

MINUTES

League of Women Voters of Thurston County
2016 Annual Meeting
South Sound Manor Event Center
May 19, 2016, 5:30-8:00 pm

- I. **Call to order:** Pat Dickason, President, called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm, welcoming those in attendance. (Twenty-five members were present according to the sign-in sheets.) Ruth Harms led the group in a warm-up exercise during which members shared what brought them to the League.
- II. **Meeting Processes**
 - *Approval of the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes:* Karen Tvedt, Secretary, indicated that the minutes (included in the Annual Meeting Packet) were approved by the Reading Committee (Karen Verrill, Peggy Murphy and Ruth Harms).
 - *Meeting ground-rules were reviewed by Pat Dickason.*
 - *The annual meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.*

Potluck Dinner (30 minutes)

- III. **Treasurer's Report:** Due to the illness of our treasurer, Kathleen Downey, Karen Verrill provided the Treasurer's Report including the proposed 2016-2017 budget.

Karen Verrill reviewed the status of our accounts: Certificate of Deposit: \$2,930 (Gladys Burns' bequest); Checking: \$7,558.57; and Savings: \$4,350.

The Proposed Budget includes \$500 plus \$19 a month to develop and maintain a new LWVTC website. Questions were raised about why the proposed Education Fund Budget expenses exceed expected income. Karen Verrill explained that prior year funds are available for Education Fund-eligible activities. (It may be helpful to show prior year funds in the budget.) Dawn Brooks Gibbs moved, and Paula Holroyd seconded, a motion to approve proposed budget. The budget was accepted by the members in attendance.

- IV. **President's Report, Year in Review:** Pat Dickason provided an overview of what we have done over the past year. Among the highlights were:
 - Collaborative activities with other organizations, e.g., related to climate change, racial equity, elections, civics education, and gun violence prevention.
 - Increased membership—we're now at 115 members.
 - The biennial Treasure Sale in July 2015.
 - The annual Education Fund Luncheon (and Silent Auction).
 - Candidate forums.
 - Monthly newsletters (except during the summer).
 - General meetings on timely topics such as the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), disaster preparedness, tax fairness, affordable housing and living wages (with the Mason County LWV).
 - Responding to two national consensus studies including 1) constitutional amendments and 2) money in politics.

- Website revamp underway: technical work being done by Karen Metzger; workgroup includes Dawn Brooks Gibbs, Jane Fields, Karen Verrill, Peggy Murphy, and Pat Dickason.

V. **Group Discussion of Ideas for New Year** (*Ruth Harms*). In small groups, participants brainstormed what they would like the LWVTC to focus on next year. Suggestions will be discussed at the LWVTC Board Retreat this summer. Among topics generated were:

State funding for education	What has already been worked on?
Climate change	Many elections this year-live audience forums
Water rights/storm water/water study	Mental health-local
Agriculture	Jobs development
Land development; growth management	Community solar-rentals
Diversity awareness	Neighborhood crime watch
Tribal issues including fishing rights	State income tax-pros/cons; tax fairness
Homelessness	Ballot issues
Cost of higher education	Voter registration/turnout
South Thurston County	Gun violence
Food insecurity	County government
Affordable housing	Tax credits: implications/effectiveness
Port; jobs development; alternative purposes?	Joint Base Lewis McChord (implications for Thurston County?)

VI. **Committee Reports:**

- *Voter Service/Elections*-Barb Theiss gave an overview of Voter Service activities:
 - In 2015, the LWVTC sponsored 8 primary and general elections candidate forums for local positions.
 - On June 4th, we will hold 4 or 5 primary forums including for county commissioner, and legislative districts (Senate and House races).
 - General election forums are scheduled for September 24th.
 - The LWVTC Board has determined that we will proceed with forums even if there is only one candidate for a position.
 - While the State League generally sponsors candidate forums for statewide races, local leagues are being given the opportunity to conduct forums for some statewide races this election cycle. The LWVTC will do the forum for State Lands Commissioner candidates (on July 11th).
 - Voter registration events were held several times over the past year including at the Mall, the food bank and the Latino Summit. Karen Verrill and Paula Holroyde (and the rest of the High School Committee) will do voter registration this September and early October in conjunction with high school civics classes. The video, Why Vote, will be shown.

Attendees were encouraged to submit questions to be asked during candidate forums and for Voter 411. Barb Theiss will also send out an email to the membership with a list of offices and request for questions.
- *Membership and Public Relations*-Dawn Brooks Gibbs provided the following statistics about our marketing efforts:
 - Directory of elected officials (TRY's): 3,645 in 2015; 1,850 to date in 2016.

- Sponsorships/Tables: general meetings (3), voter registration events (4), forums (3) and other events (2).
- Voter Registration (6/2015-5/2016): 48 people have been registered to vote in 2016; 14 registration forms were distributed.
- Facebook Page: 228 likes (through 4/28/2016).
- *Climate Change:*
 - Peggy Bruton encouraged members to read Sightline updates to get the latest in what's happening on the climate change front. She also encouraged people to attend the hearing on the Longview coal terminal, or to send statements opposing the terminal if they are unable to attend. She noted that Naomi Klein did a webinar that makes the connection between fossil fuel and TPP.
 - Mary Moore shared that at its meeting tomorrow, the State LWV Board will consider whether or not to support I-732. Several members spoke in favor of the initiative. Mary Moore also noted her concern that the National LWV does not have an explicit position on the issue of climate change.

VII. **Nominating Committee Report/Elections:** On behalf of the nominating committee, Karen Verrill presented the proposed slate of officers and elected directors. The slate of officers/elected directors were approved by unanimous vote. (Candidates shown in bold below begin new two-year terms; other officers/directors have one additional year in their two-year terms). Appointed directors will be determined/approved by the LWVTC Board.

Proposed Slate of Officers:

- **President: Pat Dickason (2016-2018)**
- **Vice-President: Ruth Harms (2016-2018)**
- Treasurer: Kathleen Downey (2015-2017)
- Secretary: Karen Tvedt (2015-2017)
- Elected Directors:
 - **Darlene Hein (2016-2018)**
 - **R. Peggy Smith (2016-2018)**
 - Valerie Hammett (2015-2017)
 - Dawn Brooks Gibbs (2015-2017)

Other Positions:

- *Reading Committee* (to review annual meeting minutes): Phyllis Farrell, Rhenda Strub and Shelley Ferer.
- *Nominating Committee* (non-Board members): Phyllis Farrell, Mary Moore, and Bronwyn Vincent.
- *Bylaws/Rules:* Allyson Brooks, R. Peggy Smith and Bob Jacobs agreed to review the bylaws.

VIII. **Other**

- Karen Verrill reported that there were 8,000 hits to the online edition of The State We're In over the past month.
- Paula Holroyde provided additional information about the effort to get high school students engaged in the electoral process and registered to vote.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.

