

**League of Women Voters – Orange, Durham, Chatham  
Board Meeting  
Saturday, March 16, 2019**

**Attendees:** Krishna Mondal, Kathy Wright, Amy Jeroloman, Pat McDaniels, Cynthia McMaster, Tara Fikes, and Joal Broun.

The meeting was called to order by the President Krishna Mondal at 10:03 am. The meeting agenda was approved unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes** - The February 2019 board minutes were approved unanimously on a motion by Kathy Wright seconded by Cynthia McMaster.

**Progress on Previous Goals:**

**Bylaws:** The proposed amended bylaws are posted on the LWV-ODC website.

**Quizzical Fundraiser (March 3<sup>rd</sup>):** Kathy Wright reported that 58 people attended the event that netted \$1,124.39 in profit. She noted the many generous donors and prize donors that helped the bottom line. For future events, there should be more assistance with acquiring prizes. There is a suggestion that the topic for next year's event be North Carolina history. Board members expressed their appreciation for the work of she and Karen Eldridge to make the event a success.

**Program Committee:** Krishna reported that program plans for next year do not include everything that is planned for next year such as fundraising, developing a five-year strategy etc., instead, proposed activities are just a starting point. The committee discussed Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Fair Elections – Making Democracy Work and considering paid staff for Vote411 and Redistricting. The issues chosen for concerted action and study for LWV-ODC next year were Voting Rights, Improving Elections and Redistricting after a motion by Pat McDaniels seconded by Kathy Wright.

**Membership Survey:** Krishna reported that she is still working on the survey results and recommendations.

**President's Report**

**Newsletter:** Krishna reported that the next newsletter will include the board member slate, budget, incorporation name change, and proposed bylaws.

**State Convention:** Krishna reported that planning is moving along fine.

**Leadership Call:** The last call focused on the summary report from the Leadership Retreat and the upcoming Redistricting program.

**Treasurer's Update**

Cynthia LaMaster submitted her report prior to the meeting. As of February 28, 2019, the Operations account balance is \$19,567.19, for the Grant Fund - \$16.00 and the ending balance

for the Education Fund \$7,134.44. The report was accepted as presented. Cynthia also presented the proposed budget for 2019-2020 with revenue and expenses totaling \$21,941. After some discussion of anticipated expenses and how to handle carryover funds the proposed budget was approved for presentation to the membership at the annual meeting.

### **Membership**

Amy Jeroloman submitted her report prior to the meeting. There are 248 paid members as of March 12, 2019. She noted the need to recruit assistance with data entry and she will develop a job description for the work she does with the membership database.

### **Nominating Committee**

Brenda Rogers submitted the following report prior to the meeting. The report was accepted unanimously on a motion by Pat McDaniels seconded by Joal Broun.

The Nominating Committee has the following slate to send to the membership for a vote and/or for additional nominations. As required in the LWVODC Bylaws, the members should receive the report from the Nominating Committee at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting, which is scheduled for May 8.

President: Krishna Mondal

Vice President: Pat McDaniels

Secretary: Arianne Hartsell-Gundy

Treasurer: Judith Dillon

Directors for 2019-2021: Amy Jeroloman and Jennifer Rubin

Nominating Committee Chair: De Lois Cue

The committee has identified League members with great leadership potential who should be considered for future positions. The committee would like to provide those names to the 2020 Nominating Committee. Furthermore, the committee encourages the current board to consider developing a plan for recruiting new leaders.

### **Action Team Reports**

Voter Services – Krishna reported that a meeting is being planned with unit leads to discuss the fall municipal elections. They plan to invite the local election directors to a meet in September (it was suggested that August may be better). There is interest in organizing voter education meetings to include information on the Voter ID laws.

Public Education – Co-leaders Zena Alman and Ruth Ann Groh submitted the following report. The Public Education Action Team has arranged for Bonnie Bechard to speak in support of a LWVNC position. She will report on the results of a study that shows public money is going to private schools whose curriculum does not meet state standards. At a brown bag lunch event in the Chapel Hill Library on April 9, she will talk about that study and the possibility of finding common ground among legislators on the issue of accountability for schools receiving public funds. Ms. Bechard is the author of the study which is titled, *NC Private Schools Receiving Vouchers: A Study of the Curriculum*.

The April 9 program is titled,

**School Vouchers and Accountability:  
Does a lack of standards fail our students?**

The final report, “NC Private Schools Receiving Vouchers: A Study of the Curriculum” was published in 2018 (<https://lwnvc.org/2018/04/30/some-nc-schools-leave-students-unprepared-for-college-careers/>). The results were startling in that Mrs. Bechard’s research found that more than three-fourths of schools receiving vouchers in North Carolina use a curriculum in the Sciences, History, Government, and Literature, that is not accepted by major universities and which educators criticize as lacking academic rigor and critical thinking. The results, and issues related to accountability and transparency, were shared with all members of the General Assembly, state and local educational leaders and were highlighted in media reports. Bonnie has continued to study this topic. At her presentation on April 9 she will present her findings and discuss her experiences since authoring this work.

**Why is the LWV NC concerned?**

Interest in vouchers is an outgrowth of League positions. Known in NC as Opportunity Scholarships, this program was established in 2013 to provide government-funded vouchers for students to attend private schools. If enacted as planned, by the academic year 2028-29, the state will have spent over \$1 billion on vouchers. Public interest in vouchers program prompted the LWV-Lower Cape Fear to begin a study of the voucher program in January 2017.

The LWVNC is committed to focusing on equity and access to quality education. Toward that end, the local LWV Education Team advocates for public education and works to educate the public on issues connected to our state position. The LWVNC position calls for full access to a PK-12 public education that prepares individuals for their future as global citizens. The detailed position statement is available on the LWVNC website (<https://lwnvc.org/act/league-action-items/education/>) but in brief includes the following:

- We support fully funded public, pre-K education programs
- We believe highly qualified educators are necessary
- We support training, support, and professional development
- We believe in salaries competitive with the national average
- We believe charter schools receiving public dollars must be held to the same educational, accountability and transparency standards as traditional public schools
- We oppose shifting public tax dollars to private entities

We look forward to what promises to be an enlightening and engaging talk. Updated details will be available on the LWVODC website ([http://www.lwvodc.org/edu\\_action.html](http://www.lwvodc.org/edu_action.html)).

FEAT Team – Jennifer Bremer submitted the following report.

The Fair Elections Action Team has continued its new biweekly schedule and our members are really responding. Twice a month, we are gathering at the Seymour Center for a fun meeting combining voter outreach or other practical work and discussion on what's happening in the exciting world of NC redistricting reform. This month, we've mostly been doing post carding (we signed, addressed and stamped more than 500 postcards in our last meeting!) while also reviewing the new PowerPoint being developed for the state team's planned series of community dialogues. This initiative will target members of the Rules and Redistricting Committees in the legislature, presenting programs on redistricting reform with speakers from the community as

well as the League (flying the Fair Districts NC flag in collaboration with the NC Council of Churches and other partners).

In other business, there will be a film screening of *Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook* in Chapel Hill on May 13.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be April 27, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted: Tara L. Fikes, Secretary