

National Women's Political Caucus of Virginia

Meeting minutes for the first NWPC-VA meeting
2 PM, Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, January 7, 2020

Agenda items

Welcome and introductions

Distribution Governor's Resolution from 8-26-19

Review of NWPC-VA bylaws

Organizing NWPC-VA

Breakout discussions: What should be the role / value add of NWPC-VA

NWPC-VA bylaws

Andrea Miller, Originating President, walked through the organizational structure of the draft bylaws for NWPC-VA. The bylaws are posted on the website at: <http://nwpc-va.org>

Of particular note was the staggered two year terms for officers. Officers elected in even numbered years are: President, VP Records, VP Finance, VP Communications. Officers elected in odd numbered years are: VP Membership, VP Development, VP Endorsements, VP Policy.

The standing committees are: Nominating (elected by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of every year), Endorsements, Policy, Finance, Communications, and Events. Generally, every VP chairs a committee except for the VP Records and VP Membership.

The Board also has voting members representing each of the four regional districts: Northern Virginia, Southwest Virginia, Central Virginia, and Tidewater.

Nonvoting Board members are the historian and legal counsel.

During this discussion, Ms. Miller also told the room that Virginia has the opportunity to host either the next national NWPC meeting (2020) or the NWPC convention (2021).

Organizing NWPC-VA

Kati Hornung, Originating VP Records, discussed the first steps for formally organizing NWPC-VA. To become a state chapter 35 members are required and Virginia is officially recognized by national at this time. The next step is for the Originating Board to install a Nominating Committee that can, in turn, present a slate of Board candidates for a membership to vote. The Originating Board requested input from members present.

National Women's Political Caucus of Virginia

Ms. Hornung passed out a single page to members at the meeting with an alphabetized list of Charter Members. After a facilitated discussion of “key characteristics for an ideal nominating committee member” those present had 5-10 minutes to circle names on the page. Eastan Weber compiled the recommendations after they were collected.

Because a Nominating Committee member cannot be considered for a Board position, some concern was expressed about only putting members on the Nominating Committee that wanted to be there. Ms. Hornung assured those present that no member would be placed on the Nominating Committee without their consent.

Also on the page soliciting member input were three logo options:
NWPC-VA logo with the swirl
NWPC-VA logo with the five interlocking circles
Create a new logo

Members were asked to circle their favorite option so the Board could move forward with a logo for NWPC-VA. Eastan Weber also compiled this data for the Board.

Breakout Discussions

In groups of 6-10, members in the room discussed opportunities / ideas / vision for NWPC-VA. Afterwards, three key opportunities / ideas / visions discussed by each group was presented, as follows:

Katherine White

- Inclusion, particularly youth
- Nominating committee needs to be diverse
- Network Virginia's June 2020 conference (19-21 in Tyson's Corner) would be an ideal location to unveil / highlight NWPC-VA

Catherine Fletcher

- Top policy considerations: Criminal justice reform; Voting rights; Family leave; Women's health; Environment
- Request an advisor / liaison to the Governor's office
- Key quote / idea: some years ask questions, other years answer them

Bonnie Reid

- Want to be modern women; make demands; less passive
- Package delivered to each legislator to explain who we are
- NWPC-VA should seek to establish a chapter at each college (and those chapters should focus on voter registration)
- Year round pressure

National Women's Political Caucus of Virginia

Holly Hazard

- Clear and crisp / visible branding while at the General Assembly (the audience noted they liked Holly's jacket as a possible idea)
- Pick 2-3 legislative goals; be ambitious; do not quit
- Demand pro rata representation of women (based on % of women in Virginia) in every elected or appointed executive branch commission

Amanda McClusky

- Longevity - as we burn out we need a deep bench
- Only organization for some women in rural areas to support a candidate; NWPC-VA needs to help find women and fund scholarships to Emerge
- Age diversity – recruiting in high schools may be better than colleges
- Internship opportunity with the Board of Director for high school students

Johanna Gusman

- Strategic focus to change system to be inclusive, like making lobbying in Richmond available to people with different backgrounds / abilities to attend
- Create a space / hold space where conversations can happen

Lisa Fleming

- Multi-partisan
- Strong liaison with Emerge Virginia
- Bills good for women are good for all

Ms. Hornung closed the meeting with a discussion of additional ideas for how NWPC-VA can be a “value add” in the Virginia political space, which led to a number of additional comments from those present.

