

LWV Klamath County Regular Board Meeting minutes -- October 5, 2023

Meeting started at 4:05 pm

In Attendance:

Board members: Diane Shockey, Emily Strauss, Leslie Lowe, Karen Kunz, Faith Leith

Members: Judith Izzo, Nancy Sheehan

Guests: Bill Lewis, Emma Ronai-Durning (they/them), Diego Diaz

Call to Order

I. Approve minutes of September 12, 2023

Leslie moved / Emily seconded Approve with changes.

II. Treasurer's Report

No questions

III. OLD BUSINESS

a. Observer Corps Update (Leslie)

No update

b. Banners (Leslie)

Need to vote on saying. "Your vote is your voice. Use it." Under that is LWV Klamath County and our website. Leslie will work on a PDF of what it looks like and send it out. She needs approval for the cost.

Leslie moved/Emily seconded. Approved.

Spanish banner has changed to be a poster which will be put on the door of the E. Main video store. We won't need it until March.

c. Voter Services

1. Library Voter Registration September 19th (Leslie)

Leslie registered 3 people. Found that most people were registered to vote.

2. Klamath County Election November 7, 2023 (Diane)

Only one measure. Diane doesn't know what we can do. Leslie: Nothing other than to urge people to vote.

3. Mock voting

Leslie: Next March, we will look at the High School mock voting initiative. It will be part of our Civic Ed project

d. Website Update

Emily has completed the transfer to InMotion – did it by herself. She is in the process to cancel our old account. We might get a slight refund. Everything seems to be working smoothly. She has work to do on the website which she can now concentrate on after this switch. Leslie has the receipt for the new hosting service and all "outstanding have been paid"

Emily will be gone Oct 10 – Nov 10. No contact is possible.

e. Border Relocation Study Board Information (Diane)

The group has found that Klamath County has better numbers than most of Oregon according to the Education school testing rates (2021). Three High Schools last year had a 100% graduation rate according to their websites. We use a 4 year graduation rate and Idaho uses a 5 year graduation rate .

Emily: When is the study to be finished? Diane: December 11th. We are compiling the various reports now and it is online.

f. Civic Education Project (Leslie)

Introduced Diego (18) working for Uniting for Action on the Economy in Southern Oregon. Nonpartisan, civic engagement effort in Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, & Klamath. It wants to strengthen collaboration skills to address economic problems. (www.uration.org). The program will run from February 24, 2024 to November 16, 2024.

Diego: Commonsense Political Party: A Political party that is not a political party. The whole idea is to be nonpartisan (No Labels). Diego is interested in helping present this to High Schoolers. Leslie will start committee meetings (for the civic education project) next month. Next March, the committee will take the program into schools. Leslie had a virtual handout: Chapter 11. Fairly brief which she thought we could use.

Diane: This is a major goal of LWVOR. She is thrilled to have this project.

Leslie will send info on the meeting in November.

Emily: Feel No Labels is a Congressional Caucus group. Faith: They put out great ads.

g. ODOJ member Training for Civil Rights Reporting (Diane and Judith)

NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR NOVEMBER 15th ODOJ TRAINING

Judith: Came upon this training and the new hot line from DOJ. SB577. Presenters would be from the Hot Line. The idea is to have Oregon as a safe place for everyone – it is our responsibility. Hate crimes are increasing in Oregon. We want to come to communities and talk about what they is offered.

Outline: Latest laws in OR. Focus for teens and YA. Hate crimes and bias incidents. Intersection between hate speech and free speech. What we can do about escalation of extremism, etc.

Resources available for victims.

She contacted Sky Lakes Health Ed Center for the place. It will happen on Nov. 15 @ 4pm. The Center costs \$180 (half price), no insurance required. This has been offered to different high schools.

Leslie: Why not hold in this in a High School? Diane: Because of bias on school boards

Diane: LWV meeting to go over this.

Judith: This can give young adults a toolbox to deal with these kind of incidences.

Leslie: Concern – Health Klamath should partner with us. They can help arrange a venue. She feel it should be scheduled later in year.

Diane: Can't. Had to nail this down before contacting ODOJ. Planning a 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 week every week.

Volunteers: Nancy, Karen, Bill

Karen: Moved that if we need to pay for a room, we will pay no more than \$180. Seconded by Faith. 3 – yes. 1 abstention.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Emma: Rural Organizing Project

Based in Bend. It works with groups from Brooking to Ontario. It is made up of over 70 individual groups to help improve human dignity. ROP started in 1992 (31 years ago). Its particular focus is on defending democracy in 2024. Project: Civic circuit training. Set up so people can go around to various stations and learn about one part of the project. There will be a prize for going to all stations. They have a toolkit. <https://rop.org/resources/protecting-democracy-civics-circuit-training-guide/>

Part of ROPs job is to let people know about what other groups are doing.

Jefferson County Clerk is doing tours to show voting operations. Faith: Our Clerk does tours.

Other: Messaging support and how to deal with it. 3 Zoom trainings in fall in the evenings (rop.org/strategysession). When you register mention LWV.

Migrant justice (values-based messaging)

Housing justice (spokesperson skills)

Managing misinformation (focus on inclusion)

How do we best respond when intimidation, harassment, etc. happen around elections?

Come visit (around December?)

Diego Diaz: County coordinator for Urban Rural Action programs

Uniting for Action on the Southern Oregon Economy Program Overview

9-month, non-partisan. 4 counties. 28 participants. 7 volunteers. 6 in-person gatherings at each county, on-line meetings, no-cost.

ABCs for constructive dialogue – shared understanding of different views

Problem tree analysis – deepen understanding of causes and effects of complex societal challenges

Project design – align on a clear plan for effecting change through joint action

Feb – March 2024 is the kickoff. Build relationships and learn together

Apr – May 2024 – Plan for Action

June – Oct 2024 – Take Action

Nov 2024 – Communicate results & sustain Action

Various funders. Federal grant

No Labels – goals to represent those who don't identify with political party.

Leslie suggested that Diego come to next month's meeting to continue this as we've run out of time.

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 pm

Next Meeting: November 2, 2023, at 5 pm
December get-together: December 2nd. 12:30 pm @ Diane's.

Meet at 6:30pm

FYI: Regional LWV Study Committee," Collective in Defense of Democracy"

Committee members are compiling a list of groups (in the spirit of Southern Poverty Law Center) who are using inaccurate information to distribute locally. EX: Peoples Rights Network, Save Our Schools Network