

## **Annual Meeting December 9, 2023 Virtual Meeting**

**Welcome and Call to Order** - Teri Walley, Co-President of the ERA-NC Alliance, called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. and welcomed all member and guests to the meeting. She said that we are meeting in December to mark the 100th anniversary of the first time the ERA was introduced in Congress on December 13, 1923. Tribute was paid to Alice Paul and Crystal Eastman, who wrote the first version of the ERA in July 1923.

Teri said that Jimmie Cochran Pratt, Co-President of the ERA-NC Alliance, sends her regrets for not being able to co-host the Annual Meeting. She went on to say that the ERA-NC Alliance truly is a two person job. Teri also thanked Virginia Adamson and Audrey Muck for stepping in to pull the virtual Annual Meeting together.

**Land Acknowledgement** - Marla Barthen recognized that North Carolina is part of the homeland and gathering places of many Indigenous peoples, including: Coharie, Eastern Band of Cherokee, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, Sappony and Waccamaw Siouan. She went on to recognize the sovereignty of the tribes and Indigenous nations. They are an integral part of our history and culture.

**100th Anniversary of the ERA** - Cynthia Munoz read a statement by Alice Paul to commemorate the 100th anniversary of trying to get the ERA passed, "I never doubted that equal rights was the right direction. Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality."

**Recognition of Board and Dignitaries** - The ERA-NC Alliance Officers and Board Members were recognized as well as the lead organizations and dignitaries.

**Credentials Report** - Leila Tvedt, Credentials Chair for the Credentials Report, reported that 7 lead organization representatives, 20 members and 4 guests were voting, for a total of 31 eligible voters. Leila then moved to accept the Credentials Report as presented. This motion was approved. Leila then declared a quorum for the transaction of business.

**Adoption of the Annual Meeting Agenda** - Jan Lowe, secretary of the ERA-NC Alliance, moved to adopt the 2023 Annual Business Meeting Agenda as presented. Virginia Adamson seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

**Adoption of the Annual Meeting Agenda** - Jan moved for the approval of the 2022 Annual Business Meeting Minutes as presented. Judy Lotas seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

**President's Report** - Teri Walley, Co-President, reminded attendees to post their questions in the chat box. She reviewed the history of the ERA, the work of the House of Representatives, Senate and the Executive Branch for the work that they have done to get the ERA published and made part of the U.S. Constitution.

Teri reported that the ERA-NC Alliance has been focusing on the approval of the ERA in North Carolina and amending North Carolina statutes that have gender discrimination language. The ERA-NC Alliance paid Meredith College to conduct a scientific survey of North Carolinian residents. They found that 71.5% of residents support the federal ERA and an ERA in our state constitution. Close to 50% of extremely conservative North Carolina residents also support the ERA. Representative Julie von Haefen and Senator Natalie Murdock filed ERA ratification bills. Every legislature was visited in the State Capital.

Jimmie Cochran Pratt attended the 100th anniversary of the ERA Convention in Seneca Falls, NY. Teri spoke about the ERA at the NC NOW State Conference. Both Jimmie and Teri spoke at the North Carolina League of Women Voters Conference. There they received the Partner of the Year Award. They both urged Vice President Kamala Harris to get the ERA published through Governor Cooper's staff. They spoke at the NC Association of Women Attorneys Banquet.

There are 45,000 pages of N.C. statutes that the Winston and Strawn Law Firm has reviewed. They found 22,000 changes that need to be made. Through the North Carolina General Statutes Commission, 8 of those statutes will probably be made in 2024.

**Treasurer's Report** - Leila Tvedt, Vice President of Membership and Treasurer of the ERA-NC Alliance, presented the treasurer's report. The beginning balance on 1/1/23 was \$15,212.71, income was \$3060.01, expenses were \$5,527.06 and the ending balance on 12/4/23 was \$12,745.66. The treasurer's report was approved and will be filed for audit.

**Membership Report** - Leila reported that the ERA-NC Alliance has 53 individual members and 13 lead organization members for a total of 66 members. Lead organizations that have joined the ERA-NC Alliance this year include the ACLU North Carolina and the NAACP of Henderson County.

**Fundraising** - Marla Barthen, Vice President of Fundraising of the ERA-NC Alliance, reported \$755.01 in merchandise sales, \$380.00 in donations for a total of \$1,135.01.

**Public Relations** - Judy Lotas, Vice President of the Public Relations of the ERA-NC Alliance, reviewed what the ERA-NC Alliance has done over the past year.

**Report of the Nominations Committee for Directors** - Virginia Adamson, the Board Development Chair, thanked Marla Barthen and Roberta Madden for their help on the Nominating Committee. Four people were nominated for the 4 positions that are open:

Melinda Lowrance  
Roberta Madden  
Takeshia Mc Intyre  
Elaine Okal

The floor was open for other nominations. There were no other nominations. Melinda Lowrance, Roberta Madden, Takeshia McIntyre and Elaine Okal were elected for the position of Directors for the 2024-2025 term.

**2024 Vision** - Teri Walley spoke about the need to put North Carolina legislatures in place that will support a North Carolina state ERA. The ERA-NC Alliance needs all of its members to get involved in helping pro-women candidates win nominations to the North Carolina General Assembly. To help everyone, 2 workshops will be held. The first will occur in early February with political scientists providing an in-depth analysis of the political landscape in North Carolina. On March 9, 2024 a workshop entitled "Get Out the Vote" will occur. This training will occur right after the primaries.

**Announcements** - Teri announced that the ERA Coalition will have a march in Washington, D.C. on December 13, 2023. The theme of the march is "It's been 100 Years. Not one More".

**Adjournment** - Teri adjourned the meeting at 11:56 A.M.

Jan Lowe, Secretary Jan Lowe

Jimmie Cochran Pratt, Co-President Jimmie Cochran Pratt

Teri Walley, Co-President Teri Walley