

February 5, 2020
League of Women Voters of Thurston County Board Meeting Minutes
2315 Division St NW, Olympia

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

Absent: Melissa Denton

Guests: Gracie Anderson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by President Sandra.

Announcements—

**Sandra introduced the LWVTC intern, Gracie Anderson. She was warmly welcomed. She talked briefly about her current and future education, as well as the work she is doing for LWVTC for voter services and for the Feb. 29 program.

**Letter was sent to Olympia City Council re: Green Cove +SB6212 +advocacy.

**Reminder of centennial event Feb. 15 at Bigelow House. A birthday card for Susan B. Anthony which was signed by members, will be presented on Feb. 15, and will become an historical artifact of the day.

**Julie mentioned she will be attending the Feb. 14 LWV Mason event and invited other to join her.

** Sandra provided further information from LWVWA:

- DEI statement, events, etc. will be forthcoming
- Plans are moving forward for LWVWA Council in Yakima, May 30, Red Lion
- LWVWA Liaisons: advocacy-Paula, voter services-Gail, forums-Karen T have been agreed upon earlier, and it was agreed that our Civic Ed. liaison should be Karen V.

**LWV Convention will be in Wash. DC —LWVTC is allotted 3 voting delegates. Karen Verrill will be one of the delegates – she is going to be presenting information about *The State We're In*. Peggy and Julie are considering attending.

** Census Complete Count Committee, part of the Thurston Regional Planning Council, will be attended by several LWVTC members, including Shelley Kneip

and Sandra, and possibly Shelley Ferer. We will hear later what this committee will be doing and what our role might be.

Approval of agenda The agenda was approved as emailed.

Consent agenda The following items were approved by consent.

Minutes, January 8, 2019

Committee/board reports for January

Treasurer's report Leslie reported that we are in a very good cash position, with approximately \$20,000 in the Operations account and approximately \$10,000 in the Education Fund account.

It is time for the Budget Committee to be established. Leslie will serve as an ad hoc member. Julie, Gail, and Sue will be the other members. The Committee will elect the Chair once they meet. Other members are welcome to attend and provide input to the Committee.

Leslie requested that a debit card be obtained, associated with our Olympia Federal Savings account. The current method of "doing business" make it necessary to be able to purchase items online. Any card would be used only by the Treasurer.

Karen m/s/p to have the Treasurer investigate the pros and cons obtaining a debit or credit card from Olympia Federal Savings and obtaining the preferred card, for which she will establish procedures for use.

A discussion of funding for LWV Convention and Council delegates was held. It was noted that the amount in the Budget may be less than ideal. Nonetheless, funding for people attending these events is important and will be available to the extent possible. LWVWA always established the portion of Education Fund money may be used for such meetings, based on the particular meeting agenda.

There are Centennial sashes *Votes for Women/Centennial Celebration 1920-2020* available if we are interested in a fund-raiser. This was not something we wanted to pursue.

Voter Services Report Gail began her report by informing members that the organization tasks of the Committee are complete. There are ten members heading up various areas and a goodly number of others who are willing to work on tasks as needed. This organizational approach is detailed in an email that was recently

sent by the Volunteer Coordinator, Shelley F. Linkages with other organizations/groups have also been established for networking purposes.

Additional TRY brochures are needed, due to the fact the first 2,500 have been distributed or requested already. Because the Committee has plans for further distribution strategies, Gail requested approval to have an additional 3,000 printed. It was agreed that this should be done. Gail asked the board members identify places where they could personally distribute copies. If members let Gail know how many they need, she will make them available for pick up.

Next-up activities are getting TRYs to Civics Teachers and general Get Out the Vote efforts.

Program Planning Meeting Report Carol and Peggy noted that trying to respond to the LWVUS request for input to National Program Planning was fairly frustrating. Sandra, who also attend the LWVTC planning meeting, agreed.

In terms of planning for local issues and activities, there were a range of topics discussed. There was no interest in doing a “formal study.” Two topics were identified as possibilities for more attention and action. They were Voting, with a focus on building “life-long voters” and homelessness in Thurston County. There was a full discussion of how LWVTC might address these issues. It was agreed that we can easily increase our focus on and enhance member involvement in these issues without needing to go to the membership for approval.

February 29 Program Update Cathy and Mary confirmed that several of the ten facilitators will be Board members. Others will be suggested by the YMCA Youth in Government Program, which is one of the several co-sponsors of the program. Co-sponsors have been making excellent contributions, as have the two students, intern Gracie and Kelsey Monaco, who are working on this program planning. Flyers for the program were available for members to take and post. Cathy stressed that word-of-mouth requests for people to attend on Feb. 29 are very important.

Cathy has been in touch with folks from the Center for Informed Public, who will be bringing materials to the Feb 29 event. This organization will be hosting a MISINFO DAY later this spring. Cathy suggested that this type of presentation might be something the Board could keep mind for a 2021 Public Meeting.

March Programs Update Sue reported that the final titles and speakers have been arranged for the March meetings. They are as follows:

March 5: Where's the Water II: What Are the Impacts of Sea Level Rising in Thurston County? *The Squaxin Island Tribe Sea Level Rise Story Map*

Presenters are: Candice Penn, Climate Specialist, Squaxin Island Tribe and Brian McTeague, G.I.S. Manager, Squaxin Island Tribe.

March 26: Where's the Water II: What Are the Realities of Water Quality and Water Quantity in Thurston County?

Presenters are: Kevin Hansen, LHg, LG, LEED AP, Thurston County Water Resources Hydrogeologist; Art Starry, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Environmental Health Division Director; and Julie Rector, City of Lacey Department of Public Works Water Quality Analyst.

Let's Talk About Race Peggy was glad to say the Book Groups will finally be meeting for the first time on Feb. 19 and 20. Julie displayed her copy of *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo – the first read.

The theme of 2020 Black History Month is "African Americans and the Vote." Peggy noted that there is an exhibit at the Washington State History Museum that is relevant to that theme.

In response to concerns raised by a potential member and a new member about the terminology in the LWVTC Position on Indian Rights, Peggy suggested that the word Indian be changed to Native American. Board members did not want to entertain such a change until there was more information available about the content of the study that resulted in the published position. Carol agreed to retrieve the original study, and any documents related to the 2000 review, from the archives for review.

The Need for "pipeline" or redundant skills was addressed by Sandra, who had provided the following website related to this issue. There needs to be more discussion about how LWVTC might institute redundancy in key positions.
<https://hiring.monster.ca/employer-resources/workforce-management/workplace-diversity/the-importance-of-skill-redundancy-for-your-team-and-business/>

Adjournment at 4:05 pm. Next Meeting, Wednesday, March 4, 2020
Respectfully submitted, Peggy Smith, Secretary Approved March 4, 2020