
- 55 registration forms were completed at Erwin High School and 7 at Carolina Day School. Upcoming events are scheduled for North Buncombe High School, Pridefest, the Community Health Fair (rescheduled for 9/25) and a candidate forum at the Orange Peel at 6:00 on 9/25.
- Collaboration with Ron Katz's group has facilitated efficient use of resources.
- Nicole relayed a request for a voter registration table during early morning hours at Mission Hospital.
- Kathy will order 1000 from LWVNC and get Early Voting Cards from the Board of Elections.

### **Vote 411**

- Kelly reported that the site went public on September 13, although not all candidates have responded yet. The on-line ballot is available and correct; paper ballots will be mailed next week.
- Kathy reported that the direct mail campaign has begun with 4100 palm cards to be delivered on October 5.
- Kelly has ordered door hangers and scheduled ads for the Mountain Express as well as sharing one in the Tribune with LWV Henderson County.

### **ERA/Gender Equity Action Team Update**

- Suzanne reported that we have agreed to coordinate with BC [Breast Cancer] Ruckus on an awareness event, likely February 2025. If it is made available to the public Suzanne suggests that participants be required to register to get Zoom link.

### **Election of the President by Popular Vote Action Team Update**

- Suzanne has published an opinion piece in the Asheville Citizen Times: [https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc-app.newsmemory.com/?publink=2b0bd5afe\\_134d437](https://ashevillecitizentimes-nc-app.newsmemory.com/?publink=2b0bd5afe_134d437) and plans to write another on the National Popular Vote Initiative.

### **Communications Update**

- Nadine reported that she was impressed with the number of potential volunteers who leave messages on the LWVAB phone.
- Website and Instagram (Nadine)
- TikTok (Nadine)
- Newsletter: Patricia asked that materials for the October issue be submitted by September 30.

- Twitter and Facebook: Suzanne distributed a report on Facebook analytics and noted that the number of followers keeps increasing.
- Constant Contact

### **Old Business**

- Suzanne relayed a request from ACLU to collaborate on an event addressing reproductive health care which would involve screening a documentary on abortion stories. Nicole would like assurance that LWVNC endorses the project before committing and suggests that we wait until next year to schedule it.
- Kathy proposed that we schedule Board Retreat for February 2025 in order to conduct strategic plans apart from business matters.

### **New Business**

- Suzanne noted that the Junior League has discontinued its annual Volunteer Expo.

### **Schedule of Meetings; 6 pm via Zoom**

- **2024: October 17, November 21, December 19 (?)**
- **2025: January 16 (Winter Social?), February 20 (Retreat?), March 20, April 10, May 15 (Annual Meeting?), June 19**

Meeting adjourned at 7:05.