

League of Women Voters of Thurston County

Minutes, Board meeting, February 6, 2019 1:30-3:30pm

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

Present: Mary Moore, Shelley Ferer, Annie Cubberley, Cynthia Pratt, Sue Bredensteiner, Connie Christy, Paula Holroyde Zena Hartung, Carol Goss

Absent: Sandra Herndon, Julie Frick and Valerie Hammett

Guest: Karen Tvedt, Nominating Committee

Time-keeper: Annie Cubberly

1. Call to order – In Sandra’s absence, Vice President Mary Moore called the meeting to order at 1:38pm

2. Agenda review, announcements

Mary Moore

a. Mary encouraged all of us to attend Allison McCaffree’s one-woman play, “Many Maps One Voice” and **League reception on 5:30 on Feb. 15.** The LWV-TV is a co-sponsor and we are urged to go to the reception even if not the play. The play and reception will be held at the WA Center play Feb. 14-18 (Black Box Theater). Ticket prices: \$32 Adult and \$27 Senior. See website for Washington Center for the Performing Arts for more info: <https://www.washingtoncenter.org/event/18-19-potpia-many-maps-4/>.

b. Lobby Day is Feb. 21. Laurie Craig is coordinating the effort to provide B&B for LWV members coming from out of town. She can be contacted by: lcraig8157@gmail.com

c. A request for a committee to set up a table display for the Convention June 6-9. Mary suggested that she, Shelley and Carol put together a plan. ***This item needs clarification. Neither Shelley or Carol have received enough information or guidance to make a decision re: taking on this task. Add to the next board agenda.**

d. Peggy Smith (webpage manager) asked for feedback from the board about webpage topics. Zena stated that posting the Water Study events has been going well. The suggestion to see if the power point presentations by Kevin Hanson and David Troutt from “Where’s the Water” event the night before, could be added to the website. This idea came from a participant who attended. Zena will check with Kevin and David to see if this is permissible.

e. A community member (name unknown) requested to talk with us at the March board meeting about Ranked Voting. All agreed.

f. Women’s Club April 2nd —Materials for table. Mary stated that Jennifer Minnich will take care of this. <No more information is available at this time.>

g. Annual meeting date change—to Wed., May 15th

h. Cynthia Stewart, President of the Tacoma-Pierce County LWV, is leading a task force on affordable housing. Cynthia Pratt will invite Cynthia Stewart to attend the Lacey City Council work session on 2/7 from 7-9. The focus will on affordable housing. Late note: Cynthia Stewart was invited but couldn’t attend.

2. Consent agenda and Minutes for 1/9/19 Board Meeting were approved.

3. Nominating Committee

Karen Tvedt Led a discussion regarding skills and expertise, and skills desired on the board. Mary prefaced the conversation with her appreciation for how the board works as a team. Annie described the importance of drawing board members from diverse organizations and programs.

In 2018, LWVWA invoiced us for 104 primary members at \$19.00 each + 10 additional members at \$9.50 each (\$1,976.00 + \$95.00 = \$2,071.00).

There currently are no student PMP charges due to a waiver of all PMP for student memberships as part of a national pilot program running through 2020.

Budget Committee Report

Mary Moore

The Budget Committee has met twice and is comprised of Mary Moore, Catherine Turk, Leslie Williamson, and Julie Frick. Cynthia Pratt is an ex officio member. While these are members of the Budget Committee, we should be mindful that all board members be aware of our fiduciary responsibilities. Mary was dissatisfied with previous financial forms and templates and she—along with the Budget Committee is designing a new budget format that will be easier to read for all members. Two new budget request forms have also been developed for project leaders to use when planning for the next year's budget.

The plan is to send out budget planning forms to current project leaders. Next year's board will have nine newly appointed and elected members.

The Budget Task Force requests that the forms be turned into by March so that a draft budget is ready for April's board meeting. At the May board meeting, a confirmed budget will be ready for the Annual Meeting on Weds, **May 15th**.

Cynthia stated that what she wants to see is: a) What funds (i.e. Ed Fund, general expenses, etc.) the expense comes from b) Reconcile amounts and c) Gross amount needed for each item. The Budget Committee will next meet on Friday 2/8 at 2:00 pm to complete the project expense template and get it ready to use prior to the 5/15/19 Annual Meeting. Cynthia suggested that budget goals make room for contingencies.

Sue asked for clarification on the forms and suggested that the committee bring its finished suggestions back to the board. Mary was concerned that would preclude getting ducks in a row before the annual meeting. Zena applauded the committee for its continuing work and said that it did need to come back to the board at the March meeting to finalize suggestions for changes to budget and its building and reporting mechanisms. She also advised program people to work with their committees and get figures ready.

