

LWV Klamath County regular Board Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2022

Meeting started at: 5:40 pm

In Attendance:

Board members: Diane Eastman-Shockey, Emily Strauss, Karen Kunz, Charlotte Opp, Ralph Opp, Faith Leith

Members:

Regrets: Leslie Lowe - at school board meeting as an observer

I. Call to Order (board quorum?) Yes.

II. Approve minutes of November 18, 2021 Meeting

Approved. Though Emily did ask whether the minutes should be in outline/note form or should be in narrative form. There was no objection to outline/note form.

III. Treasurer's Report (Sent in earlier by Leslie)

A. Treasurer Report: Bank Balance = Our holiday party netted \$225 plus Kay Ratliff dues \$65 and a \$20 donation to our LWV Ed Fund. Checkbook balance is \$3606.03 with all bills paid.

B. In addition, the Sharon Melnick Trust donated \$2000 to our LWV Ed Fund. Ed Fund current balance is \$ 2180.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Civil Discourse High School Class Opportunity Update (Leslie)

No one responded to Leslie's email. She is meeting with Glen Szymoniak soon. [She met with him on 1-21-22]

B. Redistricting (New Districts Update) (Emily)

No new information. However, Emily did pass on some information from email she's seen. Peggy Bengry (411) mentioned that, if leagues are holding forums, they need to coordinate with those other leagues in the same district. Emily asked if Klamath would be doing any forums?

C. Observer Corps (Leslie)

Leslie is currently at the Klamath County School District Board meeting. This is officially the start of the Observer Corps. Diane will attend on February 17th and Emily on March 10th.

D. Outreach Circle (Emily)

The LWVUS paid for an app called Outreach Circle which allows groups to have an online presence quickly and efficiently. They need a contact person to be trained on this. Messages are sent out in social media type fashion. This app is to help leagues communicate – a type of messaging system. Are we interested?

Diane definitely was. She feels that LWVKC has been underrepresented in the media. She suggested that we let the membership know about the next training and ask if they want to attend. Emily will find out when the next demo is. She was told it was “weekly at 1 pm”.

E. Spring Fundraiser Yard Sale

Diane vowed to have a yard sale for LWVKC sometime this summer so “Save your junk”.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ballot Measure 18-121 Relocating Oregon-Idaho Borders

Diane stated that the Ballot name is a misnomer. The Ballot measure is to form a board that will look at moving the border. The Measure is convoluted. It directs the Deputy Clerk of the elections board to pick the board chair. Diane is uncertain how this can happen since the authority for creating a board and appointing members to it comes from the County Commissioners. Diane asked the County Clerk (Rochelle) who asked the county attorney. The attorney says the measure is illegal, but nothing can be done until/unless the ballot is passed.

In 2021, Baker, Grant, Harney, Lake, Malheur, and Sherman counties all voted to study or promote joining Idaho. Klamath and Douglas have ballots for this May. Douglas’ ballot allows county funds to be used “to advocate, oppose, and provide information” as well as allowing county employees to do so.

Diane mentioned that we (LWVKC) are supposed to report on this for Vote 411. She plans to interview Mike McCarter – treasurer and chief petitioner of the ballot measure.

Diane concerns about this measure is that it creates a “shadow board” that is separate from the Commissioners. Also, the Deputy County Clerk who picks the board chair is not elected. They are a paid employee. Diane feels we need to get the information out there. For instances, where’s the money coming from? She feels that it might be someone like Gordon Smith funneling money through Brian Boquist. Is the money from PACS? We need to put the information and our questions out there – website and our other social media.

Emily moved that Measure 18-121 be studied by LWVKC and a summary report produced for voter information. Charlotte seconded the motion. It was passed by all.

B. Vote 411

More people using Vote 411. Our job is to put information about county races and ballot measures up. The LWVOR directs Oregon districts to coordinate between leagues. The State will handle national and state congressional districts. They want everything else – boards, sewer, etc. done by the local leagues. We need to Interview local race candidates with questions.

C. Candidate Forums for May 17, 2022 Primary

Diane’s been told by state there is a tutorial on how to run a Zoom forum (created by Deschutes). We would be dealing with the candidates for the following positions: Commissioners, DA, County Assessor, Justice of the Peace, County Clerk, County Treasurer.

The deadline for filing is March 8th and March 11th is the last day to withdraw. The last date for putting in a ballot measure is March 17th. After discussion, it was decided that at our February meeting, we will work on coming up with questions which will be sent out in March.

Diane feels we have a steep learning curve on understanding how to get the message out, how to hold a Zoom forum, and getting everything together to report back to 411.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: February 17, 2022

Announcement: Janet MacKrell passed. Her Daughter sent LWVKC a card.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm

Respectfully submitted by Karen Kunz, Secretary