

**League of Women Voters of Thurston County
Minutes, Board meeting, March 6, 2019 1:30-3:30pm**

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

Present: Sandra Herndon, Mary Moore, Shelley Ferer, Annie Cubberley, Cynthia Pratt, Sue Bredensteiner, Connie Christy, Paula Holroyde, Zena Hartung, Julie Frick Valerie Hammett and Carol Goss

Guest: Clay Shentrup, Score Voting – Alternate voting methods

Time-keeper: Annie Cubberly

1. Call to order – Sandra called the meeting to order at 1:40pm –

- Carol posted the Covenant, briefly explained its purpose, suggested reintroducing/amplifying at next brd mtg
- A page entitled “Food for Thought” was distributed by Sue.
- With the slate of board members changing by June, Carol (after speaking earlier with Sandra Herndon) suggested using a board survey for purposes of identifying strengths, challenges and steps to provide a smooth transition to new board members for 2019-2020. She introduced the tool and provided self-addressed envelopes to return by March 20th. ***The assessment is an addendum to these minutes.***

2. Agenda review, announcements

Sandra Herndon

Time-keeper: Annie Cubberly

a. Report on Democracy Lobby Day – Connie and Carol attended Lobby Day and had positive experiences.

b. LWV State Conference Table display - Carol made contact with Shirley A. Stirling, a local artist and historian who wants to highlight the story of the Olney Sisters. They lead the way for the first women, in what is now Washington State, vote in a political election. This milestone event occurred during the Washington Territorial election of 1870. Carol proposed the LWV-TC’s exhibit illustrate women’s early efforts to secure voting rights in Washington Territory. All approved except for one abstention.

c. The board approved via email to co-sponsor the 4th Annual South Sound Climate Convention. Payment of \$500 was made to Thurston Climate Action Council.

d. Please send your agenda ideas to Sandra for the Annual Meeting, Wed., May 15

3. Minutes from 2/6 board meeting and Consent Agenda 3/6 approved.

Sandra Herndon

4. Financial Report Summary for February 2019

Cynthia Pratt

Cynthia asked to forward her the charges for video recording of Water Forums.

February 2019 Bank Balances: Checking = \$8,737.40 (interest=\$0.68 – Final)
 Savings = \$4,368.72 (interest=\$1.67)
 Burns CD = \$2,956.12 (interest=\$2.97))

Membership Dues (PayPal & mail): February = \$480.00

Year to Date = \$9,440.00 We now have 147 singles, plus 18 duels (165 members) as of January 31, 2019 (now it’s up to an additional 153 singles, +20 dues = 173 members). As of March 3, 2019, LWV-TC has 154 primary (or individual) members) 20 additional (or dual household) members, and 3 student members for a total of 177 members. In 2018-19 LWV-TC counted its membership from January 1, 2018 through May 31, 2019 because of our change over to a static renewal date [ALL memberships now run from June 1 through May 31]. Because we grandfathered a number of members between January 1, 2018 and May 31, 2019, and because LWVUS runs the national membership year from February 1-January 31, the total membership numbers do not and will not match.

Expenses paid in February (Operations):

FEBRUARY EXPENSES				
2/5/2019	102.00	room rntl 5/6/19	#9511;work planning for General meeting	102.00
2/8/2019	150.00	room rntl 5/15/19	Annual Meeting (Check #1761)	150.00
2/8/2019	35.48	refreshments	work planning meeting refreshments	35.48
2/16/2019	106.00	Annual POB	Postmaster (1-year) PO Box fee	106.00
2/24/2019	15.79	Printing	Program-of-work Planning meeting	15.79
2/24/2019	10.00	SOS Annual Rept	Secretary of State Filing Fee	10.00

Expenses paid in February (Paid out of Operations. Reimbursement needed from Ed Fund):

2/8/2019	7.45	Printing 12 H2O Study Flyers	7.45
2/25/2019	500.00	South Sound Climate Action Convention	500.00

• **Review of Budget Committee charge and template**

Mary Moore

The template was sent earlier by the budget committee for board review and is a good foundation to plan the 2019-2020. This new form will be used instead of the previous template from the "Education Fund Budget Manual." Mary sent a request to committee leads to start planning activities and estimating costs. Please send your committee budget figures by March 15th to the Financial Committee to form a draft budget for the April Board Meeting.

