

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASON COUNTY
ZOOM GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2020, 1:30 – 3:30

Attendees: Carol Butkus, Michelle Bell, Pat Carpenter, Amy Davis, Bobbie Stady, Sherri Dysart, Cindy Shotts, Cheryl Williams, Mariah Rose, Linda Steffen, Karen Herr, Lynda Links, Arlene Army, Dee Ann Kline, Francesca Ritson, Randy Lewis, Sandy Miller, Eileen Perfrement, Lynn Busacca

The September 15, 2020 Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Our checkbook balance is \$6,106.46. About \$1000 of that are donations earmarked for the Journal ads about voting. Currently, only 16 members have paid this years' dues. Last year we had 53 members, so there may be more checks in the mail soon.

Voter Services Report on Postcard Project

Our postcard project has been a positive action for our League:

- . We obtained voter lists through LWVWA voter services, Barbara Chevalier. All were registered voters and the addresses were current as of September 15, 2020.
- . Nearly 4800 postcards were sent
 - New voters age 18 – 22 – 1809
 - Voters ages 23 to 40 who did not vote in 2016 – 2999
 - Voters from Skokomish precinct ages 23 and up – 183

What we learned:

- . Think big! We had more volunteers than names!
- . Our members and supporters want to get involved in efforts to get out the vote.
- . Next time: ask for phone numbers or e-mails to follow up on returned cards.
- . Possible ideas to follow up: Ask for the lists again after the election is certified to compare. This would be one way to assess how many had voted this election who did not vote in 2016.
- . Plan for off-year outreach to encourage voting in state and local elections.

Actions: Cindy will contact Barbara Chevalier to ask –

1. Were the addresses the mailing address or the residential address
2. Why did some addresses have 2 names?

Member Services:

An outreach letter will be sent to non-renewing members. The only way to renew membership this Fall is to mail to LWVMC at P. O. 2465, Shelton. Any questions can be sent via e-mail link to lbusacca@gmail.com and Lynn will get them.

There has been great activism within our League:

- . 35 people worked on postcards for voter registration
- . There are 19 – 22 active people on the Climate Change Committee
- . There are ongoing activities on the Centennial Committee – 3 more notable Mason County women will be honored through posters and a slide show on December 15th. Nine people have been working hard. Lynn has gotten approval from the Skok tribe to include Georgia Miller and her daughter.
- . Twelve people will be following up at the Legislature with advocacy issues.

Lynn would like to have an orientation for new members – a League 101 via Zoom after the election.

Climate Change Committee:

The virtual Town Hall has been cancelled. Two of the four 35thLD candidates were not available for 10/22, so we could not proceed with the event. Amy and Sherri did a letter to the Shelton Journal for October 15. A Town Hall on Climate Change can be held post-election with elected officials. Sherri sent a letter to the CEO of Mason Health/Public Hospital District 1 regarding the connection between public health and climate change. She also sent the letter to Dee Ann to put on our website. Amy mentioned that we will be in legislative sessions soon, and stressed the importance of understanding the various bills, budgets, transportation and climate change issues. On-line classes on the legislative process will be available so people can be more aware of the legislative process. Upcoming meetings are open to everyone – e-mail LWV/MC if you want to join. On Thursday, Oct. 22 from 10-11 guest speaker Bill Busacca will do a Power Point presentation on global water issues. On November 10 from 6 – 8 p.m. LWV/Thurston Co. will present “Where’s the Water?”. Possible guests are Amy Snover, Ph.D, Director of University of Washington Climate Impact, and Bob Ingalls, Executive Director of RepublicEn.com

Advocacy:

Possible study groups on our local government are being considered. Candidate forums and debates can be viewed on our LWVMC website. Dee Ann is collaborating with Katherine Murphy to have a workshop titled “Whistling in the Dark – Cultivating a Civil Conversation”. They are reading, “Becoming Better Grownups” which would be held after the election. Send anything to Dee for our workshop.

Program

The program focused on what Mason County elections officials are doing to be prepared for the upcoming election, and other voting issues.

Paddy McGuire, Mason County Auditor

Fina Ormond, Election’s Superintendent

“All Things Elections” – Paddy said that our elections are fairly safe because we have:

- a) Good people
- b) A good system
- c) A clear ballot
- d) Signature comparison if questioned
- e) Good security

Washington ballots are “state of the art”. A post-election audit is done

Under the 2020 CARES Act \$400 million was allocated for elections because of COVID-19. Mason County received \$169,510. The Vote Center was remodeled. Mark Zuckerberg and Dr. Priscilla Chan donated \$350 billion to help promote safe and secure elections nationally and locally, and Mason County received \$32,904. Election officials had an outreach campaign with radio and tv ads to promote voting within Mason County. A new ballot drop box was added on the Skokomish Reservation between the casino and gas station.

Mason County currently has:

- a) 43,442 active voters
- b) 1,800 new voters
- c) 8,628 votes in as of last night

The postcards helped as there was a 20% return in less than a week. They are already getting lots of ballots back and seeing lots of cars – people are wanting to drop their ballots off.

A question was raised as to whether same-day voter registration and the 8 p.m. deadline could cause problems and possibly delay vote outcome. Paddy felt there is no way to predict what will happen, but extra staff will be downstairs to help, and ROTC from the high school will help with parking. They are not planning on processing ballots on Election Day. They have not encountered any activists yet, but have made preparations in case they have problems/confrontations of any kind. COVID has made it

impossible for in-person observation of the election process to take place, but cameras have been installed so that observation can safely happen.

There has been bad press about voting-by-mail. People are encouraged to use the drop boxes as they are more secure than the post office. There are always two people picking up ballots at the drop boxes and when doing the initial count. Any challenged ballots are set aside and all ballots are opened face down to protect privacy. Ballots are also manually inspected to make sure that things missed by the computer can be caught. We have had 15 years in Washington State to work out any problems with voting by mail. The election offices will be open on both 10/31 and 11/1 for voters.

Kim Wyman – Secretary of State

In Washington State there are 10,000 election officials who oversee elections at the state and local levels. There are 39 election offices. As the Chief Elections Officer she writes administrative code at the county and state levels. The Critical Infrastructure Securities Act (CISA) put elections on the same level as banking and cybersecurity. CISA works in partnership with the FBI, DHS, WA State CISA, WA National Guard, and the State Auditor's Office. Small and medium-sized counties had limited technical and cybersecurity support on how to protect themselves. Tabletop exercises were done regionally within the state to help state officials who are dealing with a global pandemic, civil unrest, USPS organization, forest fires and hurricanes. Attempts have been made to make voting electronically more secure. Washington League members can assist with the voting process by encouraging people to get their ballots in early so people cannot go on-line and request a ballot. All 50 states have hybrid voting systems. They are anticipating a 90% turnout this election, with half of ballots coming in during election week. Voters should be encouraged to access groups that will provide accurate information. Because it is state law, ballots postmarked by election night should be counted up to 20 days after the election.

Calendar:

November 3 – Election Day

November 6 – Executive Board Meeting

November 17 – General Membership Meeting

December 4 – Executive Board Meeting