

LWV Klamath County Regular Board Meeting Minutes - September 16, 2021

Meeting started at 5:05 pm

In Attendance:

Board members: Diane Eastman-Shockey, Emily Strauss, Leslie Lowe, Karen Kunz, Charlotte Opp, Ralph Opp

Members: Faith Leith

I. Call to Order. Welcome. Quorum count

a. *Quorum*

II. Approval of Minutes from April 30, 2020

a. *Changes*

i. *Misspelled Faith's last name*

III. Treasurer's report

a. *Treasurer's report previously distributed*

b. *LWV fees*

i. *\$686.25 given to LWVOR*

ii. *\$720 given to LWVUS*

iii. *Emily payment for webmaster*

1. *No payment for July and August*

2. *Discussion on not paying Emily for those 2 months. A motion was requested to pay Emily for July and August. Diane moved that we should pay Emily for every month that she works at least an hour. Leslie amended that to paying Emily \$60/month for July and August – so this year pay her for May, June, August & September. Ralph seconded.*

3. *Pay Emily \$240*

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. KCL Superintendent Glen Syzmoniak Zoom meeting recap (Leslie Lowe)

Leslie: It was a good discussion. We asked how LWVKC can help the Klamath County schools? We were told that there is a lot of Facebook misinformation. Remember, the School board is a public election, and we need to examine those running. LWVKC needs

to develop a closer connection with teachers -- need a course on civil discourse. He wants to work together with all people

Stated that Critical Race Theory is not part of the school district's curriculum. Her would like to become a dead issue. But won't put a statement about no Critical Race Theory being taught on the school district's website in case a teacher discusses race and the school is sued.

Diane: Very gracious and very honest

He feels that the League has a mission to the correct information out there

Emily and Diane intend to discuss the Harvard Project with him in the future. Can we re-activate?

Leslie: Not sure how our little group can help.

Diane: Who are we if we don't do anything. We are the only group that advocates for good government.

B. Consolidation study, Urban Growth Report Wrap up (Leslie)

On the website. Ask if you have any questions

C. DEI Summer Retreat Report (Diane Eastman Shockey)

- Summer retreat. Hammered out state/national leagues have adopted on DEI policies.*
- If we do an event, we must put in bylaws*
- Karen to work on put in bylaws to vote on*
- Emily: Useful and we should hold a follow-up meeting for others.*

D. Redistricting Update (Diane)

Legislative committee meeting – Diane testified as an individual

Emily – what were people saying? Diane: Keep things as they are in Congressional District 2.

Jaime McLeod Skinner stated that, as candidate, she has seen that CD2 is becoming more isolated. Diane feels that is right. In the past, there was an example of a California district which was redrawn as 50% DEM and 50% REP plus Independents. The candidates had to argue about the issues.

Emily – There is a new post on website with many links. This is an ongoing process. Bend has had the most growth – so they have their own district.

E. Function of LWVKC Website (Emily Strauss)

Emily was in a discussion with a person who is studying to become a communication officer. Emily came away from that discussion with some interesting thoughts

The question is: what is the function of this website? Is it promotional, informational, supporting the organization's core mission, etc.? What are we supposed to do with this website? There needs to be a known and overt purpose.

Leslie: When we started working with you, we had a set of purposes. Which you've helped us achieved – even if it doesn't get a lot of traffic. Says more about a lack of publicity than a lack of purpose.

Emily: a properly done online presence could do more. My function seems to be information – not promotion, etc.

Leslie: My understanding is we are paying to put up information but also to do the background stuff that when people Google – our website pops up.

Emily – I am doing some of the technical work but not all the technical work. To do what you said is a lot of work. Learning Google's requirements and algorithms is difficult. I could do it – but it would take a lot more time

Leslie: Something like 20 hours/week? Emily: No. For example, to put up the redistricting information took about 1.5 hours. It would take another 1 hour to have it come to the top of a Google search.

Emily: The other part of an online presence is not a website. We need Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc. That is how you drive traffic to a website.

Diane: We have two resources. LWVOR and Olena Black from LWVRV. We should tap into them. It's a matter of having time. We are all busy – and we are small. We are committed to promote good government.

Leslie – what Emily trying to find out is where is LWVKC heading – what are we doing?

Emily: For example – the email sent about County School Superintendent meeting – 50% of the people opened it but only 2 clicked on email. Overall, we have about 34% who open and about 4% click on the email.

Diane: What do we as LWVKC want to accomplish? We're doing what we should be doing – just not reaching audience.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Human Rights Special Interest Group (Emily)

Originates in upstate NY. Deal with United Nations and ways to promote UN goals at national and local level. Group has produced documents, etc. Have a lot of material available – put up post on this topic. Would we like to spend some time to look at material? Focus is on UN day (Oct 4) and Human Rights Day (Dec 10) – wants us to promote them?

Diane: Comes under what we want to accomplish. Leslie: need meeting just to discuss what E. talking about.

Leslie: We would need to work with other organizations. Are there any around here?

Faith: We need to work more on local issues. We have a lot of topics – don't know about UN stuff.

Diane: Do we want to talk about this in the Herald & News?

Leslie: Maybe we could facilitate a story in H&N. How does human rights fit in Klamath County? The City dispersed the DEI committee. That was all about human rights. Let's review the material and call a committee, if necessary.

B. Rural Organizing Project (Leslie)

An activity for September – shows support and engagement with government entities. Should we be a voice at various governmental meetings? Should we create an Observer corps? If so, where? We could pass out our business cards at these meetings.

Diane: rogue Valley observes their Commissioner meetings and posts the notes on LVWRV. The Commissioners now read what they say. We need to find out what we can accomplish.

Leslie: Which is why we need to discuss this at our next meeting. We need to be selective and assign ourselves to one.

C. By-Laws Change to include DEI language

Leslie: We should just vote in as we mentioned this change in May and can now vote on it in September.

Diane.: Is it okay to put in DEI language in bylaws? Approved. Leslie will send out new bylaws.

Other

LWVDavis, CA: Health reform and social justice forum. The sent a co-sponsorship request. It would be a commitment to promote this to local members. Need a response by Sept 27th.

Emily: Seem innocuous and seems that it would promote LWVKC.

Emily will send out the material and we can vote on after looked at – by the end of week. (Sat/Sun). We will need 4 board members to pass.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: October 21, 2021 on Zoom

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm

Respectfully submitted by Karen Kunz, Secretary