Discussion to clarify budget versus actual spending ensued. There are situations in which funds are spent first and reimbursed to individual board members afterward, allowing for flexibility and expediency. In other circumstances, costs are paid directly from the checkbook, such as co-sponsorship for the Climate Convention.

<Strategic planning--SWOT analysis (postponed to next mtg) Mary Moore>

Annie -point of order – how do we handle interruptions or talking over each other? Raise hands? Zena responded that she likes having a more open discussion ... over-talk is okay. *Secretary's note:* No firm decision – everyone uses best judgement based on situation and mutual respect.

5. Convention June 7-9, plans for delegates

Sandra Herndon

Sandra called for delegates to the State Convention. While LWV-TC membership is now at 177 (3/3/2019), not all of those members fall within LWVUS/LWVWA time frame of Feb. 1, 2018-Jan. 31, 2019 and so LWV-TC has 7 delegates based on a LWVUS count of 146 members. Delegates are allotted based on LWVUS membership counts. Mary, Sue, Karen V, Paula and Carol volunteered. There is space for one more.

6. Update on water-study programs for spring

Paula Holroyde, Carol Goss

Great work at previous night's "Where's the Water?" forum. The third in the 5-part series is scheduled on 3/19 at the Yelm Community Center from 6-8pm. Doors open at 5:30. Panelists include Yelm Mayor JW Foster; Mary Verner from Department of Ecology, Glen Schorno, President of Schorno Agr-Business in Yelm (with Larry in support) and TCD Education and Outreach Coordinator, Nora White. The City of Yelm is a co-sponsor which defrays the cost of the additional venue room rental. The planning committee has contacted the Olympia Senior Center to provide transportation from the Olympia and Lacey Senior Centers to the Yelm Community Center for \$125.00. Donations of \$5.00 will be accepted. Two remaining "Where's the Water?" forums are scheduled on: **April 2nd "Storm Water and Toxic Runoff."** And **May 7th "Streams, Salmon & Orca" at the Olympia Center.**

7. Committee reports

a. Membership—update on dues

Valerie Hammett

Valerie and R. Peggy Smith collaborated on a special membership offer to friends and followers who receive the Voter newsletter or attend various League-sponsored events. Join now and receive a 14 month membership instead of 12 months for the annual \$75 fee. Sue moved, Paula seconded approved. All but one approved.

Valerie has planned a New Member Reception at 6:30pm on April 17th at the 123 on 4th Building. The reception is for all new and prospective members who have questions and are interested in the LWV-TC.

a. Roster

Sue Bredensteiner

Sue described some of the complexities coordinating membership with National membership and reconciling logistics. Current Membership: Primary – 154 Dual – 20 Students -3 = 177
Valerie and Sue deserve our thanks for bringing membership into alignment and creating an updated current database.

MELD update

Shelley Ferer

No MELD activity this month.

b. Communication—Voter, website

Sue Bredensteiner

There was discussion about some of the problems with the website. R. Peggy will be contacted by Sandra to update the website regarding “Coffee with the League”. Paula raised the question of someone tutoring the board on how to update the website. No plan as yet. (more about website with tech committee report.)

Facebook

Annie Cubberley

Between 2/6-3/5 there were 12 new *Likes*, with a total of 158 *Likes*

c. Development—beyond 2019

Julie Frick

Julie is trying to contact former Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewel as Keynote speaker for the 2019 Ed Luncheon in October. We brainstormed other names such as Hillary Franz, Commissioner, Dept of Public Lands, Department of Natural Resources, SeaHawk player, Doug Baldwin Jr. and other speakers from the Crosscut Festival <https://festival.crosscut.com> More to come as planning continues.

d. Voter services—TRY distribution plan

Connie Christy

Bundles of 25 TRY brochures are getting distributed to get into Food co-ops, libraries, Senior Centers, as well as other sites and League sponsored events, i.e. Coffee w/the League and “Where’s the Water?” forums. Connie asked everyone to please report where you’re dropping off TRYs. Thank you for helping disseminating this important voter information!

