

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of THURSTON COUNTY (TWVTC)
Board of Directors-Minutes
Ruth Harm's Home, Olympia, WA
August 27, 2016

The Board met in full-day retreat on August 27, 2016. The agenda involved committee reports (Voter Services, Communications, Observer Corps, Thurston Climate Change and Membership); review of topics discussed during the annual meeting in May and ways we might pursue the topics discussed; and development of our calendar for the year. After lunch, we convened in an official board meeting.

Directors present included: Pat Dickason (President), Ruth Harms (Vice-President), Karen Tvedt (Secretary), Peggy Murphy (Treasurer), Allyson Brooks, Dawn Gibbs, Darlene Hein, R. Peggy Smith, and Karen Verrill. Absent were: Peggy Bruton, Valerie Hammett and Paula Holroyde.

Board of Directors Binder (*Dawn Gibbs*)

- Dawn provided the 2016-2017 LWVTC Board of Directors roster, a 2016-2017 Calendar and the approved 2016-2017 Budget.
- She also did a quick review of the binder contents for new members of the board.

Education Fund Update (*Karen Verrill*)

- Karen V reminded us that we need to apply well in advance for approval to use Ed Fund dollars for LWVTC activities. The request needs to be signed by the president and a copy sent to our treasurer.
- We can use Ed Funds to support our Education Fund Luncheon so long as the luncheon is open to the public. We will not request advance funds from the Ed Fund this year.

By-Laws Update (*Allyson Brooks*)

- The By-Law Committee will begin its review this fall. Members include Allyson, Bob Jacobs and R. Peggy.
- Karen V noted that a Policy and Procedure description for treasurer has been written.

Approve April Minutes (*Karen Tvedt*)

- R. Peggy moved, and Karen V seconded acceptance of the April Board Minutes; the minutes were unanimously accepted by the board members present.
- R. Peggy noted a couple of decisions that were made after the April Board Meeting (and minutes) including:
 - We agreed not to do a debate watch on October 19th.
 - We sponsored a public forum for Commissioner of Public Lands on July 11th and will sponsor a public forum for Supreme Court candidates on October 18th.

Review Non-Partisan Policy (*Karen Tvedt*)

- Karen T indicated that we are required to review our non-partisan/conflict of interest policy on an annual basis. This policy is especially important in light of the general election campaigns that are underway and our need to be non-partisan in our sponsorship of candidate forums.
- Generally, board members are not allowed to run for or hold elected office or serve in any political position above that of Precinct Committee Officer. The President and Voter Services chair are considered “sensitive” roles and should not be involved in any activity that associates them with any political party or candidate.
- League members should not represent themselves as speaking for the League without specific authority.
- The policy was approved by board members in attendance.

Education Fund Luncheon/Silent Auction and Other Fundraising (*Ruth Harms/Karen Tvedt*)

- The luncheon will be October 29th at the Red Lion in Olympia.
 - Thought is being given to creative ways to request donations to the Ed Fund.
 - Pat D will be the mistress-of-ceremonies.
 - Tom Crawford, leader of the Thurston Thrives Climate Action Team, will be the featured speaker.
 - Our honoree this year will be Karen Fraser (Pat D will call her). Karen T volunteered to interview Karen Fraser for the Voter Spotlight.
 - We need to personally contact elected officials/candidates for office to invite them to the luncheon.
- We will do a silent auction for the general fund but not a raffle for baskets this year (baskets may be donated as an auction item).
- Table Captains: Allyson (1); Pat D (1); Ruth/Dorothy (1); Karen V (3); R. Peggy (.5).
- Treasure Sale-scheduled for July 2017. Karen T will follow-up with Fran Williams and Bob/Bonnie Jacobs to see if they’re willing to partner with us once again. (*NOTE: The Jacobs and Fran Williams have agreed to partner with us on the Treasure Sale in 2017. Hooray!*)

The official board meeting ended at approximately 2:00 pm.

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Notes from Board Retreat August 27, 2016 (*Notetakers: Karen Verrill (first half of meeting) and Karen Tvedt*)

Voter Services

- **Barb Theiss, Chair**, was unable to attend due to health issues.
- State **Judicial forum** scheduled for Oct 18th at Olympia Center, 6:30. Austin Jenkins will moderate. It is co-sponsored by The Olympian and the State League which is paying the expenses. Other co-sponsors are being sought.
- **General Elections Forums** in Thurston Co. will be Saturday Sept. 24th at TCTV
- **Student Voter Registration** will be at Capitol High School September 18th and at River Ridge High School on Sept. 19th.

- Other **Voter Registration Opportunities** include distributing Vote411 cards and one stamp to students at TESC and St. Martins University before the election. The Latino Conference on Nov. 22nd may welcome voting registration as well. It was suggested we get some “I Registered to Vote” stickers to distribute.

Communications

- The new **website** was discussed and welcomed.
- **Newsletter and Editor.** Dawn will be retiring from this job after the November VOTER. We need to find a new person or two to take on this interesting responsibility.

Observer Corps

- R. Peggy volunteered to define the duties of such a group. Ideally we would have observers at: Port Commission meetings, County Commissioner meetings, and the Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater City Council meetings. Since Darlene is active on homeless issues, people agreed it is not necessary to have an observer at the Homeless Coalition.

Thurston Climate Change

- We will continue collaborations with Thurston Thrives, Climate and Clean Energy Group. We may do future community cafés in Thurston County as a follow up after the coalition’s recommendations are announced.

Justice Issues—racial and economic

- After brief discussion, it was decided that instead of taking specific action at this time we will look at our many actions through the lens of what “impact does this have on racial and economic inequity?”

Membership

- Darlene Hein is our new membership chair. Other members are needed for this committee. R. Peggy and Karen V volunteered to call new members. Darlene plans to have a meeting each month for new and not so new members to welcome and orient them.

Tentative Calendar for the Year*

- **September 2016:** Thurston County Commissioner Candidate Forum; possibly in conjunction with the Westside Rotary Club; Allyson will follow-up with Dick Pust. (*Note: candidate forums with the commissioner candidates are scheduled for September 24th in conjunction with TCTV.*)
- **October 2016:**
 - Supreme Court Justice Forum-10/18: Pat D
 - Ed Fund Luncheon/Silent Auction-10/29: Ruth H/Karen T
- **November 2016:** Election Viewing Party: informal
- **December 2016:** Holiday Party; include elected officials: Darlene said she’d contact the Women’s Club, Quaker Meeting Hall? Would Valerie be willing to help?

- **January 2017:** General Meeting-Ports (to include history, purposes, etc.). Allyson will made some contacts
- **February 2017:** General Meeting-Poverty/Injustice/Legislative Issues with Robin Zukoski: Ruth will contact.
- **March 2017:** Mental Health Issues-Darlene H
- **April 2017:** County/Growth Issues-R. Peggy/Peggy M
- **May 2017:** Annual Meeting

*If another group decides to do a forum/meeting on TPP, we are willing to serve as co-sponsor.