

League of Women Voters of Mason County Executive Board Meeting via ZOOM
March 4, 2022 12:30-2:30
MINUTES

1.0 Call to Order Lynn B (POM March 2022) called meeting to order @ 12:32 pm
Attendees: Lynn B (Chair)/ Nancy S /Amy D / Dee Ann K / Cindy S / Pat C /Randy L (Minutes)

2.0 Question of the Month

March is *Women's History Month*, first established by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. Check out: <https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/> If you could pick only one woman to honor, who would that be?

Dolly Parton ("Imagine" Library), Eleanor Roosevelt, Susan B Anthony, Harriet Tubman (Picture should be on \$10 bill), Margaret Sanger, Anne Frank, 3 NASA mathematicians - Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson

3.0 Approval of Minutes from February 4

Pat C Moved / Amy D Second / Unanimous approval

4.0 Executive & Committee Reports

4.1 Leadership Team

Dee Ann, Nancy & Cheryl

Cheryl W busy during tax season

Nancy S – Participated in President's call. Issues include "Empty Chair" forums / National "Vote 411"

Dee Ann K: -Upcoming "Civics Bowl" in Spokane Schools, "Climate threats to democratic elections", Journalism Study

4.2 Treasurer

Pat C.

66 members. New member – Liz Ellis.

Balance in bank account = \$7,499.37 66.

4.3 Voter Services

Dee Ann

Dee Ann will help renew the Voter Services Committee. Focus on countering voter disinformation and promoting accurate information about candidates and issues. Information on website / letters to editor / Auditor's forum. Get out vote – register youth. "Be a Voter"

4.4 Observer Corps

Cindy S.

Cindy will interview Tom Farmer about open public meetings and refine questions for the committee members to use to interview other Mason County elected officials.

We need to encourage open meetings for public entities

Alert officials about LWVMC representation at upcoming meetings. We've had less opportunity to attend during Covid.

4.5 Member Services

Lynn B.

Sherri D is improving, according to her husband / Nancy McMahon had knee surgery
“League 101” will happen in some form this spring.

4.6 Programs

Amy D. & Lynda L.

“Our democracy needs a robust press to hold our leaders accountable and cover the important issues facing our communities. The First Amendment belongs to all of us.” ~Freepress.net

The LWVMC March General Membership Meeting on March 15, “The Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy”, will feature two speakers who are participants in the League of Women Voters’ of Washington Study: WA State has lost 20 weekly papers Only 25% of WA Counties are served by local news. In addition, they will peer into the national picture – more than half the nation’s counties have no local newspaper. Journalism is considered a “public good” because the information we read, especially in trusted news sources informs our decisions about important issues that can affect the quality of our lives.

Speaker Dee Anne Finken suggests readings: at <https://www.usnewsdeserts.com/> It’s a long, but very readable study, and readers can review it in chunks easily enough.

Another very good read – it’s a slim book – is Margaret Sullivan’s “Ghosting the News: Local Journalism and the Crisis of American Democracy” Paperback – July 14.

Speaker for April Membership Meeting will be Holly Joseph from TESC.

4.7 Centennial Committee

Cindy S.

LWVMC will host an open house to introduce the Women Leaders project, Sat., April 2, 2 to 4 PM, at the Mason County Historical Museum. Committee members and Voter Services will be asked to assist with a welcome table that includes Voter Information and registration materials along with membership. Linda W. is formatting invitations. All LWVMC members and guests will be invited, Mason County Museum staff and board, Mason County Historical Preservation Commissioners, and families or others who represent the individual women. The committee and voter services will display individual women leader posters, and promote voter education at community events this summer. Possible events: Old Timers Festival in Matlock—Mary M. Knight, May 7; Allyn Days—Irene Davis, July 16; Fjord Crossing—Xinh Dwelley; McCreavy House—Ethel Dalby; Alderbrook—Clara Eastwood; and others TBA. These are all subject to Covid restrictions and dates set by the various groups. There will be a sign-up chart developed so members can volunteer.

4.8 Climate Change

Nancy S.

Nancy S. currently filling in for Sherri D with the CCC

Nancy is not able to attend 24 March CCC meeting but will set up the meeting
Advocacy note: S.E Alaska "Climate Forest Campaign" / Urge Biden to protect forests on federal land. No response yet from County Commission - LWVMC letter on proposed climate resiliency plan.

Suggestions: contact Randy N, former league member, Dave Windom, Director of Planning & Public Health, Sharon Trask or County Administrator Mark Neary
Amy D – Resilience Bill being considered in WA State legislature

4.9 Advocacy

Amy D. & Karen H.

Advocacy will continue after Legislative session is over.

At national level send petitions to support Ukraine. Drew McEwen - Advocating for Russian Sanctions

Report from Lobby Team: 256 registered for Lobby Week. 80 meetings with State Legislators
Virtual contact can be effective – for example no travel required

Dee Ann K – Useful to have onsite lobby team? / Amy D – Ask 6 or 7 members if interested
Chamber has a kick off breakfast with local legislators / Perhaps LWVMC could have our own

4.10 Book Study

Cindy S.

"Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World" by Katharine Hayhoe has been rescheduled for March 21 & March 28. Please contact cindyshotts@hotmail.com to be included in the zoom link. The discussions will include learning tools for difficult or controversial topics. The most important thing we can do is talk about the issues before us with family, friends, neighbors, elected officials and especially folks who see the issue differently. Our book study is the perfect way to start the conversation. You are welcome even if you have not read the book.

Dates: Mon. Mar. 21, 6 PM: Preface, Chapters 1 through 11.

Mon. Mar. 28, 6 PM: Chapters 12 through 22.

5.0 New Business

- Nominating Committee

Lynn B.

Cindy S and Amy D agree to serve on committee and will invite a third person

Lynn B – What is working with new leadership model? What can be improved?

Randy L – Thought 3-person structure for Secretary worked well

- LWV-WA's June Council

Dee Ann

State Council June 9,10 / Delta Hotel in Everett, in person but could change.

Up to 60% of education fund can be used to reimburse members

Focus will be on leadership / Disinformation

Amy D – 3 LWVMC delegates attended last time

Board will decide who will be delegates. All members are encouraged to attend!

6.0 Adjournment Lynn B adjourned meeting @ 2:32 pm

7.0 Upcoming Events

March 15, 2022, 11:30 LWV-Mason County Membership Meeting. Program: *The Decline of Local Journalism and Its Impact on Democracy.* (See note above for details)

March 21, 2022, 6:00 pm Virtual Book Discussion “*Saving Us*” Part 1

March 24, 2022, 11:00 CCC Meeting (virtual) with *The Lorax Coalition*

March 28, 2022, 6:00 pm Virtual Book Discussion on “*Saving Us*” Part 2

April 1, 2022 12:30 LWV-Mason County Board Meeting (and nothing Foolish about it!)

April 2: Women Leaders of Mason County, our Centennial Display Open House at M. C. History Museum, 2-4 pm.