

League of Women Voters of Mason County
Zoom General Membership Meeting
January 18, 2022, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Submitted by Jonnel A. and Edited by Lynn B.

Guest: Marty Gibbins, LWV-WA Climate Change and Energy Chair: "Making Your Voice Count"
Tech. Support: Linda W.

The meeting was called to order by Lynn B. at 11:30 PM. Present: Lynn B., Sybil J., Constance S., Linda W., Francesca R., Linda S., Eileen P., Arlene A., Esther R., Amy D., Pat C., Randy L., Nancy S., Mariah R., and Jonnel A.

A motion was made by Amy D. and seconded by Pat C. to approve agenda as submitted.
A motion was made by Pat C. and seconded by Amy D. to approve minutes as submitted.

Pat C. reported that we have 54 paid members and \$6,828.88 in the LWVMC account. There is \$1,071 in a CD.

Lynn B. and Eileen P. reported on Voter Services. Two educators, a teacher and the Principal of Cedar High School, requested that the LWVMC assist in registering Seniors to vote. Eileen P. will visit the classroom, register voters and pass out TRY brochures on behalf of the League. Pat C. and Lynn B. reported that the 2022 TRY (They Represent You) brochures are available both in hard copy and electronically, and advised that it would be helpful to get them out around the county in diverse locations. You may also wish to share with non-members of the League. Contact Lynn B. for hard or electronic copies of the brochure.

Lynn B. and Linda W. reported on a Member Services 'zoomstorm' session with the goal of improving outreach to diversify our membership and develop relationships with allied nonpartisan organizations. Kris I. and Connie S. also participated. The discussion centered on two projects: (1) the creation of a list of local community non-partisan organizations and other groups that share common values with the League. Kris I. will provide an initial list to start this project, then circulate it within the League. This will become a tool to help us share information, newsletters, event invites, etc. We will ask each community organization; "What can we do for you?" (2) the creation of an essay contest about citizenship and democracy to attract youth, perhaps offering a scholarship or monetary prize. Please let Lynn B. know if you are interested helping further develop these projects.

Amy D. reported on Program Development by reminding us that in February, "Suicide: A Comprehensive Guide to Understanding and Prevention" will be the program presentation. In March, the "Sunshine Laws" are on the agenda, including the Freedom of Information Act, WA Open Meetings Act passed first in 1971, Public Disclosure Act and amendments and court cases that call for certain government actions/ activities to be transparent to the public.

Amy D. and Nancy S. reported for the Climate Change Committee (CCC). The CCC continues to work on renovating the Shelton Yacht Club boat basin to meet environmental standards. They reported that the LWVMC Op Ed and Co-President Nancy S.'s interview were both excellent and accurately published in the paper. She urged members and others to read them. The

League has not heard back from the County Commissioners about our letter on climate resiliency planning.

Amy D. reported on Advocacy by reminding membership that Lobby Week is January 24-27. It's co-sponsored by Fix Democracy First and LWV-WA. Go to the LWV-WA to register.

Lynda L. reported on the LLWVMC Observer Corps plan to initiate personal ZOOM meetings with a representative from a few selected county or city agencies. Each agency will be asked to report on their implementation of the "sunshine laws", open meetings and freedom of information laws. The agencies chosen to start this process are:

Shelton City Council

Mason County Bd of County Commissioner

Shelton School Board

Hood Canal School District

Public Utility District (PUD) #3. The Observer Corps invites you all to a "Happy Hour" to watch a recorded meeting of one of the selected agencies and then discuss it together as suggested by our new observer training. Contact Lynda L. to be part of the discussion.

The Book Study Group gathering has been postponed and will be re-scheduled. They are reading "Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Health in a Divided World." This book is a very helpful tool in any controversial discussion, not just on climate change. Everyone is welcome even if they have not read the book or even have the book. They may wish to listen to TED TALK on You Tube by the book's author Katharine Hayhoe (good summary of first half of book), or an On Being podcast by Hayhoe which may be helpful for the second half. Look on you browser for this. Email cindyshotts@hotmail.com if you would like to join.

Up Coming Events:

1. **To Be Rescheduled:** January 20, "Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Health in a Divided World." and Health in a Divided World" by Katharine Hayhoe
2. January 24-27: Lobby Week with Fix Democracy First & LWV-WA
3. January 27, 1:00: Climate Change Meeting with Linda Schrum on Oakland Bay Cleanup
4. January 31, Mason County Waste Water and Reclamation System, Proposed Belair Sewer Extension, Contact Lynda L. or Mason County
5. February 4, 12:30-2:30: LWV-MC Board Meeting
6. February 15, 11:30-1:30: LWV-MC Membership Meeting & Program
7. February 24, 1:00: Climate Change Meeting with The Lorax Coalition

Program 12:00 PM

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter,"
The Reverend Martin Luther King, JR.

Marty Gibbins, the LWV-WA Climate Change and Energy Chair presented detailed power point slides and an up-to-date discussion about the myriad of electronic ways residents and citizens of Washington state can make their voices heard on things that matter in Olympia. The focus of the presentation was to learn how to navigate the LWV-WA Legislative Newsletter, its many features including to learn about the bills the LWV-WA supports and opposes and its 'important to us' Action Alerts. Members received the most recent Legislative Newsletter on 1/16/2022.

He took many questions from members and enlightened us all with examples of the advanced Legislative Information System (LIS) at leg.wa.gov, and the technology available to talk about the things that matter with our elected officials during the legislative session and beyond.

It is important, he said, for us to know that he has authority to speak **for** the League and other members must only sign in and testify for themselves as residents or citizens of the state. However, he emphasized that our efforts of support are critically needed. He showed us how we can help the League reach its goals, if we wish. Anyone may testify pro or con, comment on how the legislation affects them personally and how they feel the bill affects the state and their community. Although we are not permitted to use the LWV-WA or LWVMC name in any way, we can use League material in preparing our comments. Just not mention the League in our communications.

The tools are many and he listed a few: how to access official bill reports, how to register to testify before a committee, how to make comments and indicate your support or opposition to a bill, how to find the most recent text of a bill, how to find the name and contact information for the staff assigned to the bill, how to find out who voted against and for a bill on the floor of the House or Senate, how to find the geography and borders of your legislative district, how to find who your legislator is in 2022, how to learn who has signed in pro and con on a specific bill, and most important, how to navigate the LWV-WA Legislative Newsletter with its very important ACTION ALERTS.

If you want more information about our LWV-WA Lobby Team contact Amy D. or Sherri D. to ask questions and to participate in Lobby Week, January 24-27, 2022. Go to the LWV-WA to register for Lobby Week.

Adjourned

1:30 PM