

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASON COUNTY
ZOOM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2021, 11:30-1:30
Minutes

30 Members and 8 Guests attended

Amy D. opened the meeting at 11:30 am

Lynda L. moved to approve the January 19, 2021 Membership Meeting Minutes, Cheryl W. seconded and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report

Pat C. reported that the account has \$6,454.82 and 59 members have paid dues.

Linda W. is updating the TRY Brochures. The Board agreed to print 200 copies and post it on the website.

Voter Services

Bobbie S. reported that the Voters Service Committee is preparing a new website and that Lori B. has asked members to take a look and offer feedback.

Bobbie S. recommended a webinar on redistricting, Thursday, February 18 by nonprofitvote.org

Paddy M. added that the Census Bureau won't be able to provide the 2020 census information until the end of September 2021. Since WA State is required to complete redistricting by Nov. 15, there are going to be complications. Questions were raised on whether public hearings would be held.

Bobbie S. reported that the Voter Services Committee is preparing a Civics Education curriculum for Adults. 'The State We're In', a book about WA State government will be used.

Member Services

Lynn B. will make 15 copies of 'The State We're In' available for \$10.00 each. They will be on her porch next week. The book is also available on the State League website for \$20.00. League 101 was a success; Lynn thanked all those who assisted and reported that 3 new members enrolled.

Programs

March 16 – Indigenous Issues with speakers, Denise Le Claire of the Skokomish Tribe and Charles Adkins of the Yurok Tribe from Northern California.

Lynda L. requested Members to submit questions to her before the meeting. She wants to develop 2-3 questions to pose for the presentation.

April 20 – Mental Health month focus on school children during Covid 19

Amy D. needs to hear from members -What do you want to learn? Possible speakers? Please email Amy if you have input.

Climate Change Committee

Reported by Sherri D.

CCC meeting: Thurs, Feb 18 2021 -- 11:00 AM – Capitol Land Trust, Mary Birchem & Aerial Wauhob

“Bayshore Preserve & Student Education Program”

Thurs, Mar 4, 2021 – 11:00 AM – CCC Planning/Strategy Meeting

Thurs, Mar 25, 2021 – 11:00 AM – UW Program on Climate Change

Tom Ackerman, Professor Emeritus, Department of Atmospheric Sciences

*** What are your questions? ***

Wed, April 21, 2021 – 5:00 PM – LWV-Kitsap

“Plastic: The Big Picture, Local Insights and What You can Do”

Growth Management Act / Mason County Comprehensive Plan Study GroupWe launched a study group, which was announced at our January 7, 2021 Climate Change Committee Meeting. The study group is a separate endeavor from the Climate Change Committee.

Webinars: 2021 Critical Areas, Shoreline Monitoring & Adaptive Management (DOC, Ecology, WDFW)

Next webinar: Wednesday, Feb 17, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

“Frequently Flooded Areas”

City of Shelton, City Council meeting - Feb 16, 6:00 PM

MC PAC – Public Workshop on Shoreline Master Program, Feb 22, 6:00 PM

Sherri D. suggested the following actions:

1) Attend weekly workshops – 2021 Critical Areas and Shoreline Monitoring & Adaptive Management (Dept of Commerce); Wednesdays from 1/13/21 – 3/24/21.

2) HB 1099 - Follow progress and indicate support [an Act relating to improving the state’s climate response through updates to the state’s comprehensive planning framework]— addressing climate change by planning for climate resiliency and mitigation, as well as reductions in our GHG emissions and vehicle miles traveled.

3) Attend City of Shelton City Council meetings.

4) Mason County will be updating their Shoreline Master Program soon; this is intended to be a minor update of the plan, however there is no mention of climate change in the current SMP.

Membership: goal = 10

Collaborate with Squaxin and Skokomish Tribes

** currently interested**

Jannel Anderson-Fagergren

Polly Hankin

Linda Steffen

Lynda Links

Francesca Ritson

LWVWA Position:

The LWVWA has supported the GMA since its adoption in 1990. The LWVWA is aware of opposition to the GMA, particularly by rural counties like Mason County. What does opposition to the GMA look like in Mason County now? Engage in dialogue with citizens.

Goal of study:

Advocacy- Become citizen experts of the GMA and Comprehensive Plan of Mason County; be informed citizens, ready for Public Hearings on the Shoreline Master Program, and any upcoming Public Hearings for updating our Comprehensive Plan.

Education- Help inform the general public about the GMA and Mason County's Comprehensive Plan.

Advocacy

Amy D. reported that Members have been contacting legislators on issues that LWVMC supports

The Mason Co. Journal has published articles on the Climate Change Committee programs and The Braver Angels presentation.

Program Planning for the LWVWA (2021-2023) suggestions due February 25, 2021 to lay the groundwork for successful advocacy in the next two years. The following were developed by the LWVMC Board.

1. GMA Study relevant to Climate Change
2. Current measures to shore up democracy -Voting Rights Restoration, Citizen Initiative Review, Ranked Choice Voting
3. Environmental Justice – examining and mitigating the effects of environmental degradation on vulnerable population groups
4. A Study of Extremist Groups
5. The Digital Divide – how it impacts MC and what can be done to alleviate its effects

LWVWA Legislative Newsletter arrives in members inbox on Sundays. It is filled with information on issues in play currently in Olympia. Co-President Karen H. follows up with an update on what Mason Co. members can do.

Observer Corps Lynda L.

The county Commissioners approved extending the funding contract for the 16 bed involuntary mental health treatment program.

The BOCC is working to find a new site for either a new jail or jail expansion as the previous plan to partner with Grays Harbor for a large regional jail is not going to happen.

The Auditor needs to find a larger space to house new voting equipment in order to accept grant money for that equipment.

Cheryl W.

Commissioner Shutty says that the number of homeless has decreased from 2017's 353 people to 2020's 172, 103 to 20 in Belfair alone. Keep momentum going.

For you Bayshore residents, rezoning request that'll be voted on in March 16's meeting, to move 96 acres from rural residential to rural natural resources, request made by Bayshore Sand and Gravel. Will expand the John's Prairie pit in the future. Split between Sharon's and Kevin's districts--Tremont buffer Rainbow Lake will be affected.

Program – Housing and Homelessness with speaker **Cynthia Stewart**, LWVWA Lobby Team Issue Chair

Cynthia presented an informative program on Housing and Homelessness in WA State. Cynthia answered questions and stated that the most important issue to urge our legislators to support is a Capital Gains tax for high earners in WA.

Recommended Reading List

“On Tyranny” by Timothy Snyder

“Caste: The Origins of our Discontent” by Isabel Wilkerson

“How to be an Antiracist” by Ibram X. Kendi

“Becoming a Democracy” by Kristin Eberhard

Calendar

February 18 – Climate Change Committee meeting (Capitol Land Trust)

February 18 and 20 “Speak Up School” see LNL calendar

February 22 – MCPAC Public Workshop

February 22 to 26 - “Democracy Lobby Week” see LNL calendar

March 5 – LWVMC Executive Board Meeting

March 16 – LWVMC General Membership Meeting

The meeting was adjourned on 1:30 by Amy D.