

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASON COUNTY
ZOOM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MARCH 16, 2021, 11:30 – 1:30
MINUTES**

Amy D. brought the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. 23 people attended. **Charles Adkins**, Washington State Native American Advocate was the guest speaker.

Approval of the February 16, 2021 General Membership Meeting minutes was so moved by Lynn B. and seconded by Karen H. Membership voted to approve.

Treasurer's Report

The current balance in the checking account is \$6,780.12. This includes \$170 in book sales of "The State We're In". We now have 65 paid members!

Voter Services

Ideas on ways to get the LWVMC civics book out to the community and into the Shelton School District were discussed. Amelia S. gave feedback on the book from a teacher's perspective. She felt that not only was "The State We're In" very positive reading with good content material, it was especially appropriate for the middle-school population. With the great teacher's guide and information about local, tribal and state government it would be a valuable study aid in the social studies class. With cooperation between the Shelton School District Education Coordinator and the LWVMC the text would be a positive addition to the school curriculum.

Member Services

Nothing new to report at this time. League 101 has an exciting new look.

Programs

April 20 – Mental Health month – possible speaker Lorelei Walker, Ph.D.

Nominating Committee Report

Cindy reported that the board approved a proposal for a new plan for leadership using a team approach. The plan will be presented at the April 20 General Membership meeting. Positions are open to any members who want to step into a position as a committee leader or secretary.

Climate Change Committee

Upcoming Meetings:

Thurs, Mar 25, 2021 @ 11:00 – noon

Thomas Ackerman; Professor Emeritus, UW Department of Atmospheric Sciences

“Global Warming: What We Know for Sure”

Thurs, Apr 1, 2021 @ 11:00 – noon – CCC Planning/Strategy Meeting

Thurs, Apr 22, 2021 @ 11:00 – noon

Dan Penn and William Thoms; Chehalis Tribe

“Presentation on Proposed Dam on Tribal Territory”

WA Climate Assembly

Recommendations generated by the Assembly are posted on the Climate Assembly website: <https://www.waclimateassembly.org/>

A Global Climate Assembly will be inviting 1,000 citizens from around the world to take part in a virtual convention to address the climate crisis and generate ambitious proposals to be considered by policymakers at the COP26 meeting in November.

<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/global-assembly-cop26/>

Growth Management Act/Mason County Comprehensive Plan Study Group

LWVMC launched a study group which was announced at the January 7, 2021 Climate Change Committee Meeting. The study group is a separate endeavor from the Climate Change Committee. Marilyn Vogler is now heading the GMA/Comp Plan study group. Anyone interested in joining the study group should contact Marilyn.

Advocacy

On March 16 a letter was sent from the LWVMC to the City of Shelton Council supporting their decision to reject the proposed 400 modular homes providing affordable rental housing on the Brockdale Road/Island Lake Drive property. The letter urged the City to maintain the property in its current state to protect endemic flora and fauna, protecting the biodiversity of the site; the esthetic, recreational and health benefits, and realize its value for carbon sequestration. The letter was signed by Sherri Dysart, as chair of the Climate Change Committee.

A letter was sent to the Port of Shelton Commissioners in regards to the proposed expansion of the airport. Concerns over safety, noise, air pollution, increased traffic and property value decline were expressed. The letter was signed by Karen Herr, as Co-President of LWVMC.

Dee Ann mentioned that people have expressed an interest in participating in a virtual book club. Amelia said that she would be willing to lead “talk and break out” groups using Zoom, with Cindy’s technological support.

Dee Ann proposed we do a “speak up school” by the end of May regarding redistricting. The goal of the school would be to make decisions about what components of redistricting we want to present to the public. We would have schools in our toolkit which we could pull up and present to the community. People who are interested in the “speak up” schools can learn how to give testimony.

Observer Corps

Lynda L. reported that the City of Shelton has a new public health officer – Dr. Gardner.

The new Bldg. 10 is being used by two courtrooms. New county employees are needed to handle all the building permits.

Program

Charles Adkins, a member of the Yurok tribe, talked about the challenges of indigenous people. As a registered lobbyist who focuses on social and economic justice, he has become involved with the Mockingbird Society; a program helping homeless and foster kids improve their lives through political means. Charles spoke of the serious mental health issues facing indigenous people. He spoke about the benefits and use of tribal and traditional medicines in treating mental health issues. Traditional medicine is especially helpful with spiritual needs and drugs. COVID has been particularly devastating for native communities. A new issue for the legislature is the suicide epidemic among native populations. Financial struggles have made it difficult to cope with everyday life.

Recommended Reading List

“On Tyranny” by Timothy Snyder

“Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents” by Isabel Wilkerson

“Becoming a Democracy” by Kristin Eberhard

“The End of Ice” by Dahr Jamal

Calendar

March 25 – Climate Change Committee Meeting – Dr. Thomas Ackerman
11:00 – noon

April 1 – CCC Planning/Strategy Meeting, 11:00 – noon

April 2 - Executive Board Meeting

April 20 – LWVMC General Membership Meeting

April 22 – EARTH DAY! – CCC Meeting – Dan Penn and William Thoms

April 29 - People powered DAY OF ACTION – (shining the light on Re-districting)