

League of Women Voters of Thurston County
September 9, 2020: 1:30-3:30 pm, via Zoom
Board Meeting Minutes

Present: President Karen Tvedt, Carol Goss, Laurie Craig, Leslie Williamson, Patricia Harrigan, Shari Silverman, Peggy Smith, Julie Frick. Fran Beard, Tony Wilson, Nathaniel Jones, Shelley Kneip

Absent: None

Guests: Susan Fiksdal

Call to Order: The meeting was opened with a brief exercise about setting boundaries to help us work more effectively and comfortably. Karen mentioned not responding fully to late-night email messages so she can respond the next day with a clearer mind. Peggy talked about doing what she could to limit the number of repetitive “reply all” messages.

Review of Agenda: The agenda, as emailed, was reviewed and no changes requested.

Consent Agenda: The two items on the consent agenda were accepted.

- **Board Retreat Minutes (8/13/20) from Secretary Peggy Smith**
- **Financial Report for August 31, 2020 from Treasurer Leslie Williamson**

Nominating committee members from the board: Karen noted the requirement that the board appoint two of their members to serve on the Nominating Committee, along with the three persons who were elected by the membership in May. Laurie said that she would be willing to serve on this committee again, and Julie volunteered as well.

Ad Hoc Finance Committee Report: Julie and Leslie reported on behalf of the committee. Decreased in-person activities will result in under spending in Operations. Inability to have the Annual Luncheon, even though off set by some adjustment to spending for in-person events, is expected to leave the Education Fund with a minimal balance. Therefore, the committee made two suggestions they feel will result in a better end 2020-2021 financial situation. These suggestions are reflected in the following board actions.

Peggy m/s/p to not hold an Education Fund Benefit Luncheon this year but consider other ways of raising funds for the Education Fund in the short term.

Tony m/s/p to pay this year's LWVUS Per Member Payment (PMP) completely with Operations funds.

Fundraising in the time of COVID-19: Julie, Development Chair, presented three fundraising ideas:

- Short Term: A "Donation In Lieu of Lunch" campaign to make up for some of what will not be realized because of not having the Annual Luncheon.
- Ongoing: For "The Present" by asking members to donate 1% of their Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Required Minimum Distributions (RMD).
- Long Term: A 100 Years of League focused "1% Option" Legacy Program, where 1% of a person's estate would be given to LWVTC.

After a brief discussion and answering of questions, the members agreed that the Funding Raising Committee should further develop these ideas.

Proposal for Approval of Position in Support of Adoption of the TCMP: Peggy reviewed the request for approval of the Position on the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan (TCMP) submitted by the ad hoc TCMP Review Group. There was a brief discussion about how such a position statement might be communicated and used to influence adoption by the relevant jurisdictions.

Peggy m/s/p to approve the Position to support adoption of the TCMP.

Be A Voter Campaign: Susan Fiksdal, from the Voter Services Committee, provided information about the various aspects of this campaign.

- The Be A Voter video, which stresses why to vote, has recently become available via YouTube, is posted on lwvthurston.org, and has been provided to the State League for posting on the website and distributing to other Leagues.
- September 22 will be the launch date for a variety of media, social and traditional, as well as member communication to enhance awareness and involvement in the campaign.
- October 16 will be the next big push, to coincide with ballots being mailed.
- Using funds from a \$2,000 special LWVWA Education Fund Grant, Be A Voter postcards will be sent to 1,800 young persons in Thurston County who are registered but did not vote in the primary. The mailing will be done by MailBox of Olympia, and analysis of the impact of sending the cards will be done by our member Brian Hovis.

Susan also reported on efforts related to getting people to register to vote. Traditional methods of reaching out to get registrations have been curtailed this year. Instead, a group of Voter Services volunteers, spearheaded by Patricia, have been preparing registration packets and leaving them at “new places” like clinics, food banks, etc.

The Voter-planning for the October issue: Shari and Laurie talked about the theme of “Voting” for this issue, as well as the tentative line up of articles they would like to see. Responsible board members agreed to provide, or arrange for, the respective articles. The next issues of the Voter will be targeted for the first of each month.

September 24th Membership Meeting: Karen confirmed that this Zoom meeting will begin at 7 pm and will last for 1.5 hours. There will be an Update from the Board, Recognition of three members who gave special volunteer efforts last year, and a Program on Homelessness presented by Cynthia Stewart.

Talking about Race:

Carol reported that formation of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEI&Justice) Committee is moving ahead. There will be an article about this in the September Voter. Several people have already expressed an interest in being involved.

Karen encouraged people to participate in the September 12, 2020 forum we are co-sponsoring -- Race and Civic Engagement Dialogue.

Brief Updates: The following items were of note – Nathaniel had put up the “Rightfully Hers” pop-up display at City Hall; Shelley referred to a LWVWA Lobby Team environmental issues caucus on September 14; Peggy urged people to follow us on Twitter, at @LwvThurston, or to get Twitter users they know to do so.

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 3:30 pm.

CALENDAR

- *The Voter-September 10; October 1, November 1, and December 1*
- *Coffee with the League-Tuesday mornings at 10 (contact-Paula Holroyde)*
- *Candidate Forums: 9/12/20; 10/14/20*
- *Race and Civic Engagement Dialogue Forum on September 12*
- *General Membership Meeting on September 24*
- *Be A Voter-major push in October 2020*
- *Water Forum-October 7th (late afternoon or evening)*
- *Membership meeting in November?*
- *Virtual Holiday Party-December*

Submitted by Peggy Smith, Secretary

Approved 10/14/2020