

**League of Women Voters – Orange, Durham, Chatham
Board Meeting
Saturday, February 23, 2019**

Attendees: Krishna Mondal, Kathy Wright, Amy Jeroloman, Pat McDaniels, Cynthia McMaster, Tara Fikes, Jennifer Rubin, and Brenda Rogers.

The meeting was called to order by the President Krishna Mondal at 10:04 am.

The meeting agenda was approved unanimously with the addition of the Nominating Committee report under the Reports section of the agenda.

Approval of Minutes - The January 2019 board minutes were approved unanimously.

Progress on Previous Goals:

Bylaws: There was some conversation about the need to include a provision for an Administrative Team to the bylaws that can govern should officers be unable to serve. Pat McDaniels will work on adding this paragraph and the bylaws will then be ready for posting.

Quizzical Fundraiser (March 3rd): Kathy Wright reported that she and Karen Eldridge are approaching the “home stretch” in preparation for this fundraiser. Ticket sales are on par with last year. She needs additional card tables, so board members were asked to let her know if they have one available for use on that day.

President’s Report

Membership Survey: Krishna reported that 64 members responded to the survey. Stan Hinshaw has assisted with analyzing the survey results. It was noted that the top issues of focus were Voter Services and Gerrymandering. A program committee will be organized and led by Pat McDaniels to review the survey data. Additionally, the survey results will be included in an upcoming newsletter.

State Convention: Krishna and Judith Dillon are working with the planning committee for the LWVNC convention that will be held in Chapel Hill, May 17-19, 2019. The Welcome Speaker will be State Senator Valerie Foushee and the food will be provided by Mediterranean Deli. Student members have agreed to do registration. A self-guided tour of the campus is planned, and the Ackland Art Museum will also be available for tours.

Krishna suggested that we think of someone to nominate for awards at the state convention.

Leadership Retreat: The retreat was a facilitated meeting of leaders from across the state. Krishna reported that it was good to meet other people from around the state. A written report from the retreat will be available on February 25th.

Treasurer’s Update

Cynthia LaMaster submitted her report prior to the meeting. As of January 31, 2019, the Operations account balance is \$19,033.31, for the Grant Fund - \$16.00 and the ending balance for the Education Fund \$7,038.37. The report was accepted as presented.

Membership

Amy Jeroloman submitted her report prior to the meeting. There are 244 paid members with 104 membership renewals outstanding. She noted that phone calls to expired members are not productive. She also provided data regarding the number of memberships that were not renewed over the last five years. As a way to maintain memberships, establishing auto-renew for members is difficult. (It was suggested that Susan Marston and/or Cynthia Wertz may be able to help.) There was also conversation about establishing multi-year memberships. (Jennifer Rubin will draft a rationale.)

Communication/Media Update

Jennifer Rubin reported that Katie Murray is not able to maintain the website due to work obligations, but fortunately Cynthia Wertz is willing to resume this role. A meeting with new committee members is planned for next week. They are still looking for a social media person. Several of the survey respondents have expressed interest so they will be following up with them.

Nominating Committee

Brenda Rogers reported that the first meeting of this committee will be held on Monday, February 25th. The committee must identify a Treasurer, Secretary and Nominating Committee Chair. A secretary has been recruited, but board members were asked for help with recruiting for the remaining positions.

Action Team Reports

Voter Services – Krishna reported that they are a part of a coalition discussing NC Voter ID laws. She also reported that the State will now fund Vote 411. A meeting of this group is planned for June 2019.

Public Education – Ruth Ann Groh submitted the following report.

Acting as an executive committee, Mary Kolek, Zena Alman and Ruth Ann Groh have followed up on the decision at our February 4 Team meeting to find a date and a time when Bonnie Bechard could speak to LWVODC members and the public. LWVODC Events Planner Kathy Wright has been consulted and has helped in finding a date and with other details.

We have arranged for Bonnie to speak at a noontime meeting on Tuesday, April 9 at the Chapel Hill Public Library in Meeting Room A (capacity 84 persons.)

First draft of a description:

Bonnie Bechard, author of the LWV of Lower Cape Fear voucher study, will talk about that study and the possibility of finding common ground among legislators on the issue of accountability for schools receiving public funds.

Come at noon with a brown-bag lunch, beverages will be provided. The 60-minute program will begin promptly at 12:30 PM and is free and open to the public.

Environment – Jennifer Rubin report that an op ed article regarding Mountaire Farms, a chicken processing plant in Chatham County has been written but has not been picked up yet by the local media. She asked if there was interest in joining a lawsuit against the company. Krishna will talk with Janet and Karen about this further. It was also noted that education is an option also.

Civil Discourse – Pat McDaniel plans to meet with Becky Gray of the John Locke Foundation regarding this initiative.

FEAT Team – Jennifer Bremer

The Fair Districts (FEAT) team is continuing their biweekly work meetings to reach out to voters and support fair districts programming. These are the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month in the Seymour Center in Chapel Hill, 6-8. We have been doing a lot of postcarding (reaching out to unaffiliated voters in conservative areas, a priority demographic to get on board) and other promotional activities, as well as discussing developments in redistricting reform in the state. A bill (HB69) was introduced last week and we expect another bill to be introduced this week, with several others expected to follow. In the most recent meeting, we did phone banking to encourage invitees to attend the state's redistricting fundraiser, Loving the League, which was held Feb. 15. This event, held at Anne Clark's home in Chapel Hill, was quite successful, with about 60 attendees and total donations of well almost \$7000. Speakers Allison Riggs of the Southern Coalition, Jane Pinsky of the Coalition for Lobbying and Government Reform (an affiliate of Common Cause) and Sen. Terry Van Duyn of Asheville provided insights into redistricting reform and prospects for progress this year (our best chance at reform!).

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be March 16, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted: Tara L. Fikes, Secretary