

**League of Women Voters – Orange, Durham, Chatham
Board Meeting
Saturday, November 18, 2018**

Attendees: Krishna Mondal, Tara Fikes, Amy Jeroloman, Cynthia LaMaster, Pat McDaniels, Jennifer Rubin, Kathy Wright and Vicki Boyer.

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

Approval of Agenda - The agenda was approved unanimously after a motion by Jennifer Rubin seconded by Amy Jeroloman.

Approval of Minutes - The October 2018 minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Jennifer Rubin seconded by Cynthia LaMaster.

Progress on Previous Goals:

Incorporation: Pat McDaniels reported that the Articles of Incorporation have been filed with the NC Secretary of State creating a new entity – LWVODC, Inc. Now, the board needs to adopt Bylaws for the organization. Pat will send proposed changes to Bylaws to board members in the next couple of days in anticipation of board discussion/approval at the next meeting. She will also contact Susan Marston regarding our tax-exempt status.

Board Member Absence: There was much discussion regarding board member absences with no action taken regarding the matter.

Reports

President

Krishna reported that a meeting has been scheduled with LWVNC Co-President Janet Hoy and Karen Been to discuss ODC's role in organizing the LWVNC State Convention to be held in Chapel Hill in May 2019. The meeting will be held today at City Kitchen at 5 pm.

Krishna also shared a document titled Scheduling Protocol that describes the process for ODC event scheduling. She also provided an updated Calendar of Events. Kathy Wright also shared the LWV Event Planning template for use in planning future events.

Lastly, after some discussion regarding the planned Women marches planned for January, the January 2019 board meeting will be held on Saturday, January 12th.

Treasurer

Cynthia LaMaster submitted her report prior to the meeting. As of October 31, 2018, the Operations account balance is \$20,722.12, for the Grant Fund - \$16.00 and the ending balance for the Education Fund \$5,997.87. She noted that many people pay their membership dues by PayPal.

Membership

Amy Jeroloman submitted her report prior to the meeting. There are currently 336 including 73 new members. Approximately 156 members have not renewed as of today with some indicating that they did not receive a renewal notice. She noted that there is a need to work with the state regarding those that renew with them. Additionally, she noted that there are increasing requests for a copy of the membership list which the organization will need to address soon. Lastly, a membership survey is being developed to distribute to members.

Communication/Media Update

Jennifer Rubin stated that the committee is currently recruiting assistance with the Twitter and Instagram accounts.

Report on the League's Centennial Celebration Plans

Vicki Boyer reported that there is no current planning being done by the state or national LWV, however, she has developed a list of ideas that she shared with the board. Her report is attached to these minutes.

ACTION TEAM REPORTS

Voter Services: No report. Krishna will summarize the report regarding statewide VOTE411.

Public Education: This action team report is attached to these minutes. It is noted that Niki Jordan, co-leader of this team from the beginning will be relocating to Shelburne, Vermont.

Environment: No report.

Violence against Women: Krishna reported that this team is on hiatus.

Civil Discourse: This group is on hiatus.

Youth Outreach: No Report.

In other business, Krishna reported that the discussion topic for the next board meeting will be thoughts on how to focus the work of LWVODC.

Amy Jeroloman reported that she is now a member of the LWVNC board and she has agreed to help the state board with membership matters, thus, she will effectively become the state membership roster manager.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted: Tara L. Fikes, Secretary

LWVODC Public Education Action Team meeting November 12, 2018

Background: Since summer we have dealt with medical issues and weather issues. Four of our leaders have had medical problems. We had to postpone the screening of Backpack due to a hurricane. All this has resulted in extra decisions needed at a time when leaders were already overloaded.

Present: Niki Jordan, Carolyn White, Ann Clark, Susan Collins, and Ruth Ann Groh

At this meeting we said good bye to Niki Jordan, who has been our co-leader since the team was started in 2012. Sue asked more about the history of this team, and a summary of that history is copied below this report.

