

January 8, 2020

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, Laurie Craig, Cathy Turk, Leslie Williamson, and Peggy Smith, Julie Frick

Absent: Karen Tvedt

Guests: Karen Fraser

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

Announcements— Board members introduced, or reintroduced, themselves to Karen Fraser.

Sandra provided highlights from the Presidents' call: LWVWA will be asking for local league liaisons for voter service, DEI, advocacy, etc.—Portfolio chairs will be providing details about what will be asked of liaisons. Special Project funds may be available, for an educational project we can't otherwise afford. Information will be coming about 2020 presidential primary. A DEI plan will be available soon.

Fair Vote Washington will be holding a demonstration about fair voting methods on Jan 12, at Wagner's Bakery.

The Public Disclosure Commission will present a panel discussion entitled *Big Data, Big Dollars: Shining Light on Digital Political Advertising*. Allyson Brooks will be serving as the LWVWA/TC panel member.

Carol announced there will be a Membership Committee meeting on Jan 16, from 1 – 4 pm.

Approval of agenda The agenda was approved as mailed.

Consent agenda The following items were approved by consent.

Minutes, December 4, 2019

Committee/board reports for December 2019

Water study report Karen Fraser gave a presentation (similar to one she had given at recent Kiwanis and Rotary meetings) on the Summary of Water Study Public Meetings. Even though the presentation was not "computer aided" as Karen had hoped, it

was most enthusiastically received. Additional positive comments served to encourage further distribution of this material.

Financial report Leslie provided an update to the financial reports that had been emailed prior to the meeting. Several bills have been paid, but more deposits have been made. As a result of deposits of luncheon money that had been held up in PayPal, the Nisqually Tribe Grant to the Water Study, memberships, and reimbursement for luncheon expenses, both the operating fund and education fund bank balances have increased.

Approval of Thurston Action Chair for LWVWA Melissa- M/S/P to appoint Paula Holroyde as the LWVTC Action Chair.

Postings of Lobby Day(s) on the LWVTC website The discussion of this possibility was prompted by a request from Youth Lobby Day to post their information. After considering the pros and cons of doing this, it was agreed we would not. It was suggested that this is the type of activity that might require a policy with guidelines.

Voter services Gail mentioned that the committee now has ten members.

The LWVTC Intern, Gracie Anderson, will be devoting 10 hours a week of her time to Voter Services, specifically to: tracking voter-related legislation; helping with Get Out The Vote (GOTV) PR; coming up with possible new social media approaches.

The 2020 TRY, with 2,500 copies and 500 Spanish inserts, is printed and will be distributed within the next few weeks. Copies will also be available for the myriad events we will be hosting in 2020. Because CIELO was not able to do the Spanish translation as we had hoped, another translation resource was used, at no cost for that service.

The committee has begun planning for the coming year. Dates for Candidate Forums were presented in the Committee/board report for December 2019 that was approved by consent.

Two new approaches they are proposing, and received encouragement to pursue, are: additional GOTV videos targeted at younger voters; the use of Public Service Announcements (PSAs).

Let's Talk About Race

Peggy reported that the proposal for a book group had good positive response. The first meeting will be on February 19, 2020. It is rather a "work in progress" and more opportunities for LWVTC member involvement will be pursued.

Sandra recommended this book: *An American Marriage: A Novel* by Tayari Jones.

Sue provided copies of *An Open Letter to John Lewis*, by New York Times Contributing Opinion Writer, Margaret Renkl.

Program-of-work meeting Carol reported that the annual member planning meeting (whatever it might be called) is going to take place on Saturday, January 25, from 1 – 4 pm

at The Olympia Center. This year the focus of planning will be two-fold: on giving feedback/information to LWVUS; considering issues that might be candidates for LWVTC study or activity in 2020-2022.

Potluck with state board This opportunity for LWVTC members to interact with LWVWA board members will be on Monday, January 20. This is the evening before 2020 Democracy Lobby Day. Members of both boards are requested to attend with a food contribution; LWVTC will be providing wine and plates, etc. Laurie has been working on setting up "home stay" for the LWVWA members who will be spending the night in Olympia.

Spring 2020 programs

Peggy reported that all plans are set for the January 15 Census and Redistricting Forum.

Mary and Cathy talked about in-the-works plans for the February 29 Centennial event. Participants will be looking at Voting: Past and Present, led by County Auditor, Mary Hall, and Future, via a "cafeteria conversation" model. They are getting lots of help from co-sponsors and interested individuals. This includes time from Intern Gracie (second half of her 20 hours) and help from another young woman, Kelsey Monaco. Much of what Mary and Cathy are doing is centered on getting youth involvement in this event and then maintaining it in the future.

The Immigration and Sanctuary program has secured space at the United Churches for the evening of Thursday, April 16.

Adjourned at 4:05 pm. Next board meeting February 5, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

Peggy Smith, Secretary

Board Approved February 5, 2020