

DRAFT Minutes
League of Women Voters of Thurston County - Board Meeting at
Susan Fiksdal's home
July 14, 2021, 2:00 pm-4:15 pm

Present: Laurie Craig, Susan Fiksdal, Julie Frick, Carol Goss, Shelley Kneip, Kelsey Monaco, Shari Silverman, Karen Tvedt, Kathy Varney, Leslie Williamson, Tony Wilson, and Nathaniel Jones a little late

Call to Order, Welcome and Check-In: Karen called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm. As our first face-to-face board meeting since April 2020, Karen asked members to introduce themselves and talk about what was on their minds. Carol introduced Lessons from Geese with the main message of supporting each other and standing together.

Minutes from Board Retreat were agreed upon by consensus.

Financial Report: Leslie summarized the report, and it was approved.

Luncheon at Indian Summer: Julie's plan includes a focus on our civics book *The State We're In* with the guest speaker being possibly Jerry Price, Program Supervisor Social Studies Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Civics teachers would be invited to attend by asking members to donate a ticket to a teacher. Tickets would be \$50 and rising to \$65 a couple of weeks prior to the event. Politicians would be invited, and would no doubt attend because we hope to hold it October 30, 2021. Suggestions were to live stream the event and to create a Plan B in case the pandemic worsens. The board endorsed the proposed luncheon approach recognizing that the planning group will work out the details.

Programs, Strategies and Methods: Karen passed out a handout (attached) that she has been working on and shared with the Communications Meeting. It responds to questions that have arisen in conversations with new board members and is intended to provide a clear outline of what we do and how we do it.

- Tony suggested adding events coordination to the Volunteer Coordinator Position. Shelley asked where forum coordination would reside and wondered about another new position, Program Coordinator.
- The graphic demonstrates the importance of communication across committees and activities and the board agreed we should continue requesting brief monthly reports from board members and off-board chairs.

- The graphic also shows committees proposing policies and procedures for consideration by the board. Karen said that we may need a template; she and Shelley can work on an appropriate template.
- Our homework is to study it and suggest changes if necessary.
- Karen encouraged us to check out the member section of the state League website. In addition to including the state Policies and Procedures (which can be example to our League) and information about the ed fund, it includes *Washington Nonprofits* which is a subscription-based state association with information on a wide-array of topics including board membership, working with volunteers, planning etc.

Returning to In-Person Meetings: Karen provided a handout of a poll used by the Thurston Climate Action Team. The Membership and Communications Committees will work on a poll to our membership.

Club Express (CE): Tony said that the team is filling out a 17-page questionnaire from CE. Jen Winckler, Snohomish League, met with Tony and Karen, and is willing to provide coaching on the completion of our questionnaire. Subject matter experts such as Leslie are being involved where their input is important; later committee chairs will have the opportunity to design pages. He said that the Roundtables offered by CE are very informative, and anyone wanting to join can ask to be on that mailing list. It turns out that we can create our own training videos based on what Jen has done for Snohomish. We may want to thank Jen for her considerable gift of time, expertise, and generosity by nominating her for a state-wide award.

The Voter: Shari and Laurie have developed themes for the coming months:

August: State Convention highlights

September: Civics Education: Back to School & Story on the Luncheon

October: Voting

November: Tribal Rights and Civil Discourse

December: Recap of the Year

January: Homelessness & Immigration

Karen shared a copy of a one-pager from August 2020 that outlined our goals for the Voter. In large part, these have been achieved, although once Club Express is implemented, we want to do more to use the Voter more widely as an outreach tool to non-League members.

Other Reports and Updates:

Water Study: Karen Fraser has produced the outline for the study by naming chapters in an impressive handout.

