

Minutes

League of Women Voters of Thurston County-Board Retreat via Zoom June 22, 2021

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

Absent: None

Guests: None

Introductions and Orientation

Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions: Karen called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Kathy Varney, Kelsey Monaco & Susan Fiksdal were introduced as new board members and introductions were made.

Karen acknowledged that the League was productive over the last year, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, including the adoption of new by-laws. She said that she hopes to adopt new policies and procedures in the year ahead.

Returning members briefly shared what they had learned about the League over the past year that might be helpful to new members.

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

League Basics: Karen provided an overview of board member roles and responsibilities and Julie provided a brief overview of the League Operating Fund [501(c)(4)] and Education Fund [501(c)(3)]. The Education Fund provides donors with a potential tax deduction and is administered by the state League on behalf of the local League. Both funds are the property of the local League.

There was discussion of the various documents distributed in advance of the meeting, including:

- LWVTC bylaws
- LWVWA League Essentials
- LWVWA Policies and Procedures
- Glossary of Key Terms

Regarding the bylaws: Susan asked for a change to Article IX, Section 1.e, resulting in new language as follows:

Voter Services Committee. The Voter Services committee coordinates actions that encourage the education and active participation of the public in voter registration, voting access, voting, voter rights and election issues.

Tony asked for a change to Article IV, Section 5.d, resulting in new language as represented in the following excerpt:

Action Without a Meeting. Any action required or permitted...effective date. Such consent ~~shall~~ shall have the same effect as a unanimous vote.

Shelley will review the work of the bylaws committee to determine what action would be needed to make these changes. This will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Members participated in a “waterfall exercise” using the zoom chat function. Each member shared a single line about their preferred board norms. The results were:

- Shelley Kneip: Robust discussions; consensus if possible; cooperation
- Karen Tvedt: treating everyone with respect
- Leslie Williamson: Kindness and respect
- Nathaniel Jones: Good communications and openness to ideas.
- Kelsey Monaco: Welcoming and safe space to share ideas and/or concerns

- Julie Frick: Members giving their feedback, their ideas, and the opposing views of projects.
- Susan Fiksdal: Respect for each member's ideas.
- Kathy Varney: Open to new ideas without becoming defensive.
- Carol Goss: Kind, collegial communication - making a promise and keeping it -
- Shari Silverman: That we listen to and respect each other and our various viewpoints

Business Meeting

June 2021 Board Meeting Minutes - approved

Financial Report: Leslie presented the 2020- 2021 Financial Report. Both income and expenses for the last year are significantly under budget. The League is in a healthy financial position. The current annual budget (2021-2022) will conclude at the end of May 2022, resulting in an 11 month period. This is due to the approved fiscal calendar adjustment. The Financial Report was unanimously accepted as presented. Members indicated approval of keeping the League's banking business with Olympia Federal Savings.

Fund-raising Luncheon: Julie reported that the October 2020 luncheon was not held due to Covid-19 concerns. She offered a general overview of past luncheons, including their connection-building and fund raising results. She suggested that we could cancel the October 2021 luncheon or proceed as normal. She cautioned that if we proceed we may see lower attendance and suggested that we modify the event by lower the ticket price and cancelling the silent auction. There was general support for going forward with the auction and Julie was asked to bring forward a more specific proposal.

Regular Board Meeting Day and Time: Karen led a discussion that resulted in two decisions about regular board meetings. 1) Beginning in September, regular meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 3:30 to

5:30pm. 2) There will be an “in-person” meeting on July 14th at 2:00pm. Details will follow.

Nonpartisanship—Conflict of Interest Policy: Karen helped Board members review the LWVTC Nonpartisan-Conflict of Interest Policy, which had been distributed in advance. There was discussion of the special rules for the President and the Voter Services Chair, in addition to the rules for all Board Members and all League members. Members indicated that they understood the policy.

Board Appointments to the Nominating Committee: Julie and Laurie volunteered to continue serving on the Nominating Committee. Members approved and thanked them for stepping forward.

“The Voter”: Shari and Laurie asked members about the desired frequency for distributing “The Voter”. There was discussion about some of the challenges of monthly publication and some possible options for other approaches. It was decided to stay with a monthly publication with a target for the first of the month. Members asked for a calendar which looks ahead at planned themes. Laurie and Shari asked for Board member ideas for future issues.

Club Express: Tony reported on progress toward the conversion of the current NationBuilder webpage to a Club Express bundle with greater functionality. The committee is continuing to define the desired attributes and modules for the new webpage design. The soft target for implementation is October 2021. Tony emphasized that the conversion will result in new processes for several current League procedures. For example, membership renewals will “roll-over” throughout the year, depending upon when a member joined, rather than the current annual renewal deadline for all members.

Other Activities: The discussion of Other Activities was postponed until the next Board meeting.

Priorities for 2021-2022

There were brief updates on:

- Voter Services
- Water Study
- Communications Committee
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice
- Thurston County Agriculture Review, and
- Local Good Governance

There was action regarding the proposal from the Local Good Governance Working Group. Shari provided a report on the group's need to work in coalition with other organizations to adequately monitor the actions of local governments. She referred to the June 9, 2021 Proposed Policy of the working group which has been modeled after the state League's Guidelines for Participation in Coalitions. Tony moved and Laurie seconded that the Board approve the proposed policy of the working group. The motion was unanimously approved.

Any remaining agenda items were tabled for later consideration and the meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.

Future Meeting Dates:

July 14 – 2:00 pm (live)

September 8 – 3:30 pm

October 12 – 3:30 pm

November 10 – 3:30 pm

December 8 – 3:30 pm

January 12 – 3:30 pm

February 9 – 3:30 pm

March 9 – 3:30 pm

April 13 – 3:30 pm

May 11 – 3:30 pm