

LWV OF MASON COUNTY BOARD: NOV. 6, 2020, 12:30 to 2:30 PM
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

Amy D. called the meeting to order at 12:30pm. Present were Cindy S., Bobbie S., Amy D., Karen H., Linda S., Pat C., Cheryl W., Lynn B., Sherri D., Lynda L., Dee Ann K., Polly H.

October Board Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: Pat C.

The current balance in the checking account is \$5,562.48. Pat noted that we paid for an advertisement in the Mason County Journal to get out the vote, cost was \$1,148. The cost was covered by donations.

Currently, 27 members have paid annual dues. Lynn B. will send out a reminder to members who have not paid.

Pat C. reported on a meeting of LWV treasurers from across the state that she attended via Zoom. Paying dues on line was discussed. Some chapters have adopted PayPal but Square was also discussed. Dee Ann K. reported hearing from Candice Ambrosio, Treasure of LWV Whatcom Co. that Square was less complicated and has fewer fees associated with it. Pat concurred that she had learned that as well. Pat C. will continue to investigate with a goal of adopting on line payments by January of 2021.

Community Outreach

Amy D. and Karen H. are looking for feedback from the Board on how to engage with the community and find common ground. The current election illustrated how divided Mason County is. A 'Democracy at Work Award' was suggested for the County Auditor's office and/or local US Postal employees. Lynda L. suggested an acknowledgement of service to local health care providers caring for patients with Covid-19.

Cindy S. added that the award should include the name of LWVMC and 'citizenship'. A different group could be spotlighted each month. Various ways of connecting with the public were suggested including a letter to the editor, a billboard, reader boards. Lynn B. offered to contact Kathy Brooks about initiating a committee to work on this project. Amy D. thanked the group and asked that Board Members continue to think and look for ways to move this forward and have something ready by the end of 2020.

Voter Services:

Bobbie S. reported that Voter Services had written letters of thanks and appreciation to Mason County election officials.

LWVMC volunteers had voter registration events throughout October with many contacts made.

Amy D. asked Bobbie S. to review a letter from Karen Verril on Adult Civics Education in local communities. LWVWA State Board is working to create an inventory of activities by local leagues to promote adult civics education. Voter Services Committee will look into finding members to work on this project.

Cindy S. shared that she talked with Barbara Chevalier of LWVWA and our postcard project was very impressive. She told Cindy S. that it is possible to get phone numbers for postcards that were returned and we can follow up with those voters. In March of 2021, data will be available for us to see who from our list voted in the November election. Voter lists will be available for future projects. Volunteers for the postcard project reported feeling very positive about participating.

Thank you letters to, Concerned Citizens of Harstine Island and Daniel Fishman, need to be written. Lynn B. suggested that Esther Rowland be asked to write the letters.

Member Services

Lynn B. reported that the chapter has up to eight new members. This includes Tom Duffield and his wife from Concerned Citizens of Harstine Island. Karen H. will call the Duffields to welcome them.

League 101 will be held on Zoom, date to be determined but before the end of the year. Cheryl W. and Lynn B. will work with the PowerPoint presentation that the LWVWA created to customize it for the meeting.

Programs

Cheryl W. presented to the Board a proposal for a presentation to the membership on the new dynamic of gender pronouns. Cheryl W. said that the LWV should be leaders on this important topic that is part of our mission to promote civility. The Board agreed and the presentation will be included in the December Program.

The November program is on Racism. Jeanette Smith, Dean of Student Engagement at Evergreen College will be the speaker. Amy D. will work with Ms. Smith to narrow the scope of the discussion and Sherrie D. suggested that Elevate Mason County be invited.

December program includes Cheryl W.'s presentation and the Centennial Committee will share the three additional posters of outstanding Mason Co. Women.

Climate Change Committee

The committee met on November 5th and decided to focus on bringing climate change information to Mason Co. leadership. A Town Hall meeting with Mason Co. Legislators is a possibility. If finding a date that works for all three legislators is not possible, Cindy S. suggested that Town Hall meetings with the individual Legislators could be acceptable. It was agreed that this should occur before the start of the 2021 Legislative Session and that it needs to be presented to a larger audience. The Mason Co. Journal, radio station and Mason Co. TV all will be notified in order to bring it to the larger community.

Lynn B. noted that these issues affect young people, we need to bring them into the discussion. Amy D. suggested reaching out to High School teachers, Girl Scout leaders, etc. Perhaps we could get young people to ask the legislators to participate. Sherrie D. will contact the Legislative Aides and look for possible dates.

Steve Ghan, climate scientist, will be the speaker at the next Climate Change Committee on November 19th at 3:00 pm. Topic is 'Common Ground on Climate Change'. Sherri D. is working on advertising to the membership and the larger community.

Sherri D. reported that the WA Climate Assembly will meet in January of 2021. 80 WA State citizens will meet to discuss, 'What do Washingtonians want to do about carbon omissions?'

Sherrie D. is working with the organization, Climate Solutions, to craft an op/ed piece for the Mason Co. Journal.

Advocacy

Amy D. reminded all that Action Workshops are coming up in December.

Cheryl W. and Lynda L. reported on meetings they observed of Mason Co. Commissioners. A public hearing on the budget will be announced soon. Budget is set for adoption on Dec. 7th. Meetings of the Co. Commissioners can be found on Mason Web TV. Dee Ann K. to post meeting dates and times on LWVWC website.

Book Club

Dee Ann K. reported that the next book is "Becoming Better Grownups". A new reading group will be meeting Nov. 9-Feb. 22.

Other Business

A new group within LWVWA is being formed to discuss journalism. Two sites were mentioned for information- Damaged Newspapers and When No News Isn't Good News. A Program for a future membership meeting will be explored. Cindy S. reported that there is a new editor of the Mason Co. Journal and that he would be a person to contact about the topic.

Amy D. was contacted by Elaine Bronca with information on 'Tea for Three', available on Zoom with a live question and answer program. Amy D. to learn more with this being a possible Holiday event.

Sherrie D. shared with the Board that she doesn't understand why she doesn't get feedback on Climate Change Committee activities. Amy D. said this is not a new problem; it is difficult to motivate people to participate. Lynda L. added that the Climate Change Committee does great work and that she will help by making phone calls to encourage participation. Linda S. also volunteered to help.

Cindy S. suggested that the committee come up with small actions that members can take as a way to involve more people. Also, ask if people need help with Zoom. That may be one reason people are not getting involved.

Amy D. suggested that members read one of the books that were recommended at the last Membership Meeting in order to prepare for the November 17th program.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 by Amy D.