Ms. Hornung noted the strength of Emerge Virginia and that NWPC-VA will exist with a slightly different focus in Virginia politics from most other state NWPC organizations. The discussion turned to NWPC-VA's ability to carve a new path in Virginia and to create value in spaces that are currently not supported / streamlined.

- Consider offering (for a fee) “candidates’ back office”:
 - Difficult and expensive for new candidates to constantly reinvent the wheel
 - Most members have skills to donate to this effort and many are donating to a variety of campaigns already, so this could streamline across campaigns/ volunteer base
 - Ongoing funding source for NWPC-VA
 - Would need requirements for candidate eligibility
- Support candidates by fundraising for NWPC-VA and then gifting funds to endorsed candidates

National Women's Political Caucus of Virginia

- Ongoing support of candidates who have not won YET, particularly in rural areas
- Support women owned business who support candidates
- Support women in other states by inviting them to see what we are doing / how we are doing it; support other states that are not being supported
- Recharge the army who support the candidates
- Once candidates win, provide tools and support to do the job
- Accountability projects
- "Hack democracy" event(s)
 - Have subject matter experts and legislators describe a challenge and provide background / data
 - Participants in teams develop possible solutions
 - Presentations "judged" by the experts and legislators
 - Draft legislation based on the event
- Lobby training

As the meeting concluded, one charter member noted that "problem solvers" needs to be in the mission statement for NWPC-VA.

Suggested additions / revisions to the meeting minutes? Please send suggestions to Kati Hornung, Originating Vice President Records, at secretary@nwpc-va.org

National Women's Political caucus of Virginia

Addendum: Charter Members for NWPC-VA

Yoomie Ahn	Shyamali Hauth	Marcello Rollando
Soonhoon Ahn	Holly Hazard	Leslie Rubio
Linda Allen	Alisa Hefner	Lisa Sales
Rex Allen	Linda Higgins	Gwendolyn Sarsfield
Catherine Anson	Brenda Hill	Marjorie Signer
Elisabeth Baker	Kati Hornung	Carol Stephens
Kathryn Bird	Holly Huddle	Anne Sterling
Heidi Bodanske	Emile Huebner	Rick Sumner
Melissa Brooks	Naomi Isaac	Katherine Terrill
Laurie Buchwald	Morgan Johns	Megan Tracy
Adalia Burks	Lynn Johnston	Ruth Twiggs
Sidra Butt	Barbara Jones	Robbin Warner
Angie Cabell	Rae Josey	Andrea Weber
Stair Calhoun	Sandra Keery	Julie Weissend
Karen Campblin	Corina Ladd	Katherine White
Constance Cordovilla	Dulce Lawrence	Robin Whitley
Frances Crutchfield	Yvonne Lewis	Kim Drew Wright
Quena Dailey	Dana Loncar	
Eileen Davis	Jane Materna	
Martin Davis	Amanda McCluskey	
Valarie Fillgrove	Heather Meaney-Allen	
Pat Fishback	Carol Medawar	
Lisa Fleming	Andrea Miller	
Catherine Fletcher	Tammie Miller Jennings	
Elizabeth Florek	Denise Murden	
Charlotte Gibson	Jane Newell	
Candace Graham	Christine Pham	
Donna Granski	Ryland Potter	
Johanna Gusman	Shelby Quast	
Christie Harrell	Ruthie Roberts	