

November 6, 2019

League of Women Voters of Thurston County Board Meeting Minutes

2315 Division St NW, Olympia, WA

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

Absent: Melissa Denton

Guests: None

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

Announcements—Sandra made the following announcements.

- Sandra will be moving to a newly purchased house by the end of the month. She may at time be distracted from League business.
- *Mission: Nonprofit* a program of TCM featured LWVTC with an interview of Gail, Carol, and Sandra. It has been posted on YouTube and can be seen at the TCM website. It is also to be aired in November on Channel 77 and will a ThurstonTalk.com feature.
- LWVWA has joined WA Nonprofits. By virtue of this membership, local Leagues can take advantage of WA Nonprofits offerings at reduced rates.
- The upcoming LWVWA Olympia Action Workshop, which will be an important training opportunity, will show the results of a hard working LWVTC planning group. Chair Sue expressed thanks to all who had been part of this effort.

Commitment to collegiality -- Carol led a brief discussion. There were no additions or changes offered. There was general agreement that individual items listed in the document are aspirations, without associated ramifications for falling short. Members were open to the idea of taking “time-out or a moment-to-breathe” during the course of the meeting, if it appears we may be getting off track.

Approval of agenda - The agenda was approved.

Consent agenda - The following two items were approved/accepted by consent.

- Board Meeting Minutes, October 2, 2019

- Committee or board member reports emailed to members prior to today's meeting.

Financial report - Treasurer Leslie highlighted items in the written report and the Budget vs. Actuals that she had emailed prior to the meeting. These are now posted on the website. After a few points were clarified, the financial report was accepted.

Peggy mentioned the LWVWA requirement to thank contributors for all tax-deductible contributions received and used for local projects. While this has been done for the donations received at the Education Fund Luncheon, it has not been done for the tax-deductible portion of Luncheon tickets. She will follow up on this.

Requests – Sandra presented the following requests and the board took the noted actions.

- From Sue Lean for continued support of centennial events. **Gail m/s/p** to give continual and year-long support for the various events Sue Lean will be leading for the Centennial.
- For us to join the Coalition to Protect Rocky Prairie from NorthPoint's Industrialization. The Coalition is requesting County Commissioners not to consider amending the Comprehensive Plan. **Julie m/s/p, one abstention** to support the Coalition to Protect Rocky Prairie in the effort to prevent a rezone.
- From LWVWA board to have our board host a potluck dinner Monday, Jan. 20, 2020 (evening before Democracy Lobby Day). Local members would be welcome to attend a LWVWA board meeting after Lobby Day activities. **Karen m/s/p** to have a potluck dinner with the LWVWA Board on January 20, 2020. Inviting League members from Mason County to join us was viewed as a good idea.
- For anyone wanting to work with a group planning a video focusing on inspirational women to contact individuals from Zonta and Thurston Area NOW who are initiating this work.

Reports on Luncheon and auction Julie reported that we had 10 "special guests" at the Luncheon, along with 113 regular attendees. Overall it was a great success, with a hiccup or two related to late, or no, reservations. The venue employees were very accommodating. There were several factors that people thought probably contributed to straight donations being somewhat less than last year.

Cathy, and others, mentioned a variety of aspects of this year's Silent Auction that she and her coworkers had instituted that contributed to the major success of this event.

A complete accounting of Luncheon and Silent Auction expenses and revenues will be presented as a Consent Agenda items once it is complete.

Plan for Holiday Party -- Mary took a moment to express disappointment about the skimpy attendance by League members at the Meet the Candidates event. The candidates were disappointed as well.

Mary anticipates much better attendance at the December 9, 2019 Member/Friend Holiday Party. This event will begin at 5 pm in the Common Room at 123 4th Ave W, Olympia. Mason County League members will be invited to attend. Everyone is being asked to bring finger-food to share. Beverages will be provided by the League.

Program updates – Mary, Peggy, Cathy, and Karen reported on the current status for the 2020 programs.

January 15, 2020 Census and Redistricting – the planning for this public meeting is well under way.

February 2020 Centennial Event planning is moving in the direction of having a “community conversation” on a Saturday (probably 2/20/20). While acknowledging the history of not all groups getting the vote at the same time, there will also be a forward looking aspect of this program. Involvement of younger voters, and paying attention to how to protect and sustain voting in the future, were approved by the board.

March 5, 2020 Water Study Meeting #1 (title will be forthcoming).

March 26, 2020 Water Study Meeting #2 (title will be forthcoming).

April 2020 Sanctuary and Immigration is not firmed up yet, although a number of partner organizations have been identified. This is due to the wisdom of waiting until later this winter, to have a clearer picture of what topic will be of most interest to the community.

TRY update – Gail reported that CIELO has agreed to have someone from their translation resources provide the Spanish translation for the TRY. Between expense related to translation services, and a 15 percent planned increase in printing costs, the total for production of the TRY will be higher than expected. The board acknowledged this likely increase. Gail also mentioned that the Voter Services Committee is gaining a couple of new members. All members are working on plans for carrying out their variety of activities.

Policy manual development—Cathy was a little surprised that she was listed as the responsible person for this agenda item. Nonetheless, she agreed that she would seek other volunteers and get a start on a policy manual.

Let's Talk About Race – Sandra gave brief reports on two books she has read recently.

- *How to be an Antiracist*. This is a non-fiction book by Ibram X. Kendi that focuses on the “active” nature of antiracism.
- *There There*. This is a novel by Tommy Orange about the plight of urban Native Americans.

Peggy mentioned that she and Shelley Ferer are moving ahead on getting a ‘Let’s Talk About Race’ book group going. While it will be hosted by LWVTC, it will probably be open to others.

Scholarship proposal – Carol and the Membership Committee have revised the scholarship proposal that was presented in October. This is to be a pilot for the remainder of 2019-2020. **Gail m/s/p** to offer up to 10 reduced fee (\$25) scholarships, with the funds to cover the remaining membership fee to be covered by \$500 that was moved from the Action Workshop line to the Membership line in the budget

Sandra presented the idea of LWVTC investigating having an Intern from a local college/university work with us. Gail indicated that there would be many opportunities for intern-type work with the Voter Services Committee.

Program of work—Sandra introduced the topic of the Program of Work 2020-2022 process by noting that we need to set a date for the members' Planning Meeting. Carol, Karen (with some time constraints), and Peggy have so far agreed to participate in this process. The Mason County League has not done this before, and they have asked if they could join us. That seemed like a good idea. The tentative date of January 25, 2020, at the Olympia Center, was agreed upon. January 18, 2020 was seen as an alternate date, if needed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm

Next board meeting December 4, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,

Peggy Smith, Secretary

Approved December 4, 2019