

**League of Women Voters of Thurston County
Minutes, Board meeting, December 5, 2018 1:30-3:30pm**

Olympia Unitarian Universalist Church, 2315 Division St. NW, Olympia 98502

Present: Sandra Herndon, Mary Moore, Shelley Ferer, Annie Cubberley, Valerie Hammett, Cynthia Pratt, Sue Bredensteiner, Connie Christy, Paula Holroyde & Carol Goss

Absent: Julie Frick & Zena Hartung

Guests: Pat Dickason, Get out the Vote committee; Alison McCaffree, *Politics of the Possible* in Action; & Darleen Adkins, new LWV-TC member

1. Call to order - President Sandra Herndon called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm

2. Agenda review, announcements

Sandra Herndon

a. Guest Alison McCaffree, Tacoma-Pierce League member with LWVWA and lobbies on issues concerning redistricting, census and is founder of the nonprofit *Politics of the Possible*. Her one-woman play, "Many Maps One Voice" is based on the first four chapters of her grandmother's book, *Politics of the Possible*, and is being presented at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts in February.

She presented a request that LWV-TC co-host the February 14 performance by contributing \$200 to help underwrite the matinee production for Thurston area high school students. In addition, she hopes that at least 50 League members will attend. The board voted to support co-sponsorship (eight to one; two absent, 1 abstaining). The \$200 will be drawn from the LWV-TC Education Fund. For more information regarding the play, see website for Washington Center for the Performing Arts <https://www.washingtoncenter.org/event/18-19-potpia-many-maps-4/>.

b. Sandra introduced the need to update the *TRY: They Represent You* brochure for 2019. Discussion ensued about how this task has been accomplished in the past relying on board, Voter Services and individual members. Given the board's current slate of priorities, there isn't capacity to take on this job too. Cynthia suggested creating a sub-committee of up to 5 people to reach out to members; at least one of whom needs Publisher software expertise to update the content in the TRY brochure's digital format.

Connie will send an email "Blast" out to recruit members for this task; Sue will include a similar announcement in the December VOTER.

c. Sandra presented items for LWV-TC 2019 Calendar:

1. February 2, 2019 was set for LWVWA-required annual program work planning session. It will be held at the Olympia Center from 2:00-5:00 pm. R. Peggy Smith is chair of the event. Mary will secure the venue.

2. LWV-TC Annual Meeting, per tradition, will be held on the third Thursday of May at 5:30 pm (May 16, 2019) at the Olympia Friends Meetinghouse, 3201 Boston Harbor Road NE.

3. Consent agenda for approval

Carol Goss

Minutes for 11/7/18 Board Meeting - Minutes were approved by consent.

4. Long-range planning – goals/agreement

Mary Moore

Mary described the process of forming a small task force with Sandra and Julie to work out proposed goals. Setting goals is never-ending and is not onerous. It's important to ask "What results do we want?"

Adding to effective and efficient communications includes messaging via email - consider who needs to get the message before clicking "reply all," to avoid electronic mailbox overflow causing everyone a backlog of unnecessarily mail.

We need to draft a statement of goals to help us:

- Define our direction more clearly/provide us with more focus
- Help us to use our resources (funds and human) more intentionally
- Assist us to establish agreement around intended results of programs
- Help us to clarify our vision

The following goal statements were discussed (12/5/2018 Board Meeting) and will be reviewed at ensuing meetings:

Proposed goal statements:

1. To improve our lines of communication within the Board
2. To increase our alliances within the Thurston community
3. To grow our membership and to encourage our new members to become actively involved in League programs and projects
4. To increase our efforts in informing and empowering all Thurston County citizens to take part in their government

LWV-TC membership is a composite of the community and we can do more to co-sponsor with diverse groups and populations such as Islamic groups (Mosques) and "Black Lives Matter." Discussion focused on the goal statements and the results of work already in process, building on what has been done so far. Annie offered an example #2 being Shelley's leadership in the Shur Fellows program (MELD), with its emphasis on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We also recognized #4 for our "Get Out the Vote" activities.

Sue added that because LWV has always promoted advocacy as well as education, we need to add a goal statement about advocacy. Annie agreed. Sue and Annie will draft a goal #5 about advocacy for the January 2019 board meeting.

In addition, Sue said that LWV-TC needs to communicate to members its follow up action taken in response to input at the 2018 Annual Meeting concerning: (a) outgoing President Pat Dickason's letter to the Olympia City Council against renovation to re-purpose Olympia's Capitol Center Building, often called the "Mistake on the Lake," and (b) the 2018-2021 update of *LWV-TC 2008 Thurston County Water Realities Study*.

5. Discussion/agreement of January-April events/programs and Clarification of water programs/dates **Mary Moore**

Originally the Events Planning Team (Annie, Carol, Elyette, Mary) planned to hold four events starting in January of 2019. They were posted on the LWVTC website. Due to time constraints at Board meetings, she was unable to report on them.

Mary was particularly interested in clarifying lines for communication. As the head of the Programs committee she expects to be part of planning, which did not occur during planning for the Water Study Committee programming. Sandra explained that the Water Study group's programs displaced the current list posted on the website and logistics become entangled due to missed communication. It's a timely reminder to stay informed of what's on the League's website (check weekly?), which reflects on-going postings with event and committee updates.

Sue said while it was very unfortunate that Mary and the Program Committee had not been able to report on their planning progress for three months due to lack of time at those board meetings, events/programs cannot be unilaterally decided and posted on the website calendar. Program suggestions need to be brought to the board for a vote. Further the Water Study group did not supplant anything. They simply brought their proposal to the November Board meeting and it was accepted by all.

