

LWV Klamath County Regular Board Meeting minutes – September

Meeting started at 4:32 pm

In Attendance:

In Attendance:

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

Members: Chuck Edson, Judith Izzo, Nancy Sheehan

Guests: Bill Lewis

Absent: Faith Leith

Approve minutes of May 22, Annual Meeting, 2023

Motion to approve with revisions by Leslie, seconded by Emily

Treasurer's Report

We are doing well – there is money to do projects if we wish

I. Old Business

a. Observer Corps Update (Leslie)

Leslie did an overview for new members. The committee will meet the Monday before our league meeting. Leslie needs any reports 3 days before that date.

b. Banner Discussion (Leslie)

Last spring, we discussed getting a banner for Main St. We need to decide on the wording. We must call in December to make reservations for the banner to be hung. Leslie will coordinate with the County Clerk so that we hang the banner 1-2 weeks before the May and November elections.

Cost:

To hang the banner is \$300 for 2 weeks. Pelican Signs will make a 42"x32' mesh banner for \$572. We can charge the Education fund for both the production and hanging costs.

Diane: There are new slogans in the LWVUS Voting Kit. I will mail them to members to look over. We should make a smaller banner that is in Spanish and ask to hang it in an East Main business window. Also, we should make a "How to" brochure in Spanish.

Leslie moved to approve the amount of money and the idea of a banner. We will finalize everything in October. Emily seconded. Approved.

c. Voter Services

1. Library Volunteers for Voter Registration (Leslie)

The Library asked us to help register people. Leslie signed up for Tues, Sept 19 4-7 pm.

Email Leslie if interested in helping. Nancy, Emily, and Karen said they were interested.

2. Klamath County Election November 8, 2023 (Diane)

November 8 is the election. There is only the Museum measure on the ballot. We have LWVUS's PSA on our website (YouTube video). Diane will try to get it on TV for free.

3. High School Mock Voting Initiative LWVOR

Diane received more information from LWVOR about holding mock voting events. She is hoping in the Spring to get volunteers to run mock voting in county schools. Diane will remind us in October and ask for volunteers.

d. Website Update (Emily)

Emily removed all the May balloting information from our website. She will put the Museum measure on the website. Our old hosting company was bought out by HostPaPa which Emily isn't fond of. We were given a nice deal for a year – but that is ending. Emily found that InMotion Hosting has a decent deal for 3 years: \$82.44/3 years. After 3 years, the price increases but it is still cheaper than HostPaPa. She is asking for permission to agree to this change. Emily will transfer the data herself to save us the cost. Leslie seconded. November 8-ish is when our old deal ends.

Note: Emily will be gone for close to a month in October.

c. Border Relocation Study Board Information (Diane)

The committee met yesterday. They compared Idaho & Klamath County & Oregon statistics. Klamath County comes out well. We are in good shape compared to Idaho and other Oregon counties. Diane worked on finding Healthcare statistics and looked at Idaho's abortion ban. Several Idaho rural Birthing Centers have closed because of the ban.

d. Regional LWV Study Committee -- "Collective in Defense of Democracy"

Diane: Many good meetings. We are coordinating with the Oregon State Board and the Idaho State Board. The Project in New Business is a direct result of this.

Emily: Starting "low to the ground" We are still on the ground. This group is biting off a huge

chunk. But the sharing of information is very useful. People are plugging away – but I don't know where it's going to go. Could be a solid attempt at cross state cooperation.

Diane: I feel this is the first time that there was a coordination of information as well as an information exchange. Groups like this usually wait on State and National boards to come up with the direction to go.

- e. Civic Education Project-need to have volunteers and organize

Diane: Curriculum is written.

Leslie would like to postpone this to October. Leslie will re-send out the information from last spring.

V. New Business

- a. Josephine County Ballot Measure Changing County Government Structure

Diane: A group in Josephine County would like to have 5 county commissioners (instead of 3). They are trying to get a measure on this November Ballot. The Commissioners would have specific regions, only get stipends, and the County would hire a Manager. If this measure passes, should we try the same for Klamath County?

Leslie proposed that Diane watches events in Josephine and lets us know what happens.

- b. ODOJ Member Training for Civil Rights Reporting (Diane)

Diane is working with the Oregon Department of Justice about getting training for Civil Rights Reporting. It is a new way to get help if a person feels their civil rights have been violated. ODOJ normally does this training for law and governmental agencies. We could perhaps have it on Zoom and invite other Oregon leagues. This training is meant to help LGBTQ+ and others. The word needs to get out. This will help young people understand what the League is all about. We have Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in our Bylaws – now we can prove we will act on this. Diane is looking for a venue and that will give us our date.

Library Bans:

Judith: ODOJ has had a lot of complaints about Libraries and Books. It has been stressful and hard on our Library these last 4 months. One good thing – Minty and the Library Director have been meeting with ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair. Judith feels that the Commissioners have been “punishing and vindictive” with the Library Board and Library staff. The Representative from Merrill was intimidated off the Board by a Commissioners. The Advisory Board no longer has a say on new Board members.

Chuck: We need to get something in writing from Commissioners on Library Policy. I interviewed for the Advisory Board and Commissioners asked what I would do if I disagreed with the Commissioners. Want Commissioners to do their job in a transparent way.

Diane: The League has restrictions on inserting ourselves into elected officials' duties.

Meeting Adjourned at: 5:57 pm

Next Meeting: October 5, 2023 @ 5pm (first Thursdays)

FYI

Emily Strauss was recently interviewed by KAGO News. Here is the link to her interview regarding the Welcome Corp of Klamath Falls, whose mission is bringing a refugee to live in Klamath Falls: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyuXh94Pzlw&t=7s> It is a great interview for and if you are interested in helping, please contact Emily. (Soliciting funds) Make checks to Sustainable Klamath – Welcome Corp KF. Can send it to Leslie or Emily.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of our dear colleague, Alice Bartelt, who has been President since May 2023 and long-standing Action Chair, trusted informally as Parliamentarian for the League of Women Voters of Oregon.

Lisa Bentson, our First Vice President, will be Acting President of LWVOR. Please contact lwvor@lwvor.org with any questions or messages you would like to share.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Kunz, Secretary

