

# League of Women Voters of Thurston County

## Board Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2019

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

**Present:** Sandra Herndon, President, Carol Goss, Leslie Williamson, Sue Bredensteiner, Julie Frick, Mary Moore, Gail Wrede, Cathy Turk, Melissa Denton, Karen Tvedt, Laurie Craig, and Peggy Smith

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** None

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by President Sandra at 2:00 pm.

**Approval of agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.

### **Consent agenda:**

Minutes for retreat, July 2, 2019

Committee reports

The above two items were approved/accepted. They will be available on the website.

The Financial report was pulled from the consent agenda, to allow questions and answers. Treasurer Leslie also received suggestions that will be reflected in future reports. The July and August Budget vs Actual reports were then accepted and are available on the website.

**Board development:** Carol led a process where board members teamed up to help with building a climate of collegiality, inclusion, and trust. Teams of two talked about individual's responses to questions that are a part of this exercise. The responses from the various teams were recorded and will serve as the foundation for further work and refinement. There appeared to be common belief that our work begins with a shared vision and norms should be based on keeping our shared vision in mind.

**Affirmation of actions made between meetings:** The board acknowledged and affirmed that:

- LWVTC was awarded a grant from the LWVWA Ed Fund for A/V equipment. The grant amount was for \$765, and it served to reimburse the operating fund for a past purchase.
- LWVTC will cosponsor the August 26 Equality Day event coordinated by Thurston NOW, and will donate no more than \$100, share our logo for publicity materials, have a table for LWVTC materials, and help publicize the event. (In fact, the donation was \$25.)

- There was unanimous email approval for printing of Decade document at \$25.

## **Event schedule for 2019-202**

Gail provided update for Voter Services

--National Voter Registration Day, **Sep 24** – we will have registration tables at Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater libraries.

--Registration, for 16-19 year olds who do not attend traditional schools, will be done in partnership with organizations that provide schools or programs for them. Examples are GRUB and Avanti. Dates have yet not been set.

Sandra confirmed that the Public Forum for Port Commissioner will be on **Sep 30**.

Sandra expressed thanks to Gail for having stepped up to do organizational work for the Voter Services Committee. This is needed in response to the evolution of the Committee's membership and functions over the last several years. Sandra also mentioned the excellent job Shelley is doing with volunteer coordination in general and specifically with finding volunteers for the TCM forums.

Sue provided an update on the Action Workshop, which will be held on **Nov 9** at South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC) at the Lacey campus. A MOU between LWVTC (Sandra) and LWVWA (Ann Murphy) has been signed. A contract between SPSCC and LWVWA (Lunell Haught) should be signed soon. Having this contract signed by the LWVWA President is one way of mitigating LWVTC's financial exposure while hosting the workshop for LWVWA's Action Team.

Peggy presented the idea of having LWVTC obtain a LWVWA Ed Fund Census and Redistricting "Forum in a Box" grant. It was agreed that this would be a good way to proceed with the January 2020 public meeting. The board also agreed to hold this event on a **Saturday in January**.

Mary and Cathy talked about their plans for the public meeting about Centennial – Suffrage Past and Future. They are seeking support and participation from a variety of organizations. They hope to focus the future part of the event on what younger voters will be anticipating. The board agreed to hold this event on a **Saturday in February**.

Sue confirmed that she is the board liaison with the Water Study Committee. She noted that they will be having two public **forums in March**. The dates will be available at the next meeting.

Julie noted that the Ed Fund Benefit Luncheon MC, [Kelsey Mae Crane](#), and the award recipients, CEILO and Cascadia Research, are set for **Oct 26**. She suggested we have a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) impact through this event. She proposed to have individual board or regular members invite and buy lunch for someone who would not typically be attracted to LWVTC. In this way, up to ten persons who would not otherwise have considered it, due to lack of funds or

unfamiliarity with LWV openness to DEI, will have attended. Her idea was accepted, and several members indicated that they will invite someone. Julie will be the clearing house for this effort.

A question was raised about whether LWVTC should have a policy related to how such invitations should be handled. For example, it might be good to have criteria for who could be invited. This question led to a brief discussion about the sparsity of LWVTC policies. The board agreed to take up this issue at the next meeting.

**TRY publication:** Gail requested that this item be postponed until the next meeting. The Voter Services Committee will have met and will provide specific proposals related to TRY publication. The board agreed to this request.

**Scholarship options for membership:** Carol asked that this item be postponed until the next meeting, due to lack of time for discussion today. The board agreed.

**Development committee:** Julie asked that this item be postponed until the next meeting, due to lack of time for discussion today. The board agreed.

**Request for LWVTC sponsorship from Sue Lean:** Sue Lean has asked the LWVTC sponsor: *2020 Votes for Women Centennial event at Lakewold Gardens on July 19, 2020*. This is a Sunday and the anniversary of the first day of the first Women's Rights Convention held at Seneca Falls, New York in 1848. Because no commitments of funding are likely needed; just publicity and encouragement of attendance, the board agreed to this.

### **Good of the Order:**

--The state office has asked for a "point person" on Centennial activities and events. Sandra will ask Sue Lean if she will do this for LWVTC.

-- The Global Climate Strike is something we are being encouraged to attend. It begins on Sep 20, and there will be an event at the Capitol around noon.

-- We need a volunteer to serve on the Thurston Women's March planning committee. Gail suggested that this could be one of the volunteer opportunities offered at the Sep 14 Member Engagement Workshop.

-- Paula has arranged for times when Coffee With the League folks can go to the Capitol for the legislative focused "Navigating the Website" training. After brief discussion, it appeared that the best option for board members to receive such training would be to join one of Paula's groups.

**State Board items that can use volunteers:** Peggy referred to the following items that have been presented in This Week in League (TWIL) over the last several weeks: Advocacy for Ref. 88, Advocacy for Initiative 976. 2019-2021 Program Items – Shoreline Protection; State Bank; Others. Sandra stressed the importance of receiving and reading both TWIL and monthly LWVWA *Voter*.

**Let's talk about race:** Due to lack of time, there was no talk at this meeting. But Peggy asked members to respond to her individually by email about the following:

What are your thoughts about the following quotes from White Fragility by Robin Diangelo? And what do they mean for LWV-TC?

“The default of the current system is the reproduction of racial inequality; our institutions were designed to reproduce racial inequality and they do so with efficiency.....Interrupting racism takes courage and intentionality; the interruption is by definition not passive or complacent.”

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

**Next board meeting:** Wed., Oct. 2, 2019, 2-4pm

Respectfully Submitted, Peggy Smith, Treasurer

Approved on 10-2-19