

League of Women Voters Thurston County

Board Retreat, August 4, 2017, 9:30-3:30, Peggy Murphy's house

Notes

Present: Pat Dickason, Darlene Hein, Ruth Harms, Annie Cubberly, Shelley Ferer, Marilyn Zuckerman Funk, Phyllis Farrell, Peggy Murphy, Sandra Herndon

Excused: RPeggy Smith, Connie Christy **Guest:** Julie Frick, Past board member Karen Verrill

President Pat Dickason called the retreat to order at 9:35am.

After brief introductions, the agenda was approved. Ruth led the group in a brief opening exercise in which each member shared her meaningful League experience.

League history and board training. Karen led a discussion of League history—we agreed that primary League documents, such as the League nonpartisanship policy, League principles, our By-Laws, etc., be identified on the LWVTC website. Next was a discussion of the essentials of board training including the required annual review of League Nonpartisanship and Conflict of Interest Policy. Darlene and Marilyn described the role of Membership-Leadership-Development Training (MLD).

Year in review. Ruth led a review/summary of League activities in 2016-2017, including:

- Marches
- Climate and environment
- Racial equity
- Elections and voter services
- Website and Facebook
- Membership
- *Coffee with League*
- General Meetings
- Education Fund luncheon
- Holiday party, board meetings, and other activities.

Synthesis of Year in review/what next? Marilyn guided a focus on what should be next:

- Seek more opportunities for co-sponsorship of marches/rallies with groups with whom the League shares goals, values, etc.
- Place more emphasis on communication, including more opportunities for interpersonal interaction. Need for training for individual board members on how to use the website more effectively through posting, group emailing, and using the calendar. (Pat will arrange with Caroline Metzger for training.)
- Seek more opportunities for collaboration with climate groups.
- Highlight *Coffee with League*.

- Focus on voter *participation* (as well as registration)—getting out the vote, perhaps voting parties, possibly using the “Ballots and Baristas” model, etc.
- Perhaps develop a League nonfiction book group? Possibly quarterly or coinciding with meeting topics?

Calendar and possible community meeting topics (individual assignments were not made but will need to be arranged shortly).

- **September:** Investigate co-sponsorship with Sierra Club for Sept. 6 climate/environment meeting for Community Meeting. General election candidate interviews on TVMedia, Sept. 23. Voter Registration Day Sept. 26—tabling at mall, library, etc.
- **October:** Education Fund Luncheon on Oct. 28 at Red Lion. Noah Purcell, WA Solicitor General, confirmed as speaker.
- **November:** Elected Officials Party (wine and cheese) as Community Meeting. Pat will investigate Women’s Club as a venue.
- **December:** Holiday Party, week of Dec. 11 or 12. (Pat will investigate using 123 4th Ave Meeting Room.)
- **January:** Community Meeting on public lands.
- **February:** Community Meeting on mental health/homelessness.
- **March:** Community Meeting on climate change perhaps in collaboration with March Olympia Climate Convention (organized by Paul Ellwood and Barb Scavezze).
- **April:** Community Meeting on justice study.
- **May:** Annual meeting.

Committees: Brief overview and needs

- **Membership:** The group agreed to propose to the membership to raise dues to \$75. This would be done at the May 2018 Annual Meeting (pro-rated for individuals to coincide with annual due date). Student memberships and scholarships will be available, details to follow. Handbook and Membership Directory to be printed in fall, no member addresses included. Welcoming quarterly new member event, 4th Thursdays in October, Jan., April, and July. All new members to get a call from a board member to have coffee, get acquainted. Membership/renewals will use an envelope to be made available.
- **Voter Services:** Candidate interviews on Sept. 23. Voter Registration Day tabling at selected locations on Sept. 26.
- **Coffee with League:** Now every Tuesday (not just when Legislature is in session). All board members encouraged to attend on regular basis. Request for volunteer(s) to work with Paula to ensure continuity.
- **Observer Corps:** Pat will ask for volunteers and provide appropriate materials; focus primarily on County Commission, but all governing bodies can be included.
- **Justice Study:** Pat reported that co-ordinator Steve Tilley is also a new League member.

- Ed. Fund Luncheon: Sat., Oct. 28, at Red Lion with speaker confirmed. Silent auction will be in a separate space.
- Communications: RPeggy reported that Annie and Pat are posting on Facebook. Need to find a new editor (or co-editor) for Voter (to work with webmaster Caroline). Perhaps another member survey in November or January would be good to solicit ideas for desired changes.

The retreat concluded at 3:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Herndon, Secretary