Sue and Carolyn had been to a board meeting about how action teams are to schedule events. Their report, as later clarified by Krishna Mondal, included the following points:

- We understand that there is to be no more than one major public LWV event per week.
- We have the contact information for the communications team and for the events team. We have worked with both these teams and will continue to do so.
- We will be sent a protocol with guidelines for scheduling future events and avoiding conflicts.
- We lack clarity about what statements are to be submitted to Pat McDaniels, and what feedback we will get. **Clarification:** Nothing has to be submitted to Pat. Pat will review the content of the reports that are meant for the Newsletter. She, with the help of the author, will edit partisan statements or statements that do not follow the League's position on issues out from the reports.

Reflections on "Backpack Full of Cash." Sue listed the LWV members who helped at the screening. She will keep a written list so that we have it for an annual report, etc. Sue thanked Anne Clark for helpful suggestions, especially about press releases. Both Sue and Anne thought that sending the press release twice would be beneficial--a month before the event to inform persons, and then about a week before the event to remind them. This would be important for the news media who might cover the event.

Explaining the LWV: As a vigorous action team we need to be ready to explain, and sometimes defend our plans. We had a lengthy discussion on how we function as an advocacy team in a non-partisan organization. Our general concern is that the League should not let critics of the League define partisanship for us. Comments during the discussion included:

- Can we state LWV non-partisan in a positive way? Can we define benefits and qualities of non-partisanship as opposed to just the "Thou shalt not . . ." list.

- An emphasis on the prohibitions in non-partisanship can cause us to lose members. We have just lost a promising member of this team. She has resigned from the League and this team. We need a better understanding of her concerns.
- Explaining that the League is non-partisan but political is difficult. How do we explain this, especially when one or more of our positions aligns closely with the Platform of a political party? We agreed that we need to assert ourselves and not let critics define us.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be December 3, 2018. **Meeting Room D** in Chapel Hill Public Library 12/3/2018 - 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Starting in January we will meet on the 2nd Monday of the month instead of the 1st Monday, unless there are serious objections. This will avoid 3 Monday holidays--January, July and September. The only holiday on a 2nd Monday is Veterans Day

Meeting adjourned about 2:30 pm

History of the LWVODC public education action team by Ruth Ann Groh.

In 2012, as the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham counties in North Carolina (LWVODC) was recovering from a leadership shortage, Chris Cody spoke about charter schools at a League lunch. Prior to the lunch League leadership had made a plan to recruit members interested in that topic to come together at a small follow-up meeting. At that follow-up meeting Brenda Rogers urged Niki Jordan and me to begin to form a study group to continue learning about this issue.

As I recall, we planned a book discussion to learn more about how the creation of public charter schools affects traditional School systems. In the spring of 2013 we met and discussed a book by Diane Ravitch.

When Nancy Cox, who was then a Durham school board member, joined us we learned that Durham was severely impacted by the opening of new charter schools. This was at the time when the state-wide cap of 100 charter schools was lifted. Removal of the cap permitted new charter schools to be started in North Carolina.

Vicki Boyer, who had studied North Carolina charter schools beginning in 1997 when they first opened, became interested in our efforts and helped us get background knowledge of the situation.

One of the problems we faced from the beginning of our group was a lack of clarity as to LWVNC position regarding public charter schools and traditional public school systems. Brenda

Rogers insisted that we be guided by a white paper, a statement of the North Carolina League position as we understood it.

Bessie Carrington of our league became a member of the state board and was helpful in revising the LWVNC website and clarifying the state position. Later, Mary Kolek, a retired school superintendent from Connecticut, joined our team and went on to co-chair the LWV NC public education action team. That team has given us clear direction as to the state position on public education.

Although the relationship between public charter schools and traditional public-school systems varies significantly from state to state, there are general trends influenced by ALEC, the Koch brothers and libertarians. In an effort to learn how these trends and tensions affect our four local school districts our team has held several public forums. Speakers have included local scholar Helen Ladd, local legislator Graig Meyer, and the four local superintendents.

