

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Pat Dickason, President. Directors present included: Pat Dickason, Kathleen Downey (Treasurer), Karen Tvedt (Secretary), Dawn Brooks-Gibbs, Valerie Hammett, Ruth Harms, R Peggy Smith, and Karen Verrill. Absent were: Allyson Brooks (Vice-President), Peggy Bruton, and Barb Theiss. Bob Jacobs attended as a guest.

Minutes/Financials (Pat Dickason)

- The financial reports and minutes from the March board meeting were adopted from the consent agenda.

Updates

• **Voter Services/Election Activities**

- ***Empty Chair Discussion (Karen Verrill and Bob Jacobs):*** Karen V introduced the discussion, explaining that under National League rules, if a candidate for office doesn't show up for a voter forum, the forum is cancelled. Bob Jacobs explained that he believes that instead of contributing to fair and inclusive forums, the national policy provides an easy way for candidates to prevent their opponents from gaining exposure and/or to avoid disadvantages they may encounter from exposure. After discussion about alternatives, e.g., use of surrogates-no, Karen T made the following motion based on Bob's suggestions: "In the interest of fairness, we will provide candidates with advance notice of forum dates/times and be as flexible as is feasible in establishing the forum schedule; candidates will be advised that whether or not all the candidates for a position choose to participate, the forum will be held and candidates in attendance will be allowed to participate." Kathleen D seconded the motion and the motion was approved by those in attendance.
- ***Voter Forums (Valerie Hammett):*** Voter forums for local positions/candidates are scheduled for June 4th.
- ***Debate Watch 10/19 (Valerie Hammett):*** Valerie said that we will do a final presidential debate watch on October 19 at the Washington Center. Local cable will carry the debate. Proof of liability insurance is required (faxed to Center and the State League). We will need an MC. Our cost to sponsor the watch in 2014 was \$457. We agreed that rather than having LWVTC members go through usher training, we will request volunteers from among the current usher volunteers at the Center.
- ***Auditor Forum Update (Pat Dickason):*** While the State League will be doing general election forums for statewide offices, there will be opportunities for local leagues to do forums for statewide offices after the primary election. These will likely be held in late September or early October and be televised statewide. State Auditor and OSPI are among the races we may be able to sponsor.
- ***Gun Initiative (Ruth Harms):*** Ruth represented the LWVTC at the first meeting of a coalition of community members/organizations meeting on April 21. This group is

looking at ways to reduce gun violence. Ruth will write a Voter article about this coalition.

- We also discussed I-1491 which is an initiative that would authorize courts to issue an extreme risk protection order based on petition filed by the police or a family or household member. If the court finds that the individual represents significant danger, the order would be to prevent an individual from accessing firearms for a specified time period. The State League is supporting this initiative.
- **Annual Meeting: Planning Group/Agenda (*Kathleen Downey and Pat Dickason*)**
 - The LWVTC annual meeting will be at the Olympia Manor on May 19th.
 - Board members agreed that they liked the substantive nature of the annual meeting last year which led to prioritization of issues during the Board Retreat and involvement of the membership during a Fall General Meeting. Pat, Kathleen and Ruth agreed to meet as an ad hoc group to develop the agenda for the annual meeting.
- **Climate Change Updates (*Peggy Bruton*)**. Peggy B was unable to attend the Board meeting but submitted updates in writing. Contact Peggy if you are interested in helping with any of these.
 - Specifically, Peggy provided next steps regarding the proposed Longview coal port (comment period on the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) is from April 29 to June 13).
 - A follow-up to the March 19th Olympia Activists Convention is scheduled at Paul Elwood's home on April 28th.
 - On June 24th, there is a rally in Tacoma against the TPP.
 - The comment period on Ecology's rulemaking update for transport of crude oil by rail has begun.
- **LWWA-LWVOR Joint Council (*Pat Dickason*)**. The combined councils of Oregon and Washington will meet June 3-5 at the Hilton Hotel in Vancouver, Washington. The LWVTC has two voting delegates. May 20th is the deadline for early bird registration.
 - The Board discussed who from LWVTC will be attending: Pat D will attend from Thurston (and possibly Kathleen and Ruth); R Peggy and Karen V will attend as state representatives.
 - We agreed it would be good to encourage/subsidize some of our new members to attend; Kathleen will contact Darlene Hein and Phyllis Farrell about attending; Karen V will talk with Paula Holroyde.
 - Pat will write an article about Council for the Voter encouraging members to attend.
- **State League Updates (*R Peggy Smith*)**. R Peggy noted that the State League has endorsed three initiatives (minimum wage (I-1433), I-1491 and the fair government initiative. The State League is currently focused on preparing for Council and strategic planning.

Other Business

- **Web-site Proposal (*Pat Dickason*)**. Pat provided a written website proposal from Carolyn Metzger, who is new to the area but developed the Climate Solutions website.
 - The proposal provides a project overview: "LWVTC is seeking a new, modern website design to more effectively reach their target audience and to provide an easy-to-use Content Management System (CMS) for the organization's board and committees. The anticipated development timeline is approximately four months." Proposed Fees are \$500.

- The Board discussed the need to make sure we address: Content Management, hosting, domain name hosting, ongoing maintenance, etc. Dawn indicated concerns about using a single system to track membership.
- Pat said she has an oversight committee that hasn't met as a full group yet. The committee includes Dawn, Jane Fields, Peggy Murphy and herself.
- The Board approved a motion to engage Carolyn Metzger to work with Pat and the other members of the committee on development of a new website.
- **April Program (*R Peggy Smith*)**
 - In cooperation with the Mason LWV, the April general meeting will focus on minimum wage/economic equity issues. There will be two speakers including Lisa Smith and Teresa Mosqueda (Yes on I-1433). It will be at Traditions, April 28th at 6:30 pm.
- **Art of Participatory Leadership Workshop (*Pat Dickason, Karen Tvedt, Ruth Harms*)**
 - Four LWVTC members attended a workshop on the Art of Participatory Leadership on April 13th. Pat, Karen and Ruth shared some of their take-aways including the importance of acknowledging what we don't know and showing-up willing to change; asking powerful, open-ended questions; recognizing that we don't always need to agree; and trusting that emergence will happen (often in the gap between order and chaos).
- **Summer Picnic (*Pat Dickason*)**
 - The summer picnic will be July 16th from 3:00-8:00 pm.
- **VOTER Assignments (*Dawn Brooks Gibbs*)**
 - VOTER assignments were agreed on.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm