

**Board of Directors' Meeting
League of Women Voters of Mason County
September 5, 2025 on Zoom**

In Attendance: Lynn B, Amy D., Dee Ann K-P, Eileen P., Patti B., Cheryl W., Lynda L., Peggy M.,

Key takeaways

- The League of Women Voters Mason County has 93 members, including 3 new members who recently joined through national.
- The organization is transitioning to a new dues structure, which is creating some budget challenges.
- Speed Dating candidate forum is scheduled with 12 tables for city council, hospital board, and school board candidates.
- A civic storytelling project in partnership with the Secretary of State's office is being developed.
- Observer Corps has 21 interested members and will be reactivated.
- The League will need to find a new meeting location as the college is now charging for use of their space.
- Survey results showed strong member interest in studying economic health of Mason County and monitoring voting processes.

Discussed topics

Budget and Treasurer's Report

Patti presented a preliminary budget with Deanne's assistance.

• **Details**

- **Patti:** Explained the transition between old and new dues structures, noting that the League now receives \$13.61 per member but still owes last year's dues to national (\$32/member) and state (\$19/member).
- **Deanne:** Clarified that the state is allowing payment of dues over 8 quarters to mitigate the financial impact.
- **Patti:** Noted that national will provide "mitigation" funds to compensate for revenue loss during the transition.
- **Patti:** Reported current account balances: checking account \$7,364.42, CD \$1,173.90, and Ed Fund \$6,245.38 (as of July 31).

• **Conclusion**

- The final budget will be presented and approved at the October board meeting.
- Budget documents will be shared with all board members.

Speed Dating Candidate Forum

Lynda provided updates on the upcoming candidate forum.

• **Details**

- **Lynda:** Confirmed 12 tables will be set up at the civic center with a moderator for each table.
- **Lynda:** Reported that all candidates except Sharon Sherman and Daniel Vasquez have confirmed attendance.
- **Lynda:** Noted the venue will cost \$400 plus a \$400 refundable damage deposit.

- **Lynda:** KMAS radio station is offering \$1,500 worth of radio spots in exchange for co-sponsorship recognition.
- **Peggy:** Will update promotional materials to include KMAS logo.
- **Deanne:** Will bring a vintage voting booth as a display to highlight mail-in voting benefits.

• Conclusion

- A meeting will be scheduled to develop questions for candidates.
- Promotional materials will be updated to include KMAS logo as co-sponsor.
- Several members volunteered to help with setup and timing.

Voter Services

Deanne and Eileen discussed upcoming voter service activities.

• Details

- **Deanne:** Shared plans to use a vintage voting booth from the 2000 election as an educational tool about mail-in voting.
- **Eileen:** Announced a tabling event at the YMCA on September 15th from 10am to at least 4pm.
- **Cheryl and Deanne:** Volunteered to cover the evening shift at the YMCA.
- **Peggy:** Will create informational cards about the benefits of mail-in voting.
- **Lynn:** Suggested writing a letter to the editor about mail-in voting benefits.

• Conclusion

- Tabling materials and volunteers are being organized for the YMCA event.
- Cheryl will draft a letter to the editor about mail-in voting benefits.

Civic Storytelling Project

Peggy presented a proposal for a civic storytelling project in partnership with the Secretary of State's office.

• Details

- **Peggy:** Outlined a three-part project: League members sharing personal stories, community civic stories using prompts, and a public sharing event.
- **Peggy:** Explained that Michael Bowman from the Secretary of State's office will help edit and archive the stories.
- **Amy:** Confirmed that Carolyn Maddox has agreed to lead a storytelling workshop.
- **Deanne:** Suggested applying for an Ed Fund grant of up to \$2,000 to support the project.
- **Lynn:** Proposed publishing the stories and having a release party at the library.

• Conclusion

- Michael Bowman will present at the September membership meeting to introduce the project.

- Carolyn Maddox will conduct a storytelling workshop, possibly in October.
- Peggy will investigate grant funding opportunities.

Meeting Location

Lynda reported on the search for a new meeting location.

• Details

- **Lynda:** Faith Lutheran Church has a suitable room with good parking and can accommodate the League's owl (audio/video equipment).
- **Lynda:** The pastor suggested a donation of \$100 per meeting but indicated flexibility.
- **Amy:** Expressed disappointment about losing the college library space, which provided community visibility.

• Conclusion

- The League will try the Faith Lutheran Church space for the September meeting.
- The east entrance (possibly called the Pavilion Entrance) will be used.

Retreat and Survey Results

Peggy presented the results from the board retreat and membership survey.

• Details

- **Peggy:** Reported that 16 people attended the retreat and 39-40 members (about 40% of membership) completed the survey.
- **Peggy:** Top priorities identified were: creating a study group on economic health of Mason County, activating Observer Corps, developing the civic storytelling program, discussing impacts of national actions locally, and monitoring emerging voting processes.
- **Peggy:** Recommended finding volunteer leaders for new initiatives rather than overloading current leadership.
- **Peggy:** Noted strong interest in equipping students with voter resources and first-time voter outreach.

• Conclusion

- A simplified version of the results will be shared with the membership.
- Amy will make a pitch at the September meeting for volunteers to lead priority initiatives.

Observer Corps

Discussion about reactivating the Observer Corps program.

• Details

- **Lynn:** Reported that 21 members expressed interest in Observer Corps.
- **Peggy:** Created a simplified report form that would be easy for new observers to use.
- **Lynda:** Suggested a luncheon for interested members to build relationships.
- **Cheryl:** Expressed concern based on past experience with low participation.

• Conclusion

- Lynn, Peggy, Lynda, and Cheryl will work together as a "quadrufecta" to develop a structure.
- The September 15th planning commission public hearing will be the first opportunity for observers.
- Lynda will call interested members to invite them to the hearing.

Sanitary Products Collection

Lynn proposed participating in a sanitary products collection drive.

• Details

- **Lynn:** Explained that the National Organization for Women (NOW) organizes this annual drive to help women in need.
- **Lynn:** Offered to use her porch as a collection point.
- **Deanne:** Suggested confirming with Liz Ellis that she will handle distribution.

• Conclusion

- Collection will take place October 11-18.
- Cash or products can be dropped off at Lynn's porch.

Challenges

- Lynn will confirm with Liz Ellis about distribution logistics.
- Adapting to the new dues structure while maintaining financial stability
- Finding volunteer leaders for new initiatives to avoid overloading current leadership
- Maintaining visibility in the community after losing the college library meeting space
- Ensuring sustained participation in the Observer Corps program
- Coordinating multiple events happening on September 15th (YMCA tabling and planning commission hearing)

Action items

• Patti

- Finalize the budget for approval at the October board meeting
- Send budget documents to all board members
- Meet with Lynn to discuss process for new members and renewals

• Peggy

- Create informational cards about mail-in voting benefits
- Write up information about the civic storytelling project for the journal
- Prepare a simplified version of survey results to share with membership
- Investigate Ed Fund grant opportunities for the storytelling project
- Work with Lynda on Observer Corps structure

• Lynda

- Contact members interested in Observer Corps about the September 15th hearing
- Arrange for a League sign at the Faith Lutheran Church entrance for the September meeting
- Find out the proper name of the church entrance to include in communications

- Contact Sherie Ellington about helping with Speed Dating promotional materials

- **Cheryl**

- Draft a letter to the editor about mail-in voting