

**League of Women Voters – Orange, Durham, Chatham
Board Meeting
Saturday, November 18, 2017**

Attendees: Pam Oxendine, Tara Fikes, Amy Jeroloman, Pat McDaniels, Cynthia LaMaster, Krishna Mondal, Zena Alman, Jennifer Rubin and Kathy Wright.

The meeting was called to order by the President Pam Oxendine at 10:08 am.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed by Pam Oxendine to include discussion of activities scheduled for January – March 2018, Candidate Forums, future board meetings and board member attendance. The agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 14, 2017 board meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Krishna Modal seconded by Jennifer Rubin.

Reports

President

Pam Oxendine reported on the recent monthly LWV leadership conference call and other board members (Pat and Amy) are interested in participating in the call. She also attended the informative Lunch and Learn on Gun Violence this week. Kudos to the event planners!

Treasurer

Cynthia LaMaster provided the Financial Report as of October 31, 2017 to board members. The Operations Fund has a balance of \$22,065.16, the Grant fund - \$22.00 and the Education Fund - \$4,086.65. The report was accepted as presented on a motion by Amy Jeroloman seconded by Zena Alman. Cynthia also brought the donation boxes discussed last month and they were disseminated among the three counties. Jennifer Rubin will provide signage for the boxes. Cynthia asked that any funds collected be placed in an envelope with the event information and total and then given to her. Additionally, after some conversation, she and/or Pat McDaniels will explore the organization’s need for event and board member insurance coverage.

Membership

Amy Jeroloman reported that several members met on November 17 and prepared letters to send to 119 members whose membership is up for renewal. She also submitted the following report.

Durham members	99	25	Ledger
Orange members	153	53	
Chatham members	75	13	
Wake members	3	1	
Alamance members	3	3	
Total members	333	95	New Members since 2/1/2017

Communication/Media Team Update

Jennifer Rubin reported that she had talked with Joy about Facebook postings and because Joy has a busy schedule right now she will be helping her with Facebook postings. Board members were asked to send information to Jennifer for Facebook for now. After the first of the year, Joy plans to schedule a training session on the use of social media.

Action Team Reports

Voter Services

Moving forward:

- Schedule a Voter Services meeting soon after the election to get feedbacks from this year and plan for next.
- 2018 Election Schedule:
 - Feb. 12-28 Candidate Filing for General Elections
 - May 8th Election Day Primary Election
 - Nov. 6th General Election Day
- NC and the US Leagues are rewriting forum guidelines.
- I've organized a team to set up guidelines for social media use at and during forums.

Voter Services wishes to recognize and thank people: Lisa May, Val Gist and LaShanda Willis: Ladies that took care of Vote411. Thanks also to the communications team for spreading the word far and wide.

Vote411: A success. Orange learned a HUGE amount due to re-opening of candidate filing.

One-month new hits: D ~300; O ~250; C ~ 40

Orange: 30 candidates invited/ 29 participated: 97%

Durham: 20 candidates invited/ 12 participated: 60%

Chatham: 12 candidates invited/ 9 participated: 75%

Forums: Also a big success in O and D. C needs to increase turnout. Pat would like to have a meeting to go over forum setup.

Orange County

Monday Oct. 2nd, 7-9pm: Carrboro Mayor & Aldermen: **Great turn out (~50).**

Monday, Oct. 9th: 6-8:30pm: Chapel Hill Mayor and Councilmen Candidate Forums

Super turn out (>100)

Monday, Oct. 16: 7-9pm CHCC Board of Education Candidate Forum: **Super turnout, >100, standing room only**

Forums: Durham County

Sunday, October 15, 2017: Turn out also looked very good. (~50).

Forums/Meet Greet: Chatham County

October 5, 2017, from 6:00-8:00 PM: Siler City Candidate Reception. ~25

October 17, 2017 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm: ~20

Krishna noted that the State LWV is beginning to fundraise for Vote 411 and had asked her to participate in that effort. After some discussion, a motion was made by Amy Jeroloman and seconded by Jennifer Rubin to direct Pam Oxendine as President to ask the State League not to ask Action Team leaders and/or board members to do fundraising for the State because that conflicts with our local fundraising efforts. The motion was approved unanimously.

Fair Elections/Redistricting

Bev Kawalec sent the following report

The ODC FEAT has been busy planning two events:

We are planning a general meeting for all Leaguers and the public on Threats to NC's Fair Courts to be held on December 14, 2017 at 7PM in the Chapel Hill Town Hall. It is critical that we act quickly to inform the public that the Legislature is planning to consider changes to the court's operations and judges' election at their session in January. Citizens need to be informed on the proposed changes and be ready to speak to the Legislators. Representative Marcia Morey and Dr. John Brennan are confirmed speakers. John Wester is pending. We hope all Board Members will attend and will help us get the word out.

