

League of Women Voters of Mason County Board Zoom June 7, 2024 Minutes

Present: Lynn B, Dee Ann KP, Cheryl W, Carole B, Esther R, Sandy M, Peggy M, Amy, Eileen P

Lynn called the meeting to order at 11:34 am.

The agenda was approved.

Those present shared their best summer day and what they will look forward to this summer.

The minutes of the May 3, 2024 Board meeting were approved.

Executive and Committee Reports

A. Leadership Team. Dee Ann reported the LWVWA Council June 1,2 was a major success, and several members attended. Dee Ann focused on Voter Services training. Amy had a great time, and was impressed with the helpfulness of the volunteers. She thought the video “Untold Stories” was impactful. She appreciated the brainstorm on effectiveness of communication. A way to reach young people is through tic-toc, etc. The emphasis should be on voting year round. Use pro-democracy language. Leadership is a balancing act. We need to stay non-partisan in partisan times. Lynn likes our leadership model in comparison to others she heard about. There are two studies which will come up in late winter: Elder Caregiving and Welcoming Immigrants to WA state.

Dee Ann and Lynn spoke of the National Convention. Dee Ann Finkin from the State is working to organize a vote for consensus on the Journalism Study. WA has 53 out of 54 possible voting delegates. Mason County has two of those delegates in Dee Ann and Eileen, who will attend virtually.

Lynn reported about the Annual Meeting on Thursday, scheduled on June 27, 2024, at 11:30 am. It is a potluck at the Arcadia Fire Hall. All committee reports will need to be submitted prior to the meeting. Paddy McGuire will speak on international elections. Lynn was impressed with the presentation of Thurston County's report on accomplishments. She is hoping to prepare something like that for our League.

B. Treasurer's Report. Sandy reported no change to checking or CD from the General Meeting report. There was a \$300 donation to the Education Fund. Pat is now off the account. There will be a new membership structure which we should discuss at the retreat. Lynn asked Sandy and Dee Ann to prepare scenarios for the retreat. We can use funds from the Education Fund to refund up to 60% for members who attended Washington Council.

C. Member Services. Lynn plans to hold League 101 for new and prospective members. She will ask Board members to call 5 members to encourage attendance at the general meeting

D. Advocacy. Amy said the consequences of yes or no on the three initiatives on the November general election ballot are the focus.

E. Programs. Amy has three program topics for next year. 1. Derek Kilmer on modernizing congress. 2. The Assessor on the Board of Equalization for property tax. 3. Sheriff Spurling on “Be Prepared” on disaster preparedness in a variety of disaster scenarios.

F. Voter Services. Dee Ann turned the discussion to Esther and Carole. While the post card writing

was an enjoyable activity four years ago, there have been significant changes to post card postage, raising the cost significantly. Printing is also slightly higher. It is also difficult to get public records for names to address the post cards. Thus, they did not believe it was feasible to hold the activity given the \$3000 cost. As an alternative, they suggested creating posters to place in several places in the community. The poster could contain the same information as the post card. Smaller versions could also be printed to place on tables or handed out at events.

Ballots will be mailed October 8, according to the Auditor's office. Dee Ann suggested we work on tabling, wearing an attractive apron with pockets holding the items to hand out. Members could circulate through events and interact with the public more easily. Members could sign up for two hour shifts at different events. There is Fjord Crossing in Hoodspport June 22 and Allyn Days July 20.

June 18 is the LWVWA Attorney General forum streamed on line.

Speed Dating will be the third Thursday in October.

G. Climate Change Committee. Peggy spoke in Lynda's absence. The focus is the County Commissioners Planning Committee, which meets the third Monday of the month, to keep reminding them to include climate plans in the Climate Resiliency Advisory Committee. There appears to be a lack of enthusiasm among the commissioners, so we need to keep attending.

H. Communications. Peggy will put an activity together for the retreat. The College Program general meeting created the most hits on Facebook. We need to develop Mason County Civics Education in partnership with other organizations.

Ongoing and New Business

Board Retreat. The retreat will be hosted by Lynda or Sandy. Peggy volunteered to help on retreat planning. Thursday, August 8, at 10:30 am, bring a salad contribution.

Committee Structure. Peggy suggested we discuss this at the retreat since we just had a bylaw change. We may want to wait until late in 2025 to coincide with the new membership payment structure with the National League. We don't want to overwhelm members with too many by-law changes.

Lynn adjourned the meeting at 1:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Perfremment
Secretary