

**League of Women Voters of Thurston County**  
**January 13, 2021: 1:30-3:30 pm, via Zoom**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** President Karen Tvedt, Carol Goss, Laurie Craig, Leslie Williamson, Gail Wrede, Shari Silverman, Peggy Smith, Julie Frick. Fran Beard, Nathaniel Jones, Shelley Kneip

**Absent:** Tony Wilson

**Guest:** None

**Call to Order and Check-in:** Karen called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm. Check-in was talk of power outages and tree damage from an overnight storm.

**Review of Agenda** A Voter Services report was added to the Committee/Activity Update, and Other was added as the last agenda item.

**Consent Agenda** The two items on the consent agenda were approved and accepted, respectively.

- Board Minutes of December 9, 2020
- Virtual Education Fund Luncheon Report (see Appendix 1)

**Financial Report** Treasurer Leslie Williamson gave brief remarks about the December 21, 2020 Financial Report. Expenditures were routine and no exceptional income was received in December. Leslie did mention that we had received notice that the Nisqually Tribal Grant that Julie applied for on our behalf had been granted. The grant amount is \$2,000.

There was brief conversation about the success of the Virtual Education Fund Luncheon. A request was made that thank you notes, for tax deduction purposes be written to people who donated to the Education Fund. People who donated using PayPal received auto-notifications for this purpose.

**Gail m/s/p to accept the Financial Report.**

## **Committee/Activity Update**

Voter Shari reported that an earlier decision made by the board to send The Voter to local elected officials will be implemented over the next several issues. This will start with offices such as Port Commissioners. Other offices will be phased in, possibly through state legislators. The people covered by this activity will be notified by email before-hand that we will be sending them our newsletter.

Nominating Committee Vice President Julie Frick reported that the nominating committee has been making good progress. They are close to completing their work.

Program Planning Karen reviewed the agenda for the January 23, 2021 meeting. This meeting will take place from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm via Zoom. This was accepted without comment.

Voter Services Gail Wrede, committee chair, reported that the TRY has been completed, with thanks to Rhonda Porter for her work on this important project. The document is currently at the printer, with 1,000 copies being produced. The Spanish language piece still needs to be completed.

Lacey Cultural Celebration Fran brought to our attention that the Lacey City Cultural Celebration will be held as a virtual event, on March 27, 2021, from 10 am to 6 pm. Participants are provided free information booths. There was general agreement that we should participate. We will register soon.

Budget Committee Julie noted that a budget committee needs to be established and prepare a 2021-2022 Budget for membership adoption. Julie also mentioned that committees need to provide information about what they anticipate as funding needs for the upcoming year.

### **Gail m/s/p to establish a Budget Committee.**

Julie and Gail volunteered to be on this committee, and Leslie, as Treasurer, will serve as an Ex Officio member. Additional members will be recruited.

Communication Karen proposed that we establish a mid-month LWVTC update. Possible topics for January are Program Planning, signing-up for the state legislative newsletter, Conservation District election, dates for the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan reviews, and the Ag Review survey. It was agreed that this is a good idea.

Membership Carol Goss, committee chair, requested additional funds for low/fixed income dues, to allow additional memberships of this type be supported. There was some discussion about the need for additional money, as well as the ability of funds to be moved around within a committee's total allocation. There was general agreement that expending additional money if needed for this purpose was a good idea.

## **Program Updates**

Immigration Forum Shari reported that certain aspects of the forum are still in the planning stages. A date of February 25, 2021, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm has been set for a Zoom meeting. Using the LWVWA Zoom license will allow nearly 200 attendees. This event is being cosponsored by Strengthening Sanctuary Alliance and LWV Mason County.

Speak Up School Karen noted that she had attended three sessions of the training for Speak Up School trainers. The purposes of the schools are to prepare people to speak at Redistricting Commission Meetings. Others from Thurston County who had attended at least part of one of these sessions are Keitha Bryson, Kelsey Monaco, and our ally Lin Crowley. Karen suggested we pursue being part of a school, in one of four ways: hold our own school, partner with another League to hold a school, team up with other like-minded organizations to hold a school, encourage our members to attend a school being held by LWVWA. Members agreed that we did not want to hold a school on our own, and timing could influence the likelihood of doing something else. Karen will pursue this for us.

Other membership meetings or forums There is space for us to have a couple of additional events, between the forum in February and the Annual Meeting in May. A lively discussion about various options was held. The results of that discussion and people's interest in specific events is as follows.

- Homelessness Follow-Up. Karen and Shari, as well as Cynthia Stewart will pursue this.
- DEI&Justice. Given the embryonic status of the committee, it was decided that this would not be pursued at this time.
- Civics Education-Working with Local and State Government. This would be shaped by the article written by Nathaniel for the Voter. There were a variety of suggestions about inviting elected officials to participate in such an event. Nathaniel will lead future planning for this.

- Civil Discourse. There were several people who offered this idea. Gail and Carol will discuss this but it's unlikely that we can make this happen this program year.
- Others. A couple of ideas were mentioned, and Karen will be putting this, along with the ones not being pursued, on a "parking lot" status for consideration next program year.

**Talk about Race** Carol started this talk by reporting that the first meeting of the DEI & Justice Committee was focused on getting acquainted with others and their interests. The second meeting will be on January 27, 2021. Expanding on the purposes of the committee, and actions that could be reflective of the purposes, will be major agenda items.

Peggy spoke about possible items of interest: past, a book written by Martin Luther King Jr; present, a program being held in honor of Martin Luther King Jr Holiday at South Puget Sound Community College; and future, Black History Month posts during February in our website. She asked board members to visit the Confronting Racism/Inequity Page at least 4 times during February.

**Other** There was a statement about impeachment of President Trump promulgated by LWVUS. Many members had read this, and it had been posted on the website.

Shari encouraged people to complete a Port of Olympia survey, which is a follow up to a survey the Port had conducted a while ago. The survey is available on the Port's website.

**Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Submitted by Peggy Smith, Secretary

First Draft January 16, 2021, Second Draft January 19, 2021, Draft for Board Approval January 23, 2021, Approved February 10, 2021

## Appendix 1

### Virtual Education Fund Luncheon Report January 13, 2021

Submitted by Leslie Williamson

At the beginning of November, we asked our members to support the Education Fund without the fun, camaraderie, and community involvement of an actual luncheon. And they really came through!

We received 30 contributions totaling \$2,476, and our only expenses were \$18 in PayPal fees. Our Education Fund balance is now \$8,483, which is about \$1,500 less than this time last year.

Of course, we're hoping to do the luncheon again next year, but now it's gratifying to know how much our members value and support the work we do!

Special thanks to Peggy Smith for setting up the PayPal link on our website and to Julie Frick for writing the article for the Voter, Facebook posts, email blasts, etc.