

**League of Women Voters of Thurston County
December 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

Guest: Gail Wrede

Call to Order and Check-in: Karen called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. Informal conversation, mostly about the pluses and minuses of holding meetings on Zoom, served as the check-in.

Consent Agenda: One item was presented on the consent agenda and was approved.

Board Minutes of the November 11, 2020 meeting.

Financial Report: Treasurer, Leslie Williamson, noted a correction in the November 2020 Financial Report. This revised report will be posted on the website along with the minutes. Leslie continued her report by mentioning the types of income and expenses that had been recorded in Nov. She also said that there had been a recent mailed in donation of \$500 to the Education Fund, as part of the Donate in Lieu of Lunch Campaign. In addition, the check for the Voter Services Grant from LWVWA has just been received. There were several questions for clarification to which Leslie responded.

Tony m/s/p to accept the revised Financial Report for November 2020.

Proposal: Creation of a Bylaw Review Committee Karen presented the proposal for establishment of a Bylaw Review Committee that would also address additional operational policies and procedures needed to implement the bylaws (see Appendix 1). There was some discussion to assure that board members were clear on the intent and impact of the proposal.

Tony m/s/p to approve the following proposal to create a bylaw committee.

Proposal: *Create an Ad Hoc By-Law Committee to review and make recommendations to the Board about proposed by-law amendments. The ad hoc committee may also suggest operating policies and procedures needed to implement the by-laws (see Section 4. Board Powers and Duties). Subject to board approval, the by-laws will be submitted for approval at the annual membership meeting along with any recommended policies and procedures.*

Karen noted that Shelley and Leslie had agreed to serve on such a committee, and Shari, Tony and Laurie volunteered to serve as well.

Committee/Activity Updates

Finance Committee –The committee has decided that since the Donate in Lieu of Lunch Campaign just finished, the fundraising proposal to suggest donations of a given percentage of IRA distributions will not begin this calendar year. It was noted that activities related to the 2021-2022 budget process will begin before long.

The Voter- The themes for the January and March Voter, Civics and Legislative Session respectively, are set. There was a request for ideas for February. It was suggested that a lead-up to the Immigration Forum would be appropriate. There was general agreement that this was a good idea.

There was a discussion of the recent caution from National and State League about not using graphics that have copywrite protection. There was a discussion about how confusing this can be. Shari and Karen volunteered to seek further clarification about this.

Nominating Committee- Karen reported that the Nominating Committee had met and are seeking members for the positions that will be open next year. Laurie and Julie are the board representatives on this committee. They would to glad to have suggestions for members who might serve. They would share those names at the next meeting, in January 2021.

Proposed Letters to the Editor – Julie proposed that several “letters to the editor” be sent to The Olympian in support of the recent elections administration. Gail expressed

disappointment in The Olympian's willingness to publish things related to our voter services activities. There was a lively discussion of the process of getting items published. Several people suggested that having individuals, as opposed to the League, is probably a good idea. Julie will follow-up with a letter to the editor expressing appreciation for the work of Mary Hall and her staff.

Planning for January-June 2021 -- Immigration Forum

Planning is underway for this forum. Although a date has not yet been set, the committee is looking for one between the middle of February and the middle of March. A list of possible speaker has been generated. Initial efforts will be to match speaker availability and the date. There will be presentations on immigration issues at the National, State, and Local Levels.

Program Planning – State and Local for 2021-2023

Karen reported that we had received instruction from LWVWA about the need to engage in annual program planning. They stressed the need to be aware of the National Campaign to Make Democracy Work, as well as the need to apply diversity, equity, and inclusion principles during our planning. We will be looking for a mid to end of January date for a planning meeting; the results of our planning need to be submitted to the LWVWA by February 15, 2021.

There was a discussion of what can, should, or might be done during the planning, in terms of what goes to LWVWA and what we want to do locally. Carol stressed the possibility of engaging new members by getting them interested in this important activity. A planning for Planning group was established: Karen, Carol, Peggy, Julie, and Fran.

Planning for January-June 2021 -- Other membership meetings and topics

Karen pointed out that, assuming Program Planning in January, Immigration Forum in February, and the Annual Meeting in May, March and April are still available for general membership meetings. The following options were proposed:

- Homelessness follow up
- Redistricting Speak Up
- DEI&Justice program

Nathaniel mentioned the possibility of a follow up to a Dec 5 Action Workshop presentation about State Banks. Karen noted that an information session will be

offered in January by the LWVWA State Bank Task Force. It would be appropriate to include announcement of this in our Voter and website. Nathaniel volunteered to draft such an article.

Talking about Race -DEI & Justice Committee

Carol reported that the first meeting of about fourteen people interested in this committee will be on December 18, 2020. Materials that will be reviewed at this meeting are the LWVUS Policy, the LWVTC draft purposes, and prior activities and actions. There may also be consideration of future actions.

Good of the Order

Gail noted that people will be bringing Voter Services materials to the LWVTC storage locker on Monday December 14, from 10 -11 am, with cookies provided. Gail also thanked Patricia for having stepped up to serve as the Voter Services representative on the board. Patricia said farewell to everyone.

The Meeting Adjourned at 3:30 pm.
Submitted by Peggy Smith, Secretary

Board Approved 1/13/2021

Appendix 1.

Proposal: *Create an Ad Hoc By-Law Committee to review and make recommendations to the Board about proposed by-law amendments. The ad hoc committee may also suggest operating policies and procedures needed to implement the by-laws (see Section 4. Board Powers and Duties). Subject to board approval, the by-laws will be submitted for approval at the annual membership meeting along with any recommended policies and procedures.*

Rationale for Proposal:

- The Thurston LWV by-laws include areas of inconsistency and confusion, e.g., terms of office expire on June 1st and our budget year ends on June 30th.
- There are also by-laws that seem inconsistent with current LWVTC practices, including who signs contracts, periodic review of our financial records, and number of general membership meetings each year.
- Finally, our by-laws lack compliance with the LWVUS requirement that the first three articles of League by-laws be consistent with those of the LWVUS. We need to amend our by-laws to include “2. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy. The League is fully committed to ensure compliance – in principle and in practice with the LWVUS’ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy” (Article II, Sec. 2 Policies.).

Lead/Committee Composition: Several people have volunteered to participate on this committee including Leslie Williamson, Shelley Kneip and Karen Tvedt. A few more volunteers from the board and membership will be recruited. Karen will provide leadership through formation of the committee. At its first meeting, the group will be encouraged to select a new chair from within the committee.

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