

**March 4, 2020**  
**League of Women Voters of Thurston County Board Meeting Minutes**  
**2315 Division St NW, Olympia**

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

**Absent:** Julie Frick, Mary Moore

**Guests:** Paula Holroyde

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

**Announcements**—Sandra first announced that she and Mary Hall had attended a County Commission meeting to accept a Proclamation that honored “Valiant Women of the Vote” and especially singled out LWV for its work in that regard, as part of Women’s History Month.

Sandra announced that she had responded to a letter sent to LWVTC expressing concern about voter fraud. She responded by assuring the person that Washington state’s voting processes and procedures do a good job of mitigating against fraud. This announcement was followed by a brief discussion of opportunities for people to do work in the Auditor’s Office.

- Sandra will be a guest on the March 21, 2020 episode of the MIXX96 Community Conversations podcast.
- LWVTC has received an invitation to participate, at least by having a “table,” in an upcoming Climate Summit at TESC. Sandra will be asking for someone to obtain further details.
- There was a rousing “Thanks You” given to Mary and Cathy for the splendid work they did in planning and carrying off the Feb 29 Community Conversation. Melissa was also acknowledged for the inspiring closing remarks she made.

**Approval of agenda** --A Membership Committee item was added, and the agenda was then approved as amended.

**Consent agenda** The following items were approved by consent.

Minutes, February 5, 2020

## Committee/board reports for February

**Treasurer's Report** Leslie began her report by noting that we are in a healthy cash position.

The Budget committee had met and elected Julie and Sue as Co-Chairs. There is agreement that some items will be increased for next year, given increased activity. The Committee is asking other committee chairs for estimates of amounts. Sandra and Gail both mentioned the need to include a suitable amount for any purchases of *The State We're In* we might want to make.

Julie had suggested that money be requested for a paid intern. The board agreed that this is worth pursuing.

Peggy mentioned items that the Committee may already have or might consider: PayPal fees, the amount of Reserve we maintain, and a potential of having Homelessness task force/activity next year.

Leslie reported that, after checking with our bank, an Olympia Federal basic credit card would meet the treasurer's needs for non-cash or non-check purchasing.

**Program Planning Update** Carol began this report by giving a summary of what the board decided at the February meeting. Member planning has not yet been reported on in the VOTER and participants have not yet received feedback about board action. Further discussion of the two priority issues helped clarify what the next steps will be.

In terms of activities related to encouraging young people to be lifelong voters, Voter Services outreach to high school students will address them. Members who work on this will be able to determine if such activities could evolve into an education initiative or remain as voter services.

In regard to homelessness issues, Cathy and Karen had done a bit of investigation into the status of other groups or a coalition working in this area. Clearly there is no one systematic approach or clear entry point for our involvement. Peggy suggested that a way to get a better feeling what a Local League might do would be to have Cynthia Stewart, Chair of LWV-Tacoma/Pierce County talk to us about what they have done. It was also suggested that the InterFaith Works Director, Meg Martin, is a good resource for this.

**Annual Meeting Planning** The board agreed that having a “program” about homelessness would be part of the Annual Meeting. Mary and Sandra are doing the planning for the May 12 meeting. They will invite Cynthia Stewart and Meg Martin to be presenters. There was no discussion of Awards for 2019-2020.

### **March and April Programs Updates**

Paula provided details about the upcoming March 5 and the March 26 Water Study events. The first meeting will cover what is being done by the Squaxin Tribe, as well as activities taking place related to the Chehalis Basin initiative. The second meeting will be somewhat of an update of one of last year’s programs, given improved technology for measuring water quantity and quality.

Subsequent to Paula’s remarks, she received notice that the persons who were going to present the *Squaxin Tribe Sea Level Rise Story Map* would not be able to attend. This was due to caution related to possible spread of a virus that is causing considerable illness. This certainly reinforced a comment made earlier by Melissa that we need to be alert to the need to do contingency planning. Paula will undoubtedly provide a model for some to follow.

