

League of Women Voters Mason County

Program Meeting, Part 1, February 15, 2022

11:30 AM-1:00 PM

President Nancy S

Secretary Jonnel A

Final Edits Dee Ann K

Attendance: Eileen P., Arlene A., Randy L., Sybil J., Lori B., Carole B., Sue S., Dee Ann K., Amy D., Pat C., Sherri D., Lynn B., Lynda L., Cindy S., Nancy S., and Jonnel A.

Nancy S. called the meeting to order at 11:30 am and stated that we would hear individual committee reports, approve the minutes from the 1/18/2022 Program Meeting and all participate in a planning session to help direct the goals of the LWVMC in 2022.

Pat C. moved to approve the 1/18/2022 Program Committee minutes as submitted and Dee Ann K. seconded.

Nancy S. provided the Leadership Team report as follows: LWVMC and the Mason County Election's Department have received information about a door-to-door communication campaign by a organization called the Voter Integrity Project disseminating information alleging irregularities in Mason County voting in 2020 and communicating a concern about the illegitimacy of the vote. This information supports the efforts we will all make in the all member planning session at the end our meeting today.

Pat C. also received a phone call about the Voter Integrity Project, their door-to-door contacts and subsequent contact to the Auditor's Office in Mason County.

Amy D. cautioned that there are several groups with similar names. Here are a few: Office of Election Integrity (Wa Secretary of State), Voter Integrity Project, Voter Integrity Fund, Election Integrity Partnership and Election Integrity Scorecard. They are not all the same. Do not confuse them.

Pat C. provided the Treasurer's report. There are 65 members with two new members joining recently. The checking account has \$7,499.37, we have a \$1,073 in a CD and \$1,740 in the Education Fund. We have not yet paid our annual dues to LWVUS or LWVWA.

Sherri D. reported on the Climate Change Committee notifying us of changes in dates and time for selected future events and asking members to sign in as themselves (not members of the LWVWC) to support the Transportation Package, SB 5974.

Lynn B. reported on Member Services. She is looking for help with a soon-to-be scheduled Member Orientation for new members and others. Our new members are Kirsten R. and Christopher M.

Dee Ann K. reported on Voter Services. Our league joins with others across the nation and our state in concern for a recent unresolved concern with the League's Candidate Forums. Invited candidates often do not attend leaving "empty chairs" (this means that not all political views on policy are represented at the panel) LWVLC is non-partisan, therefore, we cannot hold the forum with only one view point represented. This results in disappointment for those who do show up and loss of direct information from candidates to the public, media and community at large. The LWVWA will hold a workshop in April, 2022 on various ways to address this problem.

Amy D. reported on Program Committee stating that some programs are still tentative.

- Feb 23 - LWVTC is sponsoring Tribal Health Care Forum, 6 pm-8 pm (must register).
- March 15 - Impact of the Decline of Local and Regional News Study, Former Journalists, Dee Anne Finken and Sally Hale.
- April 19 - Dean of Students, Evergreen State College, Holly Joseph.
- May 17 - Enforcing Policing Policy in Mason County, **tentative** speakers Ryan Spurling (County Sheriffs Office) and Carole Beason (Shelton City Police Chief).
- June 7-**Tentative** speaker Mark Neary, County Administrator. In person meeting at Harmony Hill.

Amy D. reported on the Advocacy Committee by encouraging members to visit the Legislative Newsletter and sign in support of legislation throughout the next couple of weeks until March 10, 2022, which is the end of the regular 2022 Legislative Session. There are several voter

suppression bills in Washington, and another on privatization of Medicare. There is also a Transportation Bill that may pass.

Amy D. also encouraged LWVMC Members to give our Lobby Team ideas and actions on how to pushback on those sowing distrust in our elections.

There is an organization called Seattle Supports Democracy. This organization is holding virtual action sessions (1 hour each) to explain how to take action to save our democracy. Please sign up for an upcoming hour-long session now!

Tuesday, [Feb 15th](#), 7-8 p.m.

Tuesday, [Feb 22nd](#), 7-8 p.m.

Tuesday, [Mar 1](#), 7-8 p.m.

Tuesday, [Mar 8](#), 7-8 p.m.

Contact Seattle Supports Democracy through their website or Twitter Account or Amy D. to learn more about how to register for one of these action sessions.

Cindy S. and Lynda L. reported on Observer Corps. Cindy S. reported that Observer Corps is planning to record interviews with various elected officials to inform and train volunteers. Lynda L. reported that a Belfair Sewer extension meeting is taking place today, 2/15/2022, and a final meeting will possibly be on March 1 in the evening; she will send out specific information as to exact date and time. Cindy S. reported that Observer Corps has prepared a guidebook on "how to be a great observer of government meetings" and also, "happy hours" dedicated to watching Mason TV's coverage of county commission meetings with post hearing discussion among LWVMC members.

Cindy S. reported on the Centennial Committee. The Mason County Historical Museum (MCHM) will feature our 'Women Leader's' posters during March for Women's History Month. LWVMC and the MCHM will work with the Mason County Journal to publish articles.