8. Advocacy/issues

Update on Thurston Conservation District issues--election

Zena Hartung

The two Supervisors involved in alleged malfeasance of duty were terminated. The TCD will holding an election with one candidate running for a Supervisor position. Do vote even if there’s only one candidate – voting for a legitimate candidate is important and will hopefully avoid write-in votes of candidates not equitable for the position. The league is posting information to enable voters to participate by info in Email Blasts as to where to call - The Thurston County Auditor’s Office (360) 786-5408 from March 6 until **March 21 at 4:30 pm** to have an absentee ballot **mailed and VOTE IN PERSON** at the poll-site election on **March 26, 2019**. The poll-site will be open **between 8 am and 8 pm** at the **Thurston County Auditor’s Ballot Processing Center** (2905 29th Ave. SW, Suite E, Olympia, WA 98502)

9. Update on Coffee with the League

Paula Holroyde

Continues to draw new members and interest in the league.

9. Good of the order

- Update on Suffrage pageant

Carol Goss

The 2019 *Winning the Vote*, a Centennial Pageant Committee continues work with evolving program segments highlighting important milestones. Costumes, props and scenery are also in the works. Next meeting is scheduled on 3/25 2:00pm. To join in planning or volunteering, reach Sue Lean via lean@comcast.net

- Update on centennial grant proposal

Carol Goss

Carol has not received responses to create an alliance to plan the LWV-TC 19th Amendment Centennial. Additional duties with the Water Study and lack of response, Carol is stepping away from writing a grant to the Washington Historical Society by the April 30th due date. A brief discussion reflecting on the merits of building alliances followed. Mary and Carol acknowledged that building cooperation with other organizations is one of the goals of the board, which can continue by reaching out to community members. Perhaps building a vision toward what unites us, such as empowering voters and protecting voting rights might gain traction.

Paula suggested that we might create interest with members by hosting a social gathering such as a picnic to engage new and current members. Mary volunteered to take the lead on planning a picnic and suggested that Priest Point Park would be a good setting. Sue added that she may know someone who might be interested in joining with Mary to plan a picnic gathering this Summer.

- Tech support plans

Sue Bredenstein

In addition to Sue, board members Annie, Paula and Zena are working together to make the website more user friendly and helpful in navigating the website for new members. Sue attended a webinar on web support. More to be done, but the function for volunteer coordination is working and Shelley is receiving responses as new members engage in survey of interest via website tab - <http://www.lwvthurston.org/volunteer>

10. Guest—Clay Shentrup, *Score Voting*, alternative voting systems

Clay Shentrup works for the Center for Election Science presented information on Score Voting (sometimes called range voting) which is a single-winner voting system where voters rate candidates on a scale. The candidate with the highest rating wins. Variations of score voting can use a score-style ballot to elect multiple candidates simultaneously. It addresses the question about candidates from “Can he/she win?” to “Should he/she win?” There is a pilot program using Score voting in Olympia. For more information of Score Voting go to: https://www.electionscience.org/learn/library/score-voting/#what_would_the_ballot_look_like

11. Adjourned at 3:35pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Goss, Secretary

FEEDBACK FOR BOARD STABILITY AND LONGEVITY

Taking stock 2018-19– With the approaching end of the board’s year and before the Annual Meeting in May, it’s a good time to take a snapshot of your view of the board’s functioning and effectiveness. Please complete the following open-ended questions. Give your perspective of what’s working and suggestions to strengthen or improve effectiveness of LWV-TV Board. Use the back of page if needed for additional comments.

Please return by March 20th to Carol Goss. Thanks!

1. What’s working in your role/work on the board?

2. What would you change?

3. Would you be interested in serving in a different role on the board, if so what? In other words, is your skill-set well matched to your role on the board or would your skills be better used in a different capacity?

4. What outreach or actions would you make to add diversity to the board?

5. Suggestions to retain board members for continuity and/or welcome new board members?

6. Ideas for how to resolve conflicts among board members – particularly when conflict or tensions/friction undermine board effectiveness and collegiality?

Other comments?

OPTIONAL- Name