

ERA-NC ALLIANCE Annual Meeting
November 16, 2024
Winston-Salem, NC

Welcome - Jimmie Cochran Pratt and Teri Walley, Co-Presidents of the ERA-NC Alliance, welcomed all members, lead organizations and guests to the meeting. Teri introduced members of the Executive Council and the Full Board.

Land Acknowledgement - Virginia Adamson recognized that North Carolina is part of the homeland and gathering place 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.

President's Address - Teri Walley talked about what the ERA-NC Alliance has done over the past year. This includes increasing the number of lead organizations, working with the Counsel of State Committee, awarding ERA Champions Certificates, candidate survey, Get Out The Vote (GOTV) and pushing for publication of the ERA with President Biden, Governor Cooper and back channels with Vice President Harris. The ERA-NC Alliance has also supported House Judicial Res. 82 (SJR 39) and HJR 25 (SJB 4) bills that ratify the ERA and eliminate the time frame listed in the preamble of the ERA. More efforts are going to be placed on obtaining a state ERA.

Statutes Review - 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. The NC House passed these statutes this fall. Hopefully, the NC Senate will pass these statutes this winter.

"The ABA and the Future of the ERA" was presented by Michele Thorne, Esquire. She discussed the history of the US Constitution, Bill of Rights, Article V and the amendment process. Ms. Thorne stated that the ERA was ratified by 38 states and that it should be published by the archivist. She feels that the ERA will go to the US Supreme Court.

"Women Power the Vote" was presented by Dianna Wynn, President of the League of Women Voters US. She discussed the data on who voted and why in the recent presidential campaign. Ms. Wynn talked about the pattern of the female vote over the years.

Welcome and Call to Order - Jimmie called the business meeting to order.

Credentials Report - Lori Bunton, Vice President of Membership, reported that 1 lead organization representative and 23 members were present, for a total of 24 eligible voters. Lori then declared a quorum for the transaction of business.

Adoption of the Annual Meeting Agenda - Jan Lowe, secretary of the ERA-NC Alliance, requested that the agenda be accepted. The motion was carried.

Adoption of the Annual Meeting Minutes - Jan asked that the minutes from December 9, 2023 be approved. The motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report - Audrey Muck, Treasurer of the ERA-NC Alliance, presented the financial report. The beginning balance was \$12,534.28 on January 1, 2024 and the ending balance was \$11,067.39 on October 31, 2024. The treasurer's report was approved and will be filed for audit.

Legislative and Public Relations Reports -Sherry MacQueen, Vice President of Legislative, and Judy Lotas, Vice President of Public Relations of the ERA-NC Alliance, reviewed what the ERA-NC Alliance has done over the past year. This included the GOTV project, Birth Controller signs and post cards.

Membership Report - Lori reported that the ERA-NC Alliance has 59 individual members (36 renewed 23 new) and 10 lead organization members for a total of 69 members.

Report of the Nominations Committee for Directors - Jimmie thanked Ann Von Brock, the Board Development Chair, for her help on the Nominating Committee. The nominees for the Executive Council were: Audrey Muck and Marla Barthen for Co-Presidents, Elaine Okal for Secretary, Judy Lotas for VP Public Relations, Virginia Adamson for Treasurer, Lori Bunton for VP Membership, Sherry MacQueen for VP Legislature. The VP of Fundraising is still open. There were no nominations from the floor. Jimmie moved that these nominations be approved. The motion was carried.

The nominees for the Full Board of Directors were: Class of 2024- 2025 Melinda Lowrance, Roberta Madden and Kayla Peoples; Class of 2025-2026 - Lisa Lukasik, Esquire, Sarah Ludington, Esquire and April Farr. The floor was open for other nominations. There were no other nominations. Jimmie moved that these nominations be approved. The motion was carried.

Proposed Bylaws Amendments - The Executive Council discussed changing 2 bylaws to make the ERA-NC Alliance's membership more practical and if the ERA is published, to allow for the money in the checking account to be distributed to some other organization in North Carolina that is fighting for the ERA to be published and passed by the North Carolina Legislature.

On October 10, 2024 the Executive Council voted to amend Bylaw XI and Bylaw XII to:

" ARTICLE XI - DUES.

Section 1 SCHEDULE. Dues shall be payable annually up to thirty (30) days of submitting duly registered membership form to join by both Lead Organizations and Individual Members, with each new and renewed membership confirmed by receipt of a dues payment. All Memberships last for 12 months.

1. Dues shall be set by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. Member shall be notified of the intent to consider a change in the dues, the proposed amount, and the rationale for the change at least 30 days prior to the Board vote.

Section 2 DELINQUENCY. Members and organizations whose dues are delinquent for a period of one year after the start of a fiscal year shall be dropped from the membership list.

ARTICLE XII - DISSOLUTION.

Section 1 PROCEDURE. In the event of dissolution of the Alliance, by consensus of the Board of Directors, its assets shall be distributed to the national ERA Coalition or to another organization or organizations working on ratification or implementation of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Section 2 In the event of dissolution, all applicable federal, state, and local laws shall be upheld."

The Full Board approved these amended bylaws on October 15, 2024. On November 16, 2024 the full membership voted to amend these bylaws as stated.

Special Recognition - Jimmie recognized Audrey Muck and Marla Barthen for their hard work and congratulated everyone belonging to the ERA-NC Alliance for their efforts to get the ERA published.

2025 Vision - Audrey and Marla talked about the need to push President Biden to get the ERA published and their goals to publicize the ERA with the general public in this state and work on getting the ERA passed by the NC Legislature.

Announcements and Adjourn - Jimmie announced that the meeting will end with a film and thanked everyone for attending.

Jan Lowe, Secretary Jan Lowe

Jimmie Cochran Pratt, Co-President Jimmie Cochran Pratt

Teri Walley, Co-President Teri Walley