Issues of concern mentioned by the local superintendents in August 2018 include:

- Testing and measurement were discussed at length. These are often misunderstood.
- Funding
- Re-segregation is occurring.
- School Calendar problems
- Changes at the Department of Public Instruction (DPI)
- What can be done? Positive media coverage!
 - Emphasize programs that are innovative and work. Like the **Kindergarten readiness camp** in Chatham. 200 attend for 3 weeks in summer. Orange County also has a readiness camp.
 - Chatham personalized learning through use of virtual academy for students who have unique situations.
 - Targeting equity - Equity teams that allow for student input and emphasize building relationships.
 - In Durham there is a full-time staff member who heads the equity program. They partner with NCCU. Durham also provides support for new teachers. 12 mentors guide new teachers.
 - **Restorative Practices** now used to take the place of typical spiral of in school and out of school suspensions. It is mostly preventative, it's a way to build community in the school. Durham uses restorative practice instead of in school suspension.
 - Todd Wirt mentioned their use of similar practice in a program they subscribe to called Engaging Schools. It's a new code of conduct. Restorative approach but not eliminating all consequences.
 - The districts are partnering with universities & community colleges. These partnerships are critical now.

Vicki Boyer
LWV-ODC Board Meeting
Nov. 17, 2018

Possibilities for Local League Activities for the 100th celebrations

Currently these are bare-bones ideas. All can and will be fleshed out as we move forward.

Visual Displays at local libraries & museums, public buildings, etc., local colleges. Even private schools.

Date would be summer of 2020.

Perhaps your league has old photos to share for this.

Perhaps there is info on founders of your league you can share.

Displays at Local universities & colleges

Check with librarians, history & political science profs regarding class mention or building displays of historical info.

*Moore Co's Lunch with Legends has, in the past, taken their show on the road—this could allow ODC to host them for a presentation and only have to set up the venue/food!!

Local showings of movies about the suffrage movement.

Iron Jawed Angels is one. Perhaps a showing focused on high school or college groups.

Public Info Forum or History Lecture

A lecturer can tell the history of the suffrage movement. Perhaps a PowerPoint of photos.

Ask your local county commissioners and town electeds **to pass a resolution** in celebration of the 19th amendment. One is being created and will be shared at a later date. Members could dress in period costumes and attend the meeting!

******Life-sized suffragette cut-outs, for photo ops.** Place in college libraries and local county public libraries, use at local league public events for photo ops. Preferably use a photo that does not require payment of royalties, and one where the woman is wearing gloves, so that the only skin color that shows will be the face—to make this open to women of every color.

Suffragist Book Club. Create a list of books regarding the suffrage movement for your local members to read and get together to discuss.

Carolyn Jefferson Jenkins publishing book about AA women in LWV. —could possible do some public discussions and have a panel discussion of it.

The Women's Hour

Other possible celebrations, some now in process:

Rally at the NC General Assembly. Thoughts are to ask other women's groups to join us for a rally & to ask NCGA to pass both a resolution recognizing the League for its civic work in the state and to rally for passage of the ERA.

Monument to LWFNC Founder, Gertrude Weil to be placed in Guildford, where the LWFNC first started. (In the discussion stage)

Oral History Project. Currently underway. An effort to interview the elders of the league regarding their work in the League and in politics so these oral histories can be saved for future historians.

Create a Historian position for each local league, to record actions.

*******Social Media Campaign.** Create items that can be posted weekly on every League's website, Facebook page, Twitter account, Instagram, shared via email with friends, sent to local media.

Purpose would be to raise League's profile in the E-world, gain the attention of future members, educate the public, and direct the public to our events all around the state.

Each post could include an historical reminder ("On this day in 2020, the 19th amendment was established as law.... :), a snippet from our Oral History Project, news items on voting rights today as well as women's lack of rights in the past. We would want to end each with a reminder on upcoming league activities.

Additional ideas: Sidewalk chalk—share important dates/events on local sidewalk

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The following articles suggest several films.

From the MSU library, Women's Suffrage Movement: Movies & Videos

<https://libguides.msubillings.edu/c.php?g=242203&p=1610113>

Google "movies about women's suffrage" for other suggestions.

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Social Media Campaign. Starts Jan 2020, maybe Thanksgiving 2019, ends after election. Create items that can be posted weekly on every League's website, Facebook page, Twitter account, Instagram, shared via email with friends, sent to local media. Purpose would be to raise League's profile in the E-world, gain the attention of future members, educate the public, and direct the public to our events all around the state. Each post could include an historical reminder ("On this day in 2020, the 19th amendment was established as law..."), a snippet from our Oral History Project, news items on voting rights today as well as women's lack of rights in the past. We would want to end each with a reminder on upcoming league activities.