Karen reported that her planning for the April 16 Immigration/Sanctuary program is going very well. The Strengthening Sanctuary Alliance has already signed on as a co-sponsor, and Karen is confident there will be others.

**Census Count efforts** Sandra commented on the Thurston Complete Count Committee. Our efforts will be confined to distribution of information. She gave copies of “hand-outs” from the Committee to several board members who will use them at upcoming events. Peggy mentioned that the website, and possibly PSAs, may also be used to get information out.

**Voter Services** Gail reported on the various activities she and her Committee have done or are doing.

TRY- there will be a total of 5,500 TRYs printed. A good portion have already been distributed, there are plans for more distribution in the short term, and there will also be more distribution closer to the General Election.

Candidate Forums- We have Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> reserved at TCM for primary election forums. Primary election filings won’t be certified by the Secretary of State’s Office until May 19<sup>th</sup> which gives us little time to finalize details before the forums. Karen has reached-out to TCM to see if a later Saturday in June has become available. The exact make up of Public Forums related to the General

Election will be determined, but we have September 19<sup>th</sup> reserved for the filming of candidate forums at TCM.

Get-Out-The-Vote workers have taken several media-related approaches to their efforts. Public Service Announcements are an example. It was agreed that we did not want to pay to have any of these broadcast. We'll go with the "public" aspects. Voter Registration activities have involved having tables at many events. Outreach to young voters is being headed by Pat Harrigan, who has developed a presentation for high school civics classes.

Board members expressed interest in having public forums for County Commission races and the US District 10 races. Karen will investigate this.

**State-wide office forums--** Karen is the LWTC liaison to a state-level group, led by Mary Coltrane, that is coordinating the activities related to having such Candidate Forums. The reported progress of this group, the experience LWVTC had with this in 2016, and the nature of the offices for which we might host a forum were discussed. It was agreed that LWVTC should consider hosting one General Election forum for a state-wide office.

**Nominating Committee update--** Karen and Laurie expressed a bit of frustration that they are still needing names of members who might be appropriate candidates for the board. Board members are urged to make suggestions. The difficulty filling positions is not an uncommon issue for nominating committees, but some of the current reasons for this were noted: : many new members who do not feel confident or informed enough to serve and the scheduled meeting time (weekday afternoon) and processes may be barriers to board participation. These are issues that could use more attention, especially in the context of future policy development.

**Membership** Carol presented three membership fee-related proposals from the Committee:

- Money for Scholarships for those who cannot afford the \$75 – allocating \$500 to enable 10 individuals to receive \$25 memberships.
- Pro-rating for partial year new memberships – \$30 for any new membership between Feb 1 – May 31.
- Lowering Student dues – from \$25 to \$10.

Melissa m/s/p to approve the three requests from the Membership Committee to let the Committee take steps to present proposals to the membership at the Annual

Meeting. Peggy m/ to amend the partial year payment amount from \$30 to \$37.50. This motion died for a lack of a second.

**Let's Talk About Race** Some research of historical, archived, documents was done by Sandra and Carol. In addition, they and Peggy investigated current uses of terms when referring to indigenous person. It is clear there is no single generally acceptable term. Doing nothing about our Position on Indian Treaty Rights is deemed the best approach. Members were informed that a good source to support this is a statement on this topic in *The State We're In*.

To continue consideration of sensitive terms and words, Peggy distributed copies of an article from *YES! Magazine*, "The Language of Anti-Racism."

Our book group has come together nicely. We are still welcoming new members.

**Planning for Council** Sandra confirmed that LWVWA Council will be held from 10:00 am on May 30 through noon on May 31, in Yakima. Reimbursement amount, and proportion that may come from the Education Fund, for both Council and LWVUS Convention expenses will depend upon a number of factors, including the amount we have budgeted.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.** Next meeting: Wed., April 1, 2020, 2-4pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Smith, Secretary

Board Approved April 1, 2020