Cindy S. reported on the Book Group, which will meet March 21 and March 28 at 6 pm to discuss Katharine Hayhoe's book, *Saving Us*. Members are invited and guests are encouraged. The book provides some tools for having important discussions about controversial issues such as climate change. But the ideas can be used to enhance our effectiveness in communicating across the divide. TED Talk by the author which members can find on YouTube. If you don't

have time to read, feel free to watch the video and come to the discussion! Or you may open youtube.com and search for LWV of Mason County to see the video.

From Noon - 1:00 PM the Planning Session was hosted by Cindy S with a report from the LWVMC Voter Services Planning meeting stating 'voting and elections are under attack everywhere including in this state and this country as well as nationally'. She reminded us that Senator Patty Murray, the WA State Secretary of State, and two positions on the WA State Supreme Court are up for election in 2022. In addition, in Mason County: The County Auditor, the Clerk of the County Court, the County Coroner, County Commissioner District 3, District Court Judge, County Prosecutor and County Treasurer also stand for election in 2022.

She opened the meeting with a brainstorm session on concerns and priorities. Concerns ranged widely: "there is a lack of trust; apathy; what is the hidden agenda; the fact that voter suppression does not exist; the impact of money in politics; how easy manipulation is with key words, disinformation and misinformation; and how can we educate on our state's vote- by- mail process.

Members divided themselves into the following small groups of four each to discuss one of the following three key questions and brainstorm ideas and offer action suggestions.

✓ How LWVMC will Provide Candidate Information?

Scribe Lynn B.

- Increase our use of all forms of social media through contacts such as family and others.
- Define Guidelines for Candidate Forums to ensure they are not perceived as, or turn into, debates between candidates.
- 411 is not useful. Local Candidates rarely participate.
- Use local Newspaper or local Radio (Jeff Slakey) for Candidate Interviews and Responses to Questions from LWVMC.
- Seek out a Community Partnership for the Candidate Forums through outreach development in Mason County. The format of this partnership may be challenging based on LWVMC experience, but must address how to co-moderate and how to develop specific questions for candidates.
- Establish a 'speed dating' model. Questioned how to adapt to Zoom? What other formats would be effective?

✓ How Can LWVMC motivate the Washington State Voting System Work to Be Fair?

Scribe Nancy S.

- Define the goal (1) to create an informed electorate that is free to question our democracy and received accurate answers to those questions.
- Some of the challenges for the LWVMC are how to (2) counter misinformation and disinformation about Vote-By-Mail (VBM) and how to (3) develop a Mason County, community-wide public education campaign offering a wide variety of opportunities to understand the 2011 state-wide required Vote-by-Mail (VBM) method.
- One idea discussed suggested the LWVMC collaborate with and use resources of the Mason County Auditor's Election Office. Another is to seek partners to encourage and support vote-by-mail voting through community forms, educational activities, school curricula, etc.

✓ Which Motivating Actions by the LWVMC are the Most Effective in Registering and Getting People to Vote

Scribe Jonnel A.

- Broaden, Strengthen and Enhance the Get Out the Vote Post Card Project last used in 2020 which resulted in registered voters voting in record numbers.
- Target the Post Card Project to various populations and other demographics of registered voters in Mason County.
- Ensure that all contact with Registered Voters is motivating and personal to engage, resulting in measurable increased voter participation.
- Seek committed School Board/Superintendent/Teacher/Student/Family and Community Committed Support for LWVMC to register student's in the classroom in the Shelton Public Schools.

Upcoming Events

February 23 – LWVThurston Tribal Health Care Forum, 6:00-8:00 (RSVP needed –

www.lwvthurston.org/tribalhealth)

March 4 - LWVMC Executive Board Meeting 1 pm

March 15 – *LWVMC General Membership Mtg. The “Let the Sunshine In: Transparency in Government” Program for that membership mtg has been replaced with the following presentation: Impact on the Decline of Local and Regional News Study, Journalists, Dee Anne Finken and Sally Hale, 11-30 am – 1:30 pm*

Feb 24 – **Cancelled and Rescheduled to MARCH 24.** Climate Committee Mtg, **11am**; speakers are Lorax Coalition. NOTE TIME CHANGE.

March 3 – Climate Committee, 1:00 – 2:00; James Landreth/Food, forests, regenerative agriculture, faith-based organizing

March 4 – LWVMC Executive Board Mtg, 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

March 21 & 28 at 6:00 p.m. – Book study on Saving Us, Katharine Hayhoe

Adjourned at 1:00 pm

Addendum to minutes submitted by Nancy Snyder

February’s program was held in conjunction with Thurston County’s LWV on Wednesday, February 23 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The featured speakers were Vicki Lowe, Executive Director of the American Indian Health Commission for Washington State (AIHC) and Angela Tobias, former Skokomish and Squaxin Island Tribal physician. Both summarized the history of tribal treaties and interaction of tribes with the federal government as relating to health care. Both emphasized the historical trauma that still impacts the health of tribal members and the need of the tribes for health care to be adequately funded by the federal government moving forward.