

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASON COUNTY
ZOOM EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2021, 12:30 – 2:30
Minutes

Present: Amy D., Karen H., Lynn B., Lynda L., Linda S., Sherri D., Bobbie S., Pat C., Dee Ann K., Linda W., Carole B., Cindy S., Polly H., Jean F.

Welcome and approval of December 4, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Amy D. opened the meeting at 12:30 pm. A motion was made to approve the December 4th board minutes by Pat C.; Karen H. seconded and the board voted to approve.

Question: Have you made a personal New Year's League Action resolution?

The group responded with a variety of answers including to get involved in the Growth Management study, respond to League Action Alerts, research issues around forgiving of student loan debt, researching voter turnout in the November election, etc. And consider contacting your U.S. Reps regarding immediate impeachment of President Trump per LWVUS Board of Directors' declaration.

Advocacy

LTE – As a matter of civics education, providing basic information on big issues impacting our community is key to our work – volunteers needed

Cindy S. has 15-20 copies of *The State We're In*. She will deliver them to Lynn B. to distribute to interested members.

What is Your Passion? Program planning for the LWVWA (2021-2023) due February 25, 2021 – volunteers needed

LWV of Washington State Legislative Newsletter corresponding to the opening legislative session will recommend lobbying your 35th District Representatives and Senator on important upcoming bills

Sherri D. shared a message from Senator Tim Sheldon that expressed his desire to focus on economic recovery and leaving Climate Change, review of the Growth Management Act and new taxation for another year.

The Board agreed that we need to respond to Sen. Sheldon to let him know that we disagree and we don't want those issues left for another year. Amy D. will create talking points and send those to the membership with a request to write to the legislators of the 35th district.

Public Bank Workshop – January 7 on Zoom 6:30pm

Amy D. attended a Zoom workshop put on by the Snohomish LWV on this issue. As soon as legislation is written, an action alert will be sent to the membership urging they write letters to support.

Treasurer's Report

Pat C. reported that 49 members have submitted dues payment. A few have done so on line. Current balance is \$7,158.86.

Cindy S. is preparing a report that will be submitted in February that will release Grant funds back to our chapter from the Centennial Project.

Voter Services

Bobbie S. stated that the committee had nothing to report.

Member Services

Lynn B. will host League 101 on Saturday, January 23 from 1:30-3:00. Lynn asked for feedback on the volunteer signup sheet. Changes will be made to reflect that meetings are not in person but are on Zoom. The section on Advocacy will be rewritten with additions made. Lynn requested that committee chairs email her with changes and additions.

Lynn B. requested that a phone tree committee take on the job of reaching out to members on action alerts and other relevant issues. Lynda L., Linda S. Linda W., and Bobbie S. volunteered to take this task on.

Programs

January 19 – “Finding Common Purpose” with speaker, Amy Funkhouser, Deputy State Coordinator for the Braver Angels will give us an opportunity to have an open and civil discussion regarding our perceptions and opinions that seem to divide us.

Karen H. viewed a documentary on YouTube that gives good background information. She will forward the link to Nancy M. to send out to the membership.

February 16 – Deep Dive into Housing and Homelessness with Lobby Team Issue Chair, Cynthia Stewart

Cynthia Stewart is also the Revenue Issue Chair on LWVWA Lobby Team and can answer questions on that topic as well.

March 16 – Indigenous Issues – follow- up to our November program on Racial Justice – speakers pending

Lynda L. is in contact with leaders of the Skokomish Tribe and Sherri D. is working with the Squaxin Tribe. Sherri D. reported that she has had conversations with Candace Penn on how the tribe can support LWVWA on advocating for Climate Change Action.

Climate Change Committee

Sherri D. reported on activities of the committee and presented the LWVMC Climate Proclamation and call to action. The Board discussed the document and made suggestions that the Climate Change Committee will work to incorporate before posting to our website.

