

League of Women Voters of Thurston County
February 10, 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, Tony Wilson

Absent: None

Guest: Loretta Seppanen (Program Proposal discussion)

Call to Order and Check-in: Karen called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm. Check-in was a variety of personal reflections.

Review of Agenda: A report related to the *Voter* was added to Committee/Activity Updates.

Consent Agenda: The one item on the consent agenda was approved.

- Board Minutes of January 13, 2021

Financial Report: Treasurer, Leslie Williamson, said that the only significant thing on the January 31, 2021 Financial Report was the addition to the Education Fund \$2,000 from the Nisqually Tribe grant. It was suggested that both the Tribe and Julie Frick, who applied for the grant, be thanked in the *Voter*. Tony asked about the “Domain” item in the budget. Leslie said she would give him specifics after the meeting.

Tony m/s/p to accept the Financial Report.

Requests for LWVTC Board Decision:

Karen proposed two dates for the LWVTC Annual Meeting, May 25, or May 27. Members agreed on having the virtual meeting on May 25.

Sponsorship of the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition Race Discussion Follow-Up Event was presented by Karen. This event will take place on March 27, 2021. It was agreed that we should cosponsor this event. If there is a request for financial support, the Executive Committee will decide what to do.

Karen presented a request from Interfaith Works for sponsorship of a Virtual Food Walk to benefit food programs operated through the Senior Center, Food Bank, and Community Kitchen. Peggy expressed her belief that this activity is outside of our mission. Others agreed, but there was general agreement that we could publicize it in the Voter and on the website.

Nathaniel m/s/p that we publicize the Virtual Food Walk – votes 9 yes, 2 no.

After the January meeting, there was more discussion about our participation in encouraging involvement in redistricting efforts. Sue Dubuisson is willing to work with Alison McCaffery to have just the “Redistricting 101” version of Speak-Up School. Board members supported doing such a presentation as part of a general membership meeting.

The group that met to consider what should be done as a follow up to the Homelessness Forum held in September is proposing a Homelessness Committee be established. It will be composed of Karen, Shari, Fran, Cynthia Stewart, and others to be recruited. This committee’s first step would be to review what we know and don’t know about homelessness issues in the Thurston community.

Carol Goss, Membership Committee Chair, talked about a Civics Education proposal from the committee. They would like to be able to give copies of *The State We’re In* to all new members. The books would be accompanied by a welcoming letter. This would cover new members since June 2019, who do not yet have a copy of the book, through May 2023.

Gail m/s/p to allocate \$1,000 from the Education Fund to make *The State We’re In* available to members joining during the 2019-2021 years.

Through June, this will be funded by current Education Fund monies. Spending beyond June will be incorporated into future budgets.

Gail mentioned that this suggests there should be thought given to the placement of civics education in our organization, since now both Voter Services and Membership are engaged in it.

Committee/Activity Updates:

Carol presented information about the Lacey Cultural Celebration to be held on March 27, 2021. She and Fran are working on our involvement that day, which will include our having a virtual table there. They would like to have more of our members involved in the day's activities. An article in the *Voter* will serve to publicize this event and seek more volunteers.

Peggy noted that the official membership number for per-member-payments to state and national Leagues is set now. It is active members on January 31, 2021. This is key information for next year's budget.

Shari noted that the Voter has a new feature, "Thank you, thank you, thank you." It will be used to acknowledge and celebrate individuals or other entities who have made special contributions on our behalf.

The Bylaws Committee has been meeting, with Shelley serving a scribe. They are making progress and anticipate having a draft for the board to review in March.

The group working to set the stage for the Communications Committee has had several meetings. Among the things being considered is a new website. Tony briefed members on the extensive work he has done investigating options, particularly Club Express.

Shari gave an update on the Immigration Forum. It will be held from 6:30–8:30 pm on February 25, 2021, via Zoom. The speakers are confirmed, and there will be three cosponsors. Shelley is working on a poster that will be used for public relations outreach, as well as being on the website.

The Nominating Committee has completed their work by finding four persons who are willing to be nominated. They will be presented to the membership for election in May. The positions to be filled are Treasurer, Secretary, and two Board Members

Program Proposals:

The following proposals, coming out of the January 23, 2021 Program Planning Meeting, were presented by one of the people who have agreed to work on the program. Board members asked questions or provided suggestions. The board decision on each is presented in bold.

- Adoption by Concurrence of Criminal Justice Positions; proposal to LWVWA. Team-Deb Carstens, Heather Kelly, Susan Fleming, R Peggy Smith. Peggy gave the overview of this proposal, which is due to LWVWA by February 25, 2021. **Recommend that this proposal go ahead as written.**
- Evaluate the Effectiveness of Enhancing Equity Efforts by Thurston County Governments. Team-Darcy Huffman, Sandra Herndon, Loretta Seppanen, Fran Beard, Shelley Ferer, Peggy Smith. Peggy gave the overview of this proposal. **Recommend that, after discussion with Nathaniel about his concerns, the proposal go back to the team for refinement before it goes to the membership in May.**
- Local Good Governance. Team-Shari Silverman, Charlotte Persons, Lori Doron, Esther Kronenberg, Helen Wheatley. Shari gave the overview of this proposal. The similarity of this proposal and what Observer Corps generally do was discussed. **Recommended that the proposal go back to the team for some refinement before it goes to the membership in May.**

- Update of LWVTC Indian Treaty Rights Position, last updated in 2000. Team-Loretta Seppanen, Jo'el Roth, Karen Verrill, Jill Severn (tentative). Loretta gave the overview of this proposal. Shelley Kneip volunteered to join this team. **Recommended that this proposal go ahead as written to the membership in May.**
- Pathway for Civil Conversations-Civic Education Conducted with Civility. Team-Gail Gosney Wrede, Carol Goss, Laurie Craig, Julie Frick. Gail gave the overview of this proposal. After a brief discussion and clarification of the proposal, there was general agreement that this activity should be started as soon as possible. **Recommend that the team lead an effort to begin the activity described in the proposal. If it is determined that this needs to be framed as a formal program, it could go to the membership in 2022.**

The meeting was **Adjourned** a bit before 3:30 pm.

Submitted by Peggy Smith, Secretary

Approved March 10, 2021