

League of Women Voters of Mason County General Membership Meeting Minutes, May 20, 2025, at Olympic College Shelton Library, Hybrid, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Present In Person: Dee Ann K.P., Lynda L., Brenda H., Steve Duenkel (prospective member), Karen R., Lynn B., Cheryl W., Amy D., Jackie B., Peggy J., Sue U., Ken M., Patti B., Randy N., Jody H., Barbara B. (prospective member), Lauren U. (prospective member), Randy L., Arlene A., Tom D., Lynn N., Peggy H., Terri P., Peggy M., Alisa V., Eileen P.

Present on Line: Dorothy O., Gloria S., Dawn S., Sherie E.

Amy called the meeting to order at 11:35 am.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes from the April 15, 2025 general membership meeting were approved.

Executive and Committee Reports

Leadership Team Amy reported the outcome of President's State LWVWA meeting May 19, 2025. The state convention is in Vancouver, WA, June 6 to 8, 2025. Speakers will include Nick Brown, WA State Attorney General, the LWVUS president on threats to Democracy, Unite and Rise 8.5 project to reach out to communities by August, 2025, Women Defending Democracy.

Treasurer Dee Ann reported a March 31, 2025, checking balance of \$7511.93 including payment of \$579 for Director and Officer insurance. The PMP payment to the national League has not been made. She also reported the CD balance of \$1152.56 and Education Fund balance of \$6120.38. She cautioned we need to watch our expenses even though it seems we have plenty of money. We have a number of expenses pending for the calendar year.

By-Laws Committee Peggy M. led the group through the changes to the By-Laws necessitated by a change to the membership process and further examination of our committee structure. Cheryl W. moved, Lynda L. seconded, and the amended bylaws were unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

Member Services Lynn B. reported 90 members to date. League 101 on April 30, 2025 was attended by 15 new and prospective members in addition to current members giving presentations. As some prospective and new members were unable to attend, there will be another League 101 in the future.

Voter Services Dee Ann reported the first meeting of this season was April 28, 2025. The outline of events was planned, with details to be discussed at later meetings, with Speed Dating in October being the major event. We will attend community events throughout the county and assist at the Auditor's Office near election time. A new project is involvement in the pilot project proposed by Auditor Steve Duenkel and approved by the Secretary of State regarding new information on the return envelope of the ballot to validate voter identity in addition to the

signature. Date of birth, last 4 digits of social security number, and driver's license number are pieces of information to be included in an envelope inside the outer envelope. Citizen participation will design the envelope. The project is scheduled through 2029. One event listed in the events part of the agenda is the Experience Cedar Project May 20, 4:30 to 6:30 pm at Cedar High. The League has been invited to have a voter information table. Eileen and Dee Ann will set up the table. All members are invited to attend.

Advocacy Amy encouraged members to look for notifications of activities and actions to become involved with over the summer. She announced Rural Civic Engagement Workshops conducted through the Secretary of State office in June.

Programs The last program of the year is the annual report meeting and picnic June 24, 2025, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, at Arcadia Fire Hall. Guest speaker is being planned.

Climate Change Committee Lynda reported many bills passed during the current Legislative session, the highlight being the former WRAP act to modernize recycling in the state, particularly plastics. Three league members attended the Governor's bill signing.

She also reported on the continuing presence of League members at the County Commissioners appointed PAC. The last meeting May 19 included climate change. All three League members in attendance spoke to the draft for the planning committee to consider. There were many perspectives brought forward by the community members present. The leader of the committee, Will Harris made sure all who wished to speak, including the high school students from Cedar High, had the opportunity.

Communications Peggy M. reported the announcement of rural civic engagement workshops offered by Michael Bowman, Rural Civic Engagement Specialist, with the Washington Secretary of State. Follow up will be discussed at the retreat.

Nominating Committee Lynda reported leadership officers are still pending. At least one member will run for secretary and treasurer each.

Amy adjourned the business portion of the meeting at 12:03 pm and turned the program over to the panel of presenters from the Mason County Mobile Integrated Health Program. The program coincides with the month of May being Mental Health Awareness month. Presenters were Fire Chief Beau Bakken from North Mason, Abe Gardner, Emergency Prevention Specialist, Kristi Eilers, Mental Health ARNP, and Donna Short, Licensed Practical Nurse. They each spoke of their roles in providing mental health services with the medical services and emergency calls from the fire department, with the plan to keep many patients in their homes instead of transporting them to an emergency room, resulting in cost saving to the county taxpayers and the residents in need of service. Many departments in the state and nation are looking at this program. The panel answered many questions from the audience.

Amy adjourned the meeting at 1:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Perfrement
Secretary
League of Women Voters of Mason County