VISION – Mason County Comprehensive Plan

“MASON COUNTY WILL REMAIN A PRIMARILY RURAL COUNTY, CHARACTERIZED BY QUIET TRANQUILITY, PRIVACY, NATURAL VIEWS, AND RURAL ENTERPRISE. ALTHOUGH RURAL CHARACTER MEANS DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE, ASPECTS OF IT INCLUDE: NATURAL VISTAS, FISH, SHELLFISH, WILDLIFE, AND NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS; FEWER RESTRICTIONS AND MORE PRIVACY THAN IN AN URBAN AREA; URBAN GROWTH AREAS THAT ARE VIBRANT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CENTERS, THE RESPONSIBLE OPERATION OF RESOURCE BASED INDUSTRIES SUCH AS TIMBER, MINING, AGRICULTURE, AND AQUACULTURE; AND THE CLOSE TIES OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TO THE LAND.” (1)

WHEREAS, a growing body of scientific evidence shows that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are accelerating global climate change and resulting in local impacts, including sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and more frequent and intense heavy precipitation events, floods, droughts, and wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes that the United States and other industrialized countries need to reduce emissions in the range of 80-95 percent from 1990 levels by 2050 to stabilize atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases (2); and

WHEREAS, the IPCC concludes that hitting the stabilization target will likely keep the global average temperature from rising 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels by the end of this century and this will avoid more severe climate impacts (3); and

WHEREAS, global climate change represents an existential threat to the livelihoods, health, and well-being of all Washingtonians. Our state is experiencing a **climate emergency** in the form of devastating wildfires, drought, lack of snowpack, and increases in ocean acidification caused in part by climate change (4), and

WHEREAS, these threats are not distributed evenly across the state. In particular, rural communities with natural resource-based economies, Tribes, and communities of lower and moderate incomes will be disproportionately exposed to health and economic impacts driven by climate change (5), and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Commerce developed the 2021 Washington State Energy Strategy stating: “As we work together to recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, **climate change continues to threaten the health and economic security of Washingtonians. The longer we delay in taking definitive action, the greater the threat to current and future generations, and the more costly it will be.**” (6), and

WHEREAS, the League of Women Voters of the United States believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and our planet. The League supports climate goals and policies consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. Individuals, communities, and governments must continue to address this issue, while considering the ramifications of their decision at all levels—local, state, regional, national, and global. Effectively addressing climate change will require action at all these levels (7), and

WHEREAS, the League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people, and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the information contained herein, we the members of the League of Women Voters of Mason County, request that, as we invest in economic recovery, our 35th legislative district elected officials take **bold action** during the 2021 legislative session supporting measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, putting a price on carbon, and enacting measures to promote climate resiliency:

- A clean fuel standard to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in transportation
- A carbon cap and trade program or other price on carbon acceptable to legislators and voters
- An update to the Growth Management Act to include climate change mitigation and adaptation

As we invest in economic recovery, we should take actions to encourage the energy and building technologies of future prosperity for all of Washington. **Now is the time.**

Discussion followed with information on the cost of publishing in the Mason Co. Journal and digital format in The Olympian. Amy D. noted that the goal is to motivate people to ask the legislators of the 35th District to take action. Cindy S. suggested that the proclamation needs to be tied to specific actions and that citizens need to let their will be known to the legislature.

Dee Ann K. suggested that if there was a two-sentence introduction that she could include on the website she could then provide a link to the entire document once the Board has approved it.

Sherri D. will draft a letter to the Mason Co. Journal and send that document to Amy D. and Karen H. to edit before submitting to the newspaper.

Squaxin Tribe/Sea Level Rise & Indigenous Health Indicators project with
Guest speakers: Squaxin Tribe Natural Resources Department, Jan. 28

Sherri D. reported that the Growth Management Act Study Group was launched on January 7 and that members will be attending Zoom workshops beginning on Jan. 14 in order to better understand the issues.

Observer Corps

Lynda L. has been attending County Commissioner meetings via Zoom. Nothing to report this month.

Recommended Reading List

“On Tyranny” by Timothy Snyder

“Caste” by Isabel Wilkerson

“Becoming a Democracy: How Can We Fix the Electoral College, Gerrymandering, and Our Elections” by Kristin Eberhard (director of democracy at Sightline Institute)

Calendar

January 11 – WA Legislative Session begins

January 19 – LWVMC General Membership Meeting

January 20 – Inauguration Day

January 23 – League 101; 1:30-3:00

February 5 – LWVMC Executive Board Meeting

February 16 – LWVMC General Membership Meeting

Amy D. adjourned the meeting at 2:35.