Mary's report continued: With the Water Study's recent proposal for three additional events, the Events Planning Team feels that seven events held in three months would place an undue burden on available assistance. They are also concerned about luring audiences that would make these efforts worth doing. Therefore, the Events Planning Team proposes one event to be held in Yelm in March. The event will feature the Thurston County Conservation District (TCD) and what help it can provide to rural residents.

Cynthia moved and Sue seconded that the board accept four water forums. The board voted approval of the four meetings planned and Paula's budget request (10 years, 2 absent). The budget proposal includes Water Realities Study for 2018-2021 and will fund updating the Water Study including public programs, supplies, printing and other costs related to inform the public that we need to protect and conserve water in Thurston County.

Sandra noted that the budget is very generous, and all funds may not be needed. Especially since the League has its own multi-media projector that will save costs of A/V equipment. Paula and Carol (who had previously made the arrangements with the TCD for the March meeting) will work together with the Water Study group to identify potential for dovetailing the TCD program with aspects of the water study. They will report back to the board once arrangements are solidified. Three of the Water Study meetings will take place in Olympia and one in Yelm. Proposed dates for 2019 Water Study programs: 2/5, 3/5, 3/22, and 4/2. To be confirmed with venues.

6. a. Financial report and discussion

Cynthia Pratt

Cynthia sent her report the week prior to the board meeting. One correction was made on the Treasurer's report. Under printing \$114.85, was accounted to the Water Study, instead it should be attributed to "Coffee with the League."

November 2018 Bank Balances: Checking = \$9,153.26 (includes "guess" of \$0.72 for interest.
 Savings = \$4,367.05 (same as October)
 Burns CD = \$2,953.15 (same as October)

Membership Dues (PayPal & mail): November = \$75.00
 Year to Date = \$8,140.00

Education Fund:
Balance as of November 6, 2018: \$13,681.33

b. Approval of 2019-2020 Budget Committee members

Mary

Mary announced the budget sub-committee members: Cynthia, LWV-TC treasurer is an ex officio member; Julie Frick, development director; Cathy Turk, and Leslie Williamson. *All have solid financial backgrounds and will revamp how the budget is presented/organized. The revision process will include budget goals for each program so that committee chairs have funds for supplies and discretion for making purchases throughout the year for the various programs. All agreed to this plan. (*note from previous board meeting).

7. Committee reports

a. Membership—proposal /approval for engagement workshop

Valerie Hammett

Valerie is arranging a membership engagement program for new and regular members on April 6, 2019 at the Olympia Center from 9:00-11:30am. Help will be needed for set-up and take down for the event. Valerie has secured the venue for \$170.00 and will reimbursed up to \$100.00 for snacks. Proposal approved by consent.

b. Roster

Sue Bredensteiner

- Sue reported that the directory will be going out in the next week.
- Voter deadline for submitting articles is 12/10/18. [several months ago stated deadline always the 10th/emails the 15th]
- Website – A meeting is scheduled on 12/17 with Ralph Cumberland and Katrina Keleher who have replaced Caroline Metzger as database/website volunteers.

c. MELD--summary

Shelley Ferer

Shelley sent her report previously and will be included in the December Voter.

d. Honoring organizers for previous treasure sales

Sandra

Bob and Bonnie Jacobs and Fran Williams have been tremendous volunteers spearheading the League’s Treasure Sale for years. As the League won’t be doing the Treasure Sale in 2019, the board wants to honor their remarkable service by giving them each a \$50.00 gift certificate to Budd Bay Café. All approved.

e. Voter services—GOTV

Pat Dickason, Connie Christy

Pat Dickason reported efforts to get young voters to vote in the November mid-term elections. On 10/23, a group of 17 league and community members processed 1,250 GOTV postcards. She is still working on the evaluation phase of the postcard project which will be tackled after the first of the year.

f. Nominating Committee

Pat Dickason

Pat sent her report the previous week. The Nominating Committee is comprised of Chair Pat Dickason; Off Board members: Darlene Hein and Karen Tvedt; and Board nominated members: Zena Hartung, and Sue Bredensteiner. The Nominating Committee will be planning a slate of nominees for expiring terms in 2019 to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in May. The board is welcome to suggest skills needed in nominees.

8. Advocacy/issues

a. Update on Coffee with the League issues

Paula Holroyde

A Legislative Tour is scheduled for 12/11 with Cheri Randich, Manager at Legislative Support Services, conducting a session on the process of passing a bill and how we can influence the process; Karen Fraser will also accompany us and share her expertise. We will walk through the process of hearings, rules, caucuses, and the vote.

We will then spend time learning to use the website to follow bills. We will also learn to use our cell phones to sign in for the hearings.

b. TC Liaison to Lobby Team—what do you do?

Paula

Paula sent her report previously summing up activities of the Lobby Team. She was recruited by LWVWA Lobby Team last year, in part because of her successful work with the LWV-TC Coffee. Her role includes the following: Networking with Lobby Team and paid Lobbyists, increasing awareness of the legislative processes, encourage League members and others to help track bills, track public hearings, and correspond with legislators on important issues.

9. Good of the order

Guidelines on speaking for the League

Carol Goss

Sandra, Sue and Carol discussed how to help League members identify when to speak on behalf of the League versus speaking as private citizens. A report with notes from the meeting and additional principles and positions was sent the week prior to the board meeting. Board discussion clarified that Sandra, as president, can appoint a speaker to speak on behalf of the League. While any of us can testify as private citizens during public hearings, wearing our League buttons creates visibility and a presence that sends a message. When attending hearings, you can sign in as a League member without needing to testify. When a League lobbyist speaks about an issue and has a group of League members identified by the buttons in the audience, it gives confidence and support to that issue. Individual League members may speak for themselves as a member of the League and emphasize LWV principles or positions.

10. Sandra adjourned the meeting at 3:29pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Goss, Secretary