

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASON COUNTY
ANNUAL REPORT MEETING – (In person)
June 15, 2021, 11:30 – 1:30
HARMONY HILL
MINUTES

Twenty members and two guests attended.
Amy D. called the meeting to order at 11:32.

Approval of May 18 membership Meeting Minutes

Cindi S. moved, Lynda L. seconded.

Treasurer's Report

Pat C. reported that our current balance is \$5,626. We have not heard from National yet, which will be \$1,824. Our projected balance will be \$3,802.34, with 70 payer members.

LWVMC 2020 – 2021 – Annual Report (see attached)

Installation of New Officers

The gavel was passed to Lynn B., who is a member of the new 4-person Leadership Team.

Program

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council works with partners and communicates to advance a shared regional vision to protect and recover Hood Canal's environmental, economic, and cultural well-being.

Speakers: Scott Brewer, Executive Director and Haley Harguth, Watershed Program Manager of the HCCC. They updated us on the continuing efforts to safeguard this beautiful space for future generations.

Announcements and Adjournment

Cindi S. (Membership Committee) suggested that some small neighborhood gatherings throughout the summer could be held.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35.

LWVMC 2020-2021 - Annual Report

We are calling this past year "The Year of Zoom". Although Covid-19 has deprived us of the camaraderie of in-person meetings, we have been energized by the increased attendance at meetings and workshops through Zoom - and have embraced our unusual circumstances by inviting diverse and prominent speakers from far and wide.

Charged with getting out the vote, clarifying voting issues, lobbying our legislators, advocating for resilience and adaptation in the face of climate change,

advancing racial justice, examining solutions to poverty, lobbying in support of responsible government and finding common purpose through civic engagement, we've celebrated our past and progressed into our future.

Advocacy

- Masked-up in July, we gathered about half the signatures needed to place Home Rule Charter, (an effective form of holding local government accountable) on the November ballot.
- Wrote Letters to County Commissioners and LTE in support of Home Rule.
- Urged members to support specific (over 30) State legislative bills during session
- Attended LWVWA Action Workshop in December – record turnout
- Attended LWVWA Lobby Week in February – record turnout, met with Rep. MacEwen's LA to advocate for democracy bills
- Letter to BOCC in support of HB 1590 (using funds for low-income housing)
- 3 LTE's to support democracy, climate, Asian groups, housing, environmental concerns
- Letter to Port of Shelton opposing Regional Airport location in our area
- Inaugurated Speak Up School Committee (6 members) – to educate citizens through re-districting demonstrations and testimony training for future public hearings on re-districting. Journal ads were funded by speak up school grant, Co-chairs interviewed on Fiber One radio program
- Regular updates from our Observer Corps on local government agendas
- Hosted 9 programs/speakers to encourage dialogue on current topics

Voter Empowerment

- More than 35 get out the vote volunteers participated in our Postcard Project to send 4991 handwritten postcards encouraging new voters, voters who didn't vote in 2016, and voters from the Skokomish precinct. Financial support of \$1500 from an anonymous donor, plus many volunteers purchased their own stamps. The entire effort was submitted to LWVWA as a nomination for Local Leagues' Strengthening Democracy Award.
- Coordinated with MC Elections on Be Vote Ready campaign, attended voter registration training.
- Voter Services Committee registered voters in person in September and October at various sites and distributed TRYs and information flyers.

- Dressed in suffragist costumes on National Voter Registration Day – we waved signs to Vote Early.
- 3 Letters to the Editor – voter information and voter encouragement
- 2 Radio interviews
- Attended Civic Engagement meeting with author of “The State We’re In” to purchase and market to various county entities.
- Partnered with other counties to produce Candidate Forums

Membership Outreach

- 70 members total, 18 of whom are new to our League
- Held one League 101 orientation with 16 new members in attendance
- Initiated a Telephone Tree to stay connected during the pandemic
- Focused on ways to engage membership through 7 different committees – Voter Services, Climate Change, Observer Corps, Advocacy, Centennial Projects, Growth Management Study, and Speak Up School
- Purchased and distributed “Impact on Issues” 2020-2022
- Distributed “The State We’re In” to new members
- Numerous, colorful and information-packed electronic invitations
- Tech Communications Team formed

Centennial Committee

- 8 League members worked to bring a spotlight on 7 “Women Leaders of Mason County” who pushed the boundaries, demonstrated civic spirit, and represented the diversity of our county
- Supported with a MC Preservation Commission grant and funds from our LWVMC budget
- Biographies of each woman have been recorded and posted on our webpage, shared with LWVWA Newsletter and recorded for future presentations to the community.

Climate Change Committee

- Held 13 programs with prominent speakers to accomplish its mission: “to increase awareness of climate change and its projected impacts on our local economy, environment, and quality of life: to evaluate local, state, and national energy/climate change initiatives and legislation: and to coordinate with other organizations advocating for policies to lessen and forestall climate change impacts. Working as a non-partisan group, the

committee will share scientific, objective information from up-to-date and reliable sources with local and state businesses, governmental leaders, and our community.”

- Connected with scientists, youth groups, tribes, legislators, business concerns, industry concerns, ordinary citizens, environmental justice groups, local government and local media
- Established ongoing contacts with the media, school districts, climate justice groups, and LWVWA Climate Issue Chair
- Letters to The Journal, Port of Shelton, Shelton City Council (4 total)
- Meetings publicized in The Journal

Growth Management Act

- A new study group to focus on the function of local growth management

New Leadership Model

- Our nominating committee proposed, created and nominated a 4 member leadership model to share the goals and tasks of leadership for our upcoming year – 2021-2022.

Respectfully submitted by
Amy Davis and Karen Herr
LWVMC Co-Presidents