- Need for Tech Support Task Force

Sue Bredensteiner

An ad hoc committee with at least 3 board members will be formed who are familiar with the board's tech needs, for Facebook, events, and other applications. Sue thanked Shelley Ferer for getting the ball rolling with President Sandra Herndon. Sue will chair and Annie, Paula and Zena will be part of this temporary committee to identify and prioritize board tech needs and recommend how to best address them, i.e. pay stipend for A/V technician, purchase a laptop or other approaches.

5. Tabled until next meeting- Long-range planning—SWOT analysis Mary Moore Add to next board meeting.

6. Update on water-study programs for spring

Paula Holroyde

In debriefing the previous night's first program of, "Where's the Water," a reportedly estimate of 150+ attendees. Zena reported that the Nisqually Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA) was accepted. George Walter, Nisqually Tribe Environmental Program Supervisor will be a speaker at the next water study event on March 5th. Zena added that follow-up articles are needed. Paula replied that the Olympian will be publishing OpEd pieces and Esther Kronenberg will write a summary. Annie asked for clarification about the term "study." Paula answered that the study is a follow-up to the 2008 status report of water. Zena added that a written study document will occur after the public education events. Karen Tvedt asked if the public will have opportunities to give feedback or ask questions. This will be discussed at the next Water Study planning meeting on Feb. 13. Cynthia stated that Lacey residents are also concerned about the I-5 problem where water gets obstructed by the freeway and can cause flooding enough to close it. More information will come out of these presentations.

7. Committee reports:

a. Membership—update on Membership Roster

Sue Bredensteiner

In Valerie's absence, Sue reported that the Per Member Payment needs to be a joint effort between LWV-TC Roster manager, membership chair, and treasurer. Per member payments (PMP) to the national (umbrella) League and the LWV Washington (our state League) is established by local League counts submitted on the LWVUS Salesforce Roster on January 31 of each year. In January 2018, those figures were 104 primary members and 10 additional members. There is no way to know if that was accurate at this point in time. But the PMP process is a NOT a moving target even as membership continues to grow because it currently is just counted once a year. LWV-TC had a count of 146 primary and 18 additional/dual and 2 student members (not counted by national or state) for a total of 166 on January 31, 2019. We are continuing to add new members even when telling them they will need to renew May 31, 2019.

Because of confusion over responsibilities associated with PMP numbers, Paula suggested redefining how the Roster manager, treasurer and membership chair interact to insure these numbers that are tied to national and state membership payments can be tracked and responded to accurately. No action was taken.

b. MELD

Shelley Ferer

Mary and others complimented Shelley on MELD reports. Shelley keeps us all on board with MELD endeavors and adding the reports to the "Voter."

c. Communication—**Voter, website**

Sue Bredensteiner

Reminded us the deadline for **Voter** articles is 2/10 to be published on 2/15. She also asked that dates for the calendar come in with their articles rather than "stringing" them in one at a time.

Facebook

Annie Cubberly

Annie reported that Sandra Herndon writes Facebook articles frequently. She also receives some articles that aren't relevant to League interests subsequently they aren't published on our FB page. Annie also expressed consternation that our public engagement on this platform remains static. We want to continue using Facebook to gain relevance and vitality with the public. Perhaps using the State and National published positions and posing engaging questions will energize the LWV-TC public following. Not all members agree with the LWV positions and may respond as individuals.

d. Development—beyond 2019 In Julie's absence, this topic was tabled until next meeting.

e. Voter services—TRY update

Connie Christy

Connie reported that the TRY brochure is at the printer. She appealed to us to help distribute TRY brochures throughout various communities and via our individual networks.

Mary suggested developing a master plan for distribution. It was suggested that we print 5,000 total. With 2,500 brochures being printed to date, distribution will begin as follows:

Paula 100 for Coffee with the League + 200 more for "Where's the Water?" events?" = 300

Shelley will take 200 for Food Co-ops

Annie will take 100 for libraries and Evergreen State College

Carol will take 100 for Providence St Peters and other PSP clinics

Sue will take 600 for Lacey Library and Olympia Senior Center

Cynthia 100(?) For Lacey and Olympia post offices.

Patricia Harrigan 100 for Community Court every Wednesday morning to register voters

Karen wants some for the Interfaith group and for the County Courthouse

Mary wants 100 for The Firs (retirement community)

8. Advocacy/issues

Update on TCD issues - Paula reported (Zena needed to leave early) on the 2 next TCD meetings:

- *2/12 Thurston Conservation District Board of Supervisors will hold a meeting at 2:00pm on February 12, 2019, to adopt a new resolution designating an Election Supervisor and setting the date, time and location of an

election to fill a Conservation District Supervisor's expiring term. *Meeting postponed due to snow. Rescheduled for Tuesday 2/26 at 2:00pm

- 2/20 8:30am The Washington State Conservation Commission has scheduled a hearing for the Thurston Conservation District hearing to determine if Supervisors Eric Johnson and Richard Mankamyer will continue. The hearing will take place in the Capitol Room at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Olympia, located at 415 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501.

