

LWVMC General Membership Meeting Minutes September 16, 2025 (attendees updated)

Present – Dee Ann K-P, Lynn B, Amy D, Patti B, Carole W, Linda W, Dorothy O, Gloria Syp, Karen R, Carolyn M, Nancy S, Mark T, Peggy M, Terri Pra, Karen H, Connie S, Cheryl W, Arlene A, Lynn N, Lynda L, Cindy S., Lauren U, Barbara B., Jody H., Margaret N., Terri Pre., Vikki Voss, Sherrie E. (Zoom), Kim D. (guest),

Agenda approved

Minutes of June Annual Meeting approved

Leadership Team Updates

- Amy: Noted email from LWVWA entitled Resisting threats to Democracy is an important advocacy tool for all League members.
- Amy: Announced that the National League is collecting an anthology of poetry. The Media and News Literacy Committee recently sponsored a workshop on critical thinking. A Video of the workshop is now posted on the LWVWA and LWV Mason County website.
- Amy: Noted that on January 20th the Media and News Literacy Committee will put on another workshop titled "Techniques to sway opinion". You can sign up at LWVWA
- Lynn: Commented that despite not meeting during summer, there was significant league activity. 16 people came to the retreat and 40+ people participated in the survey.

Treasurer's Report

Patti presented the financial status of the organization.

- Reported that the checking account balance is \$7,364, the CD balance is \$1,173, and the education funds are \$6,245.
- Noted minor expenditures for printing and some income from membership renewals.
- Explained it will be a transition year financially due to the new membership renewal system.
- Explained the new membership renewal system.
 - Details
- National organization now sends renewal emails directly to members 60, 30, and 0 days before renewal.
- Members now pay National directly, and the local chapter receives a portion back.
- Suggested membership amount is \$75, of which the local chapter receives \$[13.61](#).
- Additional contributions be made as donations rather than dues to ensure more money stays with the local chapter. It is a field that is separate from the renewal field.
- Leadership Team has been working on an email to send to members about the renewal process. If you want to renew online, just type in LWV Member Portal and it will take you directly to the site. You can also pay by check. Information on how to

renew online and by check was passed out. An email with this information will shortly be sent to all members

- Important: The email for renewal will come from membership@lww.org (not one of the LWW email addresses we usually receive email from)
- The Lutheran Church, where we are meeting today accepts donations for the use of the meeting room. We had no charge when we used the college library, but did make a \$200 donation to the college each year. The board will be discussing strategies for raising funds for donation to the church.

Voter Services

Dee Ann and Lynda discussed voter outreach activities.

- Report on a tabling event at the YMCA. The voting booth from 2000 was used to engage people. 15 people took a ballot and "voted"
- Noted challenges with engaging young people who expressed disinterest in politics.

Speed Dating

- Candidate speed dating event on October 10th at the Civic Center has 12 candidates.
- Need League members to sit at tables with citizens and candidates. Contact Lynda Links.
- Zoom sessions are scheduled to develop questions for the candidates. First session is September 18th at 1:30 PM and the 2nd on September 25th at 6:00 PM. ZOOM links will be sent to all members prior to the meetings
- All members are encouraged to attend.

Advocacy

Amy and Peggy

The "Decline to Sign" campaign was presented as a key advocacy effort.

• Details

- I-126 would require all voters to prove citizenship, potentially impacting 3 out of 4 Washingtonians without enhanced driver's licenses and 38% of Washingtonians without a valid passport. Would also apply to women who changed their name when they married.
- Unlike the SAVE Act, this initiative would apply to currently registered voters, not just new registrants.
- Obtaining documentation like passports or marriage certificates is costly and time-consuming.
- Plans to distribute information at Kneeland Park on October 18th during No Kings rally.
- Non-citizen voting is a myth and the current system already ensures only citizens vote.
- Have not seen signature gatherers in Mason County. Request to notify member of the Leadership Team if you see signature gatherers.

Program Planning

Amy

- A meeting is scheduled on October 21st at 11:30 AM at Shelton Timberland Library for members to find their "sweet spot" in the League. Not a ZOOM meeting.
- Very important for volunteers to participate in leading activities and projects.

Observer Corps

Lynda

- Invited everyone to join the Observer Corps by attending meetings of interest in the county. Find something that you feel passionate about and there is a committee or group holding regular meetings.
- Explained that observers don't need to speak, just attend as League representatives and report back.
- Need leaders for Observer Corps to attend commission meetings, school board meetings, sheriff meetings, city council meetings, and port meetings.
- Thank you to Cheryl for compiling a list of public meetings with times, places, dates, and locations.
- You do not have to be an expert, just an observer.

Retreat and Survey

Peggy:

- The survey identified four actions receiving the broadest support: study group on economic health of Mason County, voter education on federal programs, Observer Corps, and federal judiciary study group.
- Important now to find members who are willing to lead groups to study and make recommendations for action.
- Join us at the Shelton Timberland Library on Oct 21
- Request to have information about survey results on the website.

Meeting adjourned at 12pm

PROGRAM: Civic Storytelling Project

Michael Bowman from the Office of the Secretary of State presented the Civic Storytelling Project.

- : Shared that they've recorded 39 stories so far from various locations and are creating animated versions.
- Project aims to record stories about civic participation, civic memory, and civic hopes.
- Proposed two tracks for League participation: oral history of the League and stories of participation in local Mason County governance.
- Story tellers would sign up for 15-30 minute recording sessions using provided prompts.
- Carolyn offered to provide free writing classes to help members prepare their stories.
- Personal stories would be the focus in fall, with broader civic engagement stories in spring.
- Stories would be archived with the Secretary of State's office with the storyteller's consent.
- Funding limit for the project(statewide) is about 100 stories total.

Action items

- **Michael**
 - Send information about the Washington State Standard article featuring 20 auditors discussing vote-by-mail security
- **Patti/Dee Ann** : will find out if early membership renewal resets the renewal date
- **Peggy**
 - Send out information about upcoming storytelling workshops
 - Create a poll for members to indicate their availability for Carolyn's workshops
- **League Members**
 - Participate in the "Decline to Sign" campaign against I-126
 - Consider joining the Observer Corps to attend local government A previous League project was mentioned.
- **Dee Ann**
 - Add survey results to the website.

Amy D adjourned meeting at 1:20pm

Minutes taken via AI