

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASON COUNTY
ZOOM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2020, 11:30-1:30
Minutes**

20 members and 14 guests attended

Amy D. called the meeting to order at 11:32

October 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes were approved

Treasurer's Report

Pat C. reported that the chapter's bank account has \$6,393.48. 30 people have paid dues for 2020-2021

Dues can now be paid on line at the LWVMC website

Voter Services

Bobbie S. had no news to report

Amy D. announced a new program, in partnership with Karen Verrill from Thurston County LWV, Promoting Adult Civics Education Project in our community

Member Services

Lynn B. spoke of the upcoming League 101, tentatively scheduled for the second week of January. The event will be held on Zoom. New members and others from the community curious about LWVMC are invited.

Amy D. inquired how many members we currently have. Pat C. and Lynn B. were uncertain of the exact number as dues are still being collected but they believe the number to be around 60, the most the Chapter has ever had.

Programs

December 15: Centennial Committee presents "Women Leaders of Mason County", Cindy S. encouraged all to attend and be inspired by the stories of these women.

Cheryl Williams to present on youth and dynamic gender pronouns

January 19 Program: A Braver Angels Workshop is a first step in finding Common Purpose. We recommend the membership view a 90 minute documentary called

"Reunited States". This will familiarize people with the goal of the workshop - to talk across the divide in a divided nation. To move forward in the discussion, we should have equal parts Red/Blue, although some may prefer a neutral stance. It is another opportunity to have an open and civil discussion regarding our perceptions, opinions, etc. that seem to divide us. Speaker TBA

February 16 Program on ACE's and the mental health of our kids during the Covid-19 dilemma is on schedule - speaker TBA.

Climate Change Committee

The CCC is hosting a presentation by Steve Ghan on Thursday, Nov 19, 2020, from 3:00-4:00 PM. The Zoom meeting invitation will be emailed to all LWVMC membership and guests later today.

Steven Ghan is a widely published and highly cited climate scientist with a doctorate in Meteorology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is internationally recognized for his expertise in representing the effects of aerosol particles on clouds and climate in global climate models.

He has contributed to three climate change assessments by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which in 2008 was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for the assessments.

He leads the Tri-Cities Washington Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby.

Steve will be speaking about "Common Ground on Climate Change". There will be a Q&A session following his presentation.

Washington Can't Wait campaign by Futurewise

The LWVWA has endorsed the WCW campaign by Futurewise, which promotes updating the Washington Growth Management Act. Futurewise works throughout Washington state to encourage healthy, equitable and opportunity-rich communities, and to protect our most valuable farmlands, forests and water resources through wise land use policies and practices.

The GMA was adopted in 1990, and is nationally recognized as one of the most effective state planning laws. However, improvements to the GMA are necessary to adequately plan for climate change, environmental justice, and affordable housing.

An Action Alert was emailed to the General Membership yesterday (11/16/20). If you haven't already done so, PLEASE take a few minutes to send a message to our 35th Legislative District legislators. There is a link at the bottom on the Action Alert. The Action Alert is asking our elected representatives to enact needed improvements to the GMA during the 2021 legislative session.

Sherri D. will provide background information on Washington's Growth Management Act and County Comprehension Plan. Sherri D recommended we should study the Mason County Plan.

Advocacy

Annual Action Workshops – 2 virtual December sessions scheduled, presented by the lobby team of LWVWA

Dec 5 Session will discuss Elections/campaign finance/redistricting, Keynote speaker's topic: Revenue – why we need it and how we get it. There will also be a presentation on the Legislative process.

Dec 12 Session will cover Economic/Social Justice, Criminal justice/gun safety, Education, Climate change/environment/transportation. Lobby Team members will address these issues as well as how to use the Legislative website.

Registration Information to come soon.

Future Study Group

Amy D. proposed a new study group on the diminishing role of journalism and the effects on our democracy.

Observer Corp – Lynda Links and Cheryl Williams reported on Mason County Commissioners meetings. The County Budget is being developed currently. A public meeting on that topic will be held on Dec. 8 at 9:15am. The budget

appears to be wrapping up without major shortfalls. Cheryl reported that the County will save over \$800,000 from the refinance of loans.

Cost overruns on remodel of Building 10 were discussed by the Commissioners and dispersing of Cares Act Money from the Federal Government. Property taxes may be increased by 1%.

Whistling in the Dark group – Dee Ann K.

No Report

Program

“A Conversation on Racial Justice” speaker, Jeannette Smith Ph.D, Interim Assoc. Dean of Student Affairs and Engagement at Evergreen State College.

Ms. Smith stated that she was speaking today for herself and nor her employer.

Three important facts:

Studies show that more education leads to higher earnings.

Black students have the lowest graduation rates from 4year colleges.

Black students borrow the most money for college.

Ms. Smith suggested that community members can help student retention through tutoring, mentorships and internships.

Individuals can participate through lobbying and advocacy on student loan debt relief at the Federal level.

A question and answer session ensued with a variety of topics and participation by members and guests.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm by Amy D.

Calendar

November 19 – CCC Program, 3:00- 4:00 on Zoom

December 4 – Executive Board Meeting on Zoom, 12:30-2:30

December 5 – LWVWA Action Workshop, Session 1 on Zoom, 9:30-1:00

December 12 – LWVWA Action Workshop, Session 2 on Zoom, 9:30-1:00

December 15 – General Membership Meeting on Zoom, 11:30-1:30