9. Good of the order

- Update on Suffrage pageant

Carol Goss

The 2019 *Winning the Vote*, a Centennial Pageant Committee continues work with Shanna Stevenson creating a PowerPoint presentation with milestones. Sue Lean is working with other committee members on costumes, props and scenery. Carol suggested at the last planning meeting on 1/29 to include a physical time line for participants to view with important dates detailing struggles, successes, set-backs and landmarks. This display can shed light on significant figures whose places in history are not as prominent as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and others, but whose contributions are significant. This idea was met with interest and will be included. The next 2 meetings are: *Friday 2/15 from 12-4:00pm and Monday 3/4 from 12-4:00pm. Postponed due to snow – rescheduled for *Friday, 2/22 and Monday, MARCH 4th DAY BEFORE MARDI GRAS PARTY. Open House 10:00 a.m. Refreshments. To join in planning or volunteering, reach Sue Lean via lean@comcast.net

- Update on centennial grant proposal

Mary and Carol

Mary and Carol have been working in tandem researching ideas for planning a celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the Centennial of the League of Women Voters. In reaching several community members in brainstorming, they recognized the need to create an alliance to develop a plan commemorating accurate Suffrage history. This would include recognizing the significant contributions by people of color in achieving the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920. The goals are to create something that appropriately commemorates the 19th Amendment and inspires a lasting association strengthening the LWV-TC partnerships building a vision toward what unites us, such as empowering voters and protecting voting rights. The Alliance will provide opportunities for the League to support and be involved in meaningful diverse organizational events and activities with shared interests. Carol with Mary's support will apply for a grant for up to \$5,000 toward Washington History Society's plans to commemorate the centennial of the 19th amendment and celebrate women change makers through 2020. For more information on festivities and projects celebrating Washington Women who dare see the WHS website at <https://www.suffrage100wa.com>

The question remains: How should we honor the women that fought for our right to vote, and recognize women of color also involved in this struggle, who were left behind without the vote and out most history books?

Example outcomes:

- Plaque/statue commemorating the passage of the 19th Amendment while recognizing this did not result in all women winning the vote. Placement on the Capitol campus in a prominent location.
- Sponsor a forum on "Examining the Culture of Racism in the passage of the 19th Amendment." We would look for co-sponsors ala Hispanic Roundtable, YWCA or other organizations reflecting diverse populations.
- Supporting or co-sponsoring legislation such as The Native American Voting Rights Act, a bill allowing tribal members to use non-traditional addresses on tribal lands when registering to vote and providing ballot drop boxes on reservations. (SB 5079)
- Co-sponsoring Voter Registration with groups such as the Hispanic Round Table and Nisqually Tribe, among others
- Co-sponsoring a study on African American maternal and pre-natal health (In the US, African American Women are 3 x as likely to die of pregnancy-related causes as white women and more than 60 % of maternal deaths are preventable. Per CDC)
- Organizing an event through *Living Voices or Humanities Washington* to demonstrate history through interpreters and historians on the topics of suffrage and gender equality <https://news.wsu.edu/tag/living-voices/> <https://www.humanities.org/>

- Bring in speakers/authors such as Robin DiAngelo, “White Fragility” UW Professor

As well as other efforts to address racial, ethnic and economic disparities in our community

Please add your ideas and suggested contacts to form an Alliance:

Karen Tvedt suggested involving Youth In Government

Cynthia Pratt – Barbara Clarkston and Dr Karen Johnson, North Thurston School District

***Suggested previously:**

****Please add corrections or updates***

YWCA – Hillary Soen

Retired Teachers Assn. - Phyllis Farrell

Retired Public Employees Assn. -Nancy Randlette

360-480-5747

Nisqually Tribe – Cynthia Iyall 360-456-5221

Squaxin Tribe - Sally Brownfield

Senator Karen Fraser

AAUW (American Association of University Women)

Soroptimists – Jeanette Lomax – 360-943-8436 (global volunteer organization that improves the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment)

Black Alliance – Thelma Jackson

Eva Underwood

Sue Lean, Washington State Historical Society

Oly Historical Society – Shanna Stevenson

Oly Women’s Club – Deb Minnich

Asian Pacific Islander Coalition <http://apicwa.org/about/chapters-2/>

Jennifer Belcher

Zonta – Carolyn Woodling (International advocacy org for women and girls to achieve gender equity)

Hispanic Round Table <http://hispanicroundtable.org/wp/about/members/>

Carol McKinley (Pastor at UU church)

Senator Karen Fraser

WA State Woman’s History Consortium - Sue Lean

Former LWV-TC President Pat Dickason

10. Mary adjourned the meeting at 3:32pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Goss, Secretary