

**December 4, 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, Melissa Denton, Mary Moore, Gail Wrede, Karen Tvedt, Laurie Craig, Cathy Turk, Leslie Williamson, and Peggy Smith

**Absent:** Julie Frick

**Guests:** None

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

**Announcements**—Sandra made the following announcements.

Her move was successful, although she is still in the unpacking process. Another reminder of Holiday Party, Dec. 9, 5pm—bring appetizer. Sandra has holly at her new place that she will contribute to the party.

**Approval of agenda** After addition of the following items, the agenda was approved.

- Voter Services Report.
- LWVWA appeal related to forums in 2020 for Statewide Offices.
- Nominating Committee request for consideration.

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

- Board Meeting Minutes, November 6, 2019
- Committee or board member reports to members prior to today's meeting.

**Financial report** -- Treasurer Leslie reported it was a relatively quiet month.

- Because there are still a couple of out-standing bills from the Education Fund Luncheon, the final accounting is not ready yet. The Silent Auction grossed \$3,541, had an expense of \$143 for signs, so netted \$3,398.
- A request from InterFaith Works for a donation has come to Leslie's attention. It was generally agreed that this is not something we are interested in doing.
- Cathy asked a question about the amount that is being expended on room rental, in light of the amount in the Budget. Leslie replied that what shows as being expended may differ a fair amount from the final amount spent. This is due to the need to provide a room deposit, as well as factors related to the possible use of Ed Funds

**Report on Action Workshop** – Sue reported that all went well with the workshop, even though there were a variety of complexities associated with this type of event. More complete reports have been put into the VOTER, TWIL, and the website, as well as Sue’s report for November.

**Voter Services Report** – Gail noted that the English only version of the TRY 2020 is complete. Work is still in progress on the Spanish Language Insert, but it may be ready mid-December. Conversations about including Tribal offices is still in initial stages.

Gail reported that our League has been approached by someone from the Strengthening Sanctuary community about hosting of a showing of the voter-suppression related movie. After a brief discussion, it was decided that this is not completely relevant to our current work and would take time we don’t have available. Therefore, we will pass on this opportunity.

**Program of Work Planning** – Peggy gave a brief overview of what we anticipate doing, even though we have not yet received our expected guidance from LWVUS. We, nonetheless, will be having a Planning for 2020-2022 meeting on Saturday, Jan 25, 2020, 1-4 pm, at the Olympia Center. Peggy asked board members to let her know if they know of someone who might be interested in the planning and leading of this undertaking.

**Spring 2020 program updates** -- Planning for the Public Meeting scheduled for 2020 is in good shape.

- January 15 – Peggy noted the Census and Redistricting Forum will be from 5:30 – 8:30 pm at the Olympia Center. The agenda is close to firm, and publicity will be ramping up soon. Mary reported that she has arranged for TCM support for this event, as well as for other programs, as appropriate.
- February 29 - Mary and Cathy have made some firm decisions and are still working on others. This “community conversation” will cover Voting: Past, Present, Future. County Auditor, Mary Hall, will be a presenter. There are already a number of co-sponsors lined up. There will be a major focus on generating youth interest in voting. This is one reason that the Olympia Regional Learning Center is being pursued as the venue for this event.
- March 5 -- What Are the Impacts of Sea Level Rising in Thurston County? Olympia Center, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.
- March 26 -- What Are the Realities of Water Quality and Water Quantity in Thurston County? Olympia Center, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
- April 23 – Karen reported that the date has been firmed up for the Immigration and Sanctuary Program. She has been in touch with various interested individuals and organization, all very supportive. All agree that setting a specific area of focus should wait for a couple of months or so.

Sandra asked for agreement on the date for our **Annual Meeting**. It will be either May 14 or May 13, depending upon the availability of the Friends’ Meeting House.

May 29-30 – these are the dates for **LWVWA Council**, in Ellensburg.

**LWVWA requests and such** were brought forward by Sandra.

- LWVWA is asking that we provide them with the name of a person who will serve as our LWVTC Advocacy Chair. While it seems reasonable to think of Paula in this role, until there are further details about what this job would entail, we won't make an appointment.
- The request that LWVTC support funding for Salmon Recovery is such that it needs to be viewed in the context of LWVWA advocacy. The board will await further information about the status of this issue.
- LWVWA is establishing a steering committee to consider holding 2020 Forums/Debates for statewide offices. Karen and Gail agreed to attend initial meeting(s) of this group, to get a better understanding of what they are all about, as well as how local Leagues might be involved. Sandra will send in their names.
- LWVWA is also looking for members who are interested in getting trained as election observers by their county auditor office. Margi Carlson and Gail expressed interest in getting trained. Sandra will send in their names.
- LWVWA is also looking for people/a person who is interested in serving on a state-wide committee for Diversity Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Since Peggy is already on this committee, we do not need to supply another name.

**Let's Talk About Race** -- Peggy referred to an email Shelley had sent about a Thurston Talk posting, "Success at the Ballot Box: Women of Color Legislators Talk at The Evergreen State College," which led her to awareness of the Governor's Office of Equity Task Force. Turns out that Shelley had not sent the email to all board member, but Sandra will follow up by forwarding the email.

As noted above, Peggy is part of the LWVWA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. She will be reporting on what we have been doing in this regard in Thurston County. That report will be sent to the entire board.

- Shelley and Peggy have written a survey that will soon be blasted out to LWVTC supporters, to measure interest and find dates for a Let's Talk About Race Book Group.

**Nominating Committee** --Karen asked that people provide names of persons they think might be candidates for the 2020-2021/2 Board. It was made clear that the board is not making recommendations about positions that will be voted upon in May, nor is the committee providing recommendations for positions that will be filled by the new Board. An informal pool of possible candidates might, however, be useful.

**Motion to adjourn** – 4 pm, passed. Note: next board meeting **January 8, 2020**

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Smith, Secretary

Adopted on January 8, 2020