

League of Women Voters of Mason County Board Meeting (ZOOM)
Friday, May 6, 2022 – 12:30 – 2:30
Minutes

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Nancy Snyder

Attending: Amy D., Francesca R., Nancy S., Cheryl W., Pat C., Lynda L., Dee Ann K., Sherri D., Liz E., Brenda H., and Linda S.

Minutes were taken by Linda S.

The April 1 Board minutes were moved by Amy D. and seconded by Pat C.

A serious discussion was held about the best approach the LWVMC should take towards a “Letter to the Editor” which was published in the May 5, 2022 edition of the Shelton-Mason County Journal. The author of this letter stated that the League was being partisan and non-transparent by having Sandra Kaiser, a renowned expert on climate change as a guest speaker at a recent Climate Change Committee Meeting, because she is currently running for office. The letter was a criticism of not only the League of Women Voters, but also of an article by Kirk Boxleitner of the Journal published in the April 28th edition, which covered most of her talk on Climate Change.

In the May 5th Journal, the editor Justin Johnson responded by taking responsibility for being unaware that Sandra Kaiser was running for office, and for the papers’ part in publishing the article about her presentation on climate change.

He stressed that in the past the Journal has communicated well with the League of Women Voters, and has covered a variety of issues. He felt that the League was negligent in not disclosing in its marketing of the event to them or the community that its speaker was a candidate for public office. He questioned the Leagues’ reasoning for choosing a speaker who was running for office, and that they had not been transparent.

Dee Ann did not feel that we should have candidates at a Climate Change meeting, but rather at our speed dating event.. If they have a climate change perspective, their feelings can be presented at that event. Under the Empty Chair rule for the LWV, you must have both candidates represented in order to put on a Forum. Speed Dating circumvents that requirement because there are multiple offices and multiple candidates.

After lengthy discussion, the Board decided that a response from the Leadership Team should be made in a “Letter to the Editor” to the community, and a personal e-mail to Justin stressing the following:

- 1) The League doesn’t support candidates. Sandra Kaiser is an expert on climate change, and was invited to speak at a Climate Change Committee meeting for that reason.
- 2) Sherri and Amy acted in good faith; there was no mention that Sandra was running for office.
- 3) The League is non-partisan and doesn’t support candidates.

- 4) Climate Change is impacting everyone, regardless of political party.

Annual Report – Cheryl W. will write up a draft of the Annual Report.

Nominating Committee Report – Amy D.

Dee Ann Kline, Francesca Ritson, Cheryl Williams, and Lynn Busacca will be the new Leadership Team for the upcoming year. Amy has been unable to find anyone who is willing to take on the secretarial position, but is waiting to hear back from one individual. Over 20 people have been contacted by Amy. Pat C. will continue as Treasurer, and will re-contact Lori Bickford to possibly get some help.

Treasurer’s Report – Pat C.

Another \$300 donation for the Education Fund was made, and we now have over \$1000 in it. SQUARE has been working well. The checking balance is \$6,299.03 - \$3000 for the National dues still needs to be paid. Otherwise, all bills have been paid. \$800 is designated for Conference fees. Harmony Hill will be paid.

Climate Change Committee – Sherri D.

A Steering Committee “Think Tank” was formed to provide direction on action steps we can take in the community. They will be thinking of ways to lower our footprint, and how to increase awareness of climate change within Mason County. The Climate Change Committee will only meet once a month from now on.

Voter Services – Dee Ann and Lynda

We will be looking at the registration of voters, but will postpone the Ad campaign because it does involve the newspaper. The Speed Dating Forum will be held at the Shelton Civic Center on October 13 from 6:30 – 8:30/9:00. We will need to rent the room for \$75 an hour which could cost up to \$200 - \$300.

Volunteers will be needed to come up with questions, greet people, set up and staff the tables.

Program – Amy D. and Lynda L.

Brenda expressed her concern that the League has been focusing too much on climate change, and she would like to see us focus on other issues that need to change in Mason County. She did want the committee to continue to focus on local climate issues. Pat C. also expressed concern that the climate change issue is starting to dominate the League. Other things such as voting rights are important. Cheryl mentioned that Roe vs Wade is an issue. Dee Ann does not feel that we should have candidates at a Climate Change meeting, but a forum. If they have a climate change perspective, their feelings can be presented in a forum. Nancy has a plan to invite groups of people to her home to talk about climate change in Mason County. This may help alleviate some of the pressure on the League.

Lynda L. made a motion to keep the program scheduled for May 17 – “Saving Legacy Forests” by Stephen Kropp. Motion was seconded by Amy D. Motion carried. We will not have a climate change presentation at the Annual Meeting – possibly Liz E. from NOW.

Advocacy – Amy

A 411 request on the state site from Cynthia Stewart asked for Action Chairs to submit questions, and to remind candidates to respond to them.

Centennial – Cindy

She is looking for help at the table during the Fjordin Crossing in Hoodspport on May 15.

New Business – Dee Ann

Four delegates are needed for the LWVWA Council on June 10 – 12. 60% of cost will be reimbursed. Cheryl volunteered to attend. Lynda and Cindy may attend. Local leagues can put a table up. We are making up hiking baskets with used hiking books, gear, etc. for fundraising with the theme: Recycle. Reuse, Reconnect. People are needed to make up these baskets.

Upcoming Events

May 15 – Fjordin Crossing from 11 – 3:00 at Hoodspport . Xihn Dwelly display

May 17 – General Membership meeting – Stephen Kropp, Exec. Director Center for Responsible Forestry, “Saving Legacy Forests”

June 7 – Annual Meeting a Harmony Hill – 11:30 – 1:30; speaker TBD

June 10–12 - LWV Council; Delta Hotel in Everett, WA – “Recycle, Reuse, Reconnect”

The meeting adjourned at 2:30