Voter Services-Fair Campaign Pledge:

- Susan introduced the idea of a pledge which Clark County has been using for over 20 years. They ask candidates in every election to sign the pledge which is sent out in the packet that their auditor sends to every candidate. Advantages include supporting fair elections; solidifying our relationship with our county auditor; and getting our name and mission to candidates and the public. Susan will send the information to all board members for discussion at the next meeting.
- **Your Vote:** Susan described a large project by the state Voter Services Committee to deal with mis/disinformation about voting and elections. The committee has produced 33 “truth sandwiches.” These state a fact, refer to a myth, then end with a fact. The project is called Your Vote/Your Voice. [They are now being vetted by the Secretary of State’s Office. And we are calling all county auditors to collect more myths.] Susan also explained that the *Spokesman Review* will again produce an insert written by Dee Ann Finken of the Clark League and staff writers called *Your Vote*. This project will include our new state-wide Be a Voter logo in creative ways. We will distribute this insert across the state and ask all daily and weekly news outlets to print it. In the center of this insert will be the list of truth sandwiches. The state league will have *Your Vote* translated into Spanish and it will be available online. Other ways to distribute Your Vote/Your Voice truth sandwiches include social media, table tents, fortune cookies, etc.
- **Susan B Anthony Event at Bigelow House:** Sue Lean is organizing the 100th anniversary of Susan B Anthony’s visit to Bigelow House on August 15th. Some women will enact vignettes in the garden. Susan has agreed to dress up as a suffragette to register voters and encourage league membership. [She will need one volunteer to help as Brian may be in Canada.]

Membership: Carol reported that we now have 98 members, down from nearly 200 last year. The committee is calling to ask for renewals, but the job has been made difficult since few people answer their phones. The Membership Committee will produce a new Handbook soon with a list of members as well as member resources. The website will house the continually updated list. She explained the usefulness of MELD, a national group that provides ideas around membership including pairing counties with similar sized leagues.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:15 and everyone agreed that meeting in person outside was a good idea even though in the future we will need to use Zoom as Kelsey will be in NYC.

League of Women Voters of Thurston County: Programs, Strategies & Methods (7/12/21 draft)

Purpose: to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Policies: League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate; League is fully committed to compliance—in principle and in practice—with the national League’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy.

Program: shall consist of a) Action to implement the principles of the national League; b) those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and education.

<p>Making Democracy Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote passage of the For the People Act (HR 1 and S1) • Primary and General Election Candidate Forums • Be A Voter Campaign • Civics Education • Civil Discourse 	<p>Promoting Social Justice, Protecting the Environment, and Fighting Climate Change Locally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Study Update • Update of the LWVTC Indian Treaty Rights Position • Local Good Governance Program (focus on local land use processes and practices) • Speak Out for Equity: Evaluate the Effectiveness of Enhancing Equity Efforts by Thurston County Governments • County Review of Agriculture: monitor • Homelessness in Thurston County: support local efforts
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How We Get Our Work Done

Board: take full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. *Plan & direct the League Program and programs; develop and maintain operating policies and procedures; conduct board training and new member orientation; participate in Program planning; plan a calendar of meetings and activities; approve consensus reports for state and national studies; advocacy coordination (Coffee with the League; supporting local, state and national positions); volunteer coordination?*

Membership: coordinates recruitment and retention of members in League activities while ensuring member data is accurate. *Recruitment & renewals; orientation; roster management; propose policies and dues structure for board approval; membership directory; Website posting.*

Communications: works to ensure clear, concise, timely and accurate communications that are in alignment with national and state League communication policies; outward and inward facing. *Website (CE Implementation); social media; the Voter; Propose communication policies and procedures; non-member lists? Publicity? Archiving? Acknowledgements (or is this membership)?*

Voter Services: coordinates actions that encourage the education and active participation of the public in voter registration, voting access, voter rights and election issues and voting. *Candidate forums; voter registration and engagement campaigns; civics education; policies and procedures for board approval; effectiveness of strategies? Maintain Voter Services website pages.*

Development/Finances: coordinates fundraising activities as directed by the board. *Financial management (operating and Ed Fund budgets) and fundraising; luncheon; policies and procedures for board approval; budget committee at least two months prior to the annual meeting. Coordinate with roster manager.*

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Committee: coordinates activities to fulfill our commitment to DEI and advocate for enhanced equity at every level of government. *DEI book group; educating ourselves; promote the DEI&J lens to the work of our League*