

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of THURSTON COUNTY
Board of Directors-Minutes
3729 Griffin Lane SE, Olympia (Child Care Action Council)
January 21, 2016
5:30 – 7:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Pat Dickason, President.

Directors present included: Pat Dickason, Allyson Brooks (Vice-President), Kathleen Downey (Treasurer), Karen Tvedt (Secretary), Dawn Brooks-Gibbs, Peggy Bruton, Valerie Hammett, Ruth Harms, R. Peggy Smith, Barb Theiss, and Karen Verrill.

Minutes/Financial Reports (*Pat Dickason*)

- The November Board minutes and financial reports were accepted as submitted.

2016 Focus Discussion (*Pat Dickason/All*)

Pat initiated discussion about what we see the League doing in the next five months in addition to general meetings and the annual meetings. Among issues that have been suggested are: voter services, election activities, climate change, racial equity, membership, and community collaborations (RESULTS, Thurston Climate Action Team, etc.)

- Kathleen noted that Sen. Karen Fraser has scheduled a meeting about Capitol Lake on January 29th from 9:30-11:30 am at the 1500 Street Jefferson Building. Kathleen plans to attend. (*NOTE: according to Sen. Fraser's January 25th legislative newsletter, she indicates that she scheduled this meeting as a member of the Capitol Campus Design Advisory Committee. Open to the public, local and tribal governments were invited to discuss a long-term management plan for Capitol Lake, Deschutes Estuary, Lower Budd Inlet and the Deschutes River watershed.*)
- Karen V talked about efforts to encourage young people to vote including a program being undertaken by the Tacoma League designed to get 18 year olds to vote. This work aligns with the requirement that schools implement civics curriculum in 2016.
 - Karen V, Barb and Ruth met with Thurston County Auditor Mary Hall (and staff) about outreach to high school students including having kids write papers about citizenship, creating a website forum, etc. The plan is to do quarterly meetings for a while.
 - R. Peggy suggested that a committee be formed to pursue this issue. The following Board members volunteered to participate on such a committee: Peggy B, Barb, Karen V, Valerie, and Allyson.
 - New LWVTC members will be contacted to encourage them to participate.
 - Allyson is willing to work on a PPT presentation that could be used in classrooms.
 - R. Peggy noted that national is developing a voter outreach toolkit.
 - Additional suggestions should go to Barb as Voter Services Chair.
- Pat indicated that the Black Alliance of Thurston County continues to sponsor community conversations and said she attended a meeting that included a large law enforcement presence. Through these efforts, it has become clear that Washington's statutes that relate to deadly force by law enforcement need to be reviewed and strengthened. HB 2907 has been

introduced to eliminate a requirement that malice must be proved. (*NOTE: SHB 2908 would establish the joint legislative task force on community policing standards. It needs to be passed on the House by February 17th in order to move to the Senate.*)

How Will We Accomplish These Goals and Activities?

- Pat: we need to continue outreach to get new members.
- Kathleen is willing to host another new member party, perhaps in March.

Voter Services (*Barb Theiss*)

- Barb noted that as a Presidential election year, we could do more than 20 voter forums. This will require lots of volunteers and decisions about whether we want to do public forums for major races.
- The board discussed the possibility of doing a debate watch with live feed at the Washington Center or other venue. Barb will make some inquiries. Kathleen will call the person who helped with the live feed in the past (Calvin).
- The State League will sponsor forums for major statewide races (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Supreme Court, etc.). The Board discussed the possibility of sponsoring informal gatherings to watch the forums (e.g., Traditions, libraries, bars, etc.).
- R. Peggy suggested that we stay tuned for updates from the State League as published in *This Week in the League*.

Money in Politics (MIP) Review and Update Consensus Report (*Karen Tvedt*)

- Karen T provided a brief overview of our January 20th MIP discussion and consensus meeting which was attended by eight LWVTC members (five Board members).
- The Board approved the consensus results and authorized submission to the LWVUS.

League Nuts and Bolts

- Policies and Procedures Writing Group: no updates
- Website Revisited: exploring website revisions; Pat D and Karen V have meeting scheduled.
- Education Fund Luncheon (*Ruth Harms*): discussion about venue preference between the Red Lion and Indian Summers; Board members prefer Red Lion. Ruth suggested Robin Zukowski as a possible speaker.
- State Board Update: a written summary was provided. Among topics addressed are: work on a strategic plan (presidents are participating in virtual focus groups); 2016 Candidate Forums; new initiative on public campaign financing and government ethics with the LWVWA being a co-sponsor; watch for the Legislative Newsletter; watch for *This Week in the League* (weekly) and *The Voter* (monthly).
- Calendar Changes (Annual Meeting): Pat D will be gone on May 26th; meeting changed to May 19th. Kathleen D will follow-up about reserving the Friends Meeting Hall for that evening.
- February General Meeting: Wolfgang Opitz, Assistant State Treasurer, will address the issue of tax fairness at Traditions on February 25th.

January General Meeting-January 28, 2016

- Meeting will focus on earthquakes and earthquake preparedness; notices sent to various groups in town.

- Volunteers will bring refreshments.

Voter (*Dawn Brooks Gibbs*)

- Dawn announced that this will be her last year as editor of *The Voter*. Thanks Dawn for your years of service!
- Assignments: Allyson-February General Meeting (Tax Fairness); Pat-President's Article; R Peggy-Sustainable Thurston; Karen T-Money in Politics-Consensus Meeting; Rob Kirkwood-Member Spotlight.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.