We are getting going on our Speakers Bureau. In addition to having the speakers and the power points, we have a flier announcing the availability of speakers ready to go. We will begin speaking soon.

The ODC FEAT steering committee will meet on December 5 at 1:30 at Panera Bread in Patterson Place. All are welcome.

Public Education

The report was submitted by Ruth Ann Groh (Ruthann.groh@yahoo.com)

Plans for January and March 2018

Date & Time: Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 10 am

- Place: Briar Chapel Clubhouse, 1600 Briar Chapel Pkwy, Chapel Hill, NC 27516
- Description: Topic-- What is on the horizon for public education in NC?
- **Speaker: LaTanya Pattillo, Teacher Advisor to the Governor, Office of Governor Roy Cooper**

Background on this choice of venue: We try to find a location that is accessible to all three counties. The Chapel Hill Library is centrally located, but was not available. We could not arrange for the Town Council Chamber in Chapel Hill either. With time running out, we arranged for the Briar Chapel Clubhouse which seems fairly accessible to all three counties. There are costs involved. Mary Kolek has written: "Since we were running into location challenges I booked the clubhouse at Briar Chapel. It will be \$140 total for 9am-12 and rented 50 chairs. I paid and hopefully there is League money."

March at a date to be determined: A tentative plan to screen a new 96 minute film expressing a pro-public education message.

We are hoping to arrange a screening in March of a new documentary film called "Backpack Full of Cash." It was recommended by education writer Jonathan Kozal when he spoke in Durham this fall. The message of the film is: "In many places, public education is at a tipping point. Leaders in Washington are calling for a massive increase in funds to expand privately-run charter schools and vouchers. Now is the time to join the movement to stop privatization and strengthen public schools."

When she inquired about arranging a screening Susan Collins including in the reply was this statement: "My name is Shelly-- I work with the film's director and producer on organizing and coordinating our worldwide grassroots screening campaign. We are thrilled about the possibility of helping you organize a screening and discussion in Durham, and have had wonderful experiences with other branches of the League of Women Voters.

“Please check out our website -- www.BackpackFullofCash.com -- and take a look at some of the resources available to organize and promote successful events, including a wonderful [Discussion Guide](#), and a [Screening Handbook](#) detailing everything you might need to think about in planning a screening. “
There is a licensing fee of \$600 if no admission is charged.

There was some discussion of the movie screening and it was noted that we could partner with local organizations to sponsor the event and The Lumina Theater in Southern Village may be a good venue and partner. Before moving forward, the Board will need to vote on sponsoring this movie screening to ensure alignment with League principles which can be done by email. Members were encouraged to watch the movie trailer and review the website.

Environment Issues

Jennifer Rubin reported that the team is moving forward with work on Jordan Lake water issues. They have been working with Wake County on developing issue papers on this topic.

Violence Against Women

Arienne Hartsell-Gundy sent the following report.

The Compass Center invited us to have a table at their upcoming Domestic Violence Short Film Screening and Panel Discussion on October 23rd: <http://compassctr.org/community-education/domestic-violence-awareness-month-2017/> We brought information about our action team, brochures for the league, and Vote411 postcards. We talked to a lot people during the event.

We are planning an evening program in January. We have lined up a speaker. She's an attorney who works at a firm that does a lot of visas for undocumented victims of domestic abuse. We're still working on a date and time. We are planning to work with the immigration action team to help with promotion and coordination of other events in January.

A Duke University student has reached out to me about a program she is interested in starting. She wants to start a court watch program in Durham. The purpose of the program would be to train volunteers to monitor domestic violence hearings in order to evaluate the court system's responsiveness. She is coming to our meeting this month to talk about how we might support this project.

Our meeting is this Saturday 11/18 at 3:00 pm.

Immigration Study Group

This group is planning a Lunch and Learn for January 2018.

Transportation Study Group

This group is meeting on December 12 at the Carolina Ale House.

New Business

Board Member Attendance is not addressed in the Bylaws so there was no further discussion on that item.

Unit Meetings Schedule

Orange County – First Wednesday of the month 4-6 pm. Next topic: ERA
Durham County – January 27
Chatham County – To be scheduled

Voter Services Meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2018.

Holiday Event

The event will be held on Wednesday, December 6th at the Washington Duke Hotel. There will be hors d'oeuvres with a cash bar for \$25. Honorary members and action team leaders will be recognized.

The next board meeting is **Saturday, December 16, 2017** – 10 am – 12 noon at the Chapel Hill Library.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

Tara L. Fikes, Secretary