

LWVMC General Membership Meeting March 19, 2024 Minutes

Present: In Person: Chris M., Francesca R., Lynn B., Randy L., Peggy M., Amy D., Tamra I., Eileen P., Arlene A., Lynn N. (guest), Carole B., Karen H.,
On Zoom: Diana F., Mark T., Theresa J., Pat C.,
For the Presentation in Person: Mary May, Beth McBain, Will Harris

Amy D. called the meeting to order at 11:35 am. Those present introduced themselves.
The agenda was approved.
The minutes were approved.

Executive and Committee Reports

- 1. Leadership Team.** Amy D. gave the Council 2024 Update. LWVMC is co-hosting with Thurston County. May 31 is a tour of the Washington Capitol campus. June 1 and 2 meetings are on the campus of South Puget Sound Community College, Lacey Campus. Registration fee is tentatively \$115, with a lower cost for volunteers to assist. The Saturday program begins with a live reading of the “Untold Story” of women of color in the League. The lunch speaker is Willie Frank, son of Billy Frank Jr. The afternoon Workshops are Tribal Affairs, Ranked Choice Voting, Initiatives, Non-Partisan Myth of right and left, Water Study, Conflict Resolution, Tabling with a Purpose, Lobby Team Outreach, Media Training, Talking with people who don't want to talk to us, Seeing yourself as part of a large organization. Dinner will include a Civics Bowl event. There will be caucuses after dinner. The Sunday program is a facilitated discussion on the League as a Defender of Democracy in the lead up to the 2024 election.
- 2. Treasurer.** Sandy M. left a report with Amy. At the end of February we have \$6642.38. We have 61 members, and our budget is based on 68 members. \$3111 are held to cover National and State dues. The certificate for \$1106.56 will be rolled into another year. The Education Fund has \$4403.97, of which the \$198.71 printing of the TRY brochures and posters will be taken. We needed to reprint more TRY brochures for \$161. There is an outstanding invoice of \$686 for D&O insurance.
- 3. Member Services.** Lynn B. reported 61 members.
- 4. Voter Services.** Dee Ann K. left a report with Amy. The Voter Services committee will begin meeting again April 29, 2024 at 10:00 am on Zoom. The planning for 2024 election activities including voter registration and candidate events will begin. All LWVMC members are invited to participate, and a Zoom link will be sent to all.
- 5. Advocacy.** Amy reported on the Legislative Action Newsletter ACT Legislative updates. Three of six initiatives that made it to the floor of the Legislature will appear on the ballot: Repeal of the Capital Gains Tax, Long Term Care, and Climate Commitment Act. There are five Legislative Districts around Yakima that will need to be redrawn after the last redistricting. Five legislators are not living in the redrawn districts.
- 6. Programs.** Lynn B. reported the April 16 general meeting will include a panel of four college administrators to discuss College Access. Sandra Kaiser, Director for Government Relations at The Evergreen State College, will discuss “Evergreen Promise” funds from the Legislature to support Shelton School District students through four years of college. Riva Villa, Director of Upward Bound: Shelton, will discuss a federal grant to promote a pipeline to college and retention. Dr. Lori Thompson, ESD Consortium for Student Success, will discuss the

dropout reengagement program. Carmen Hoover, Olympic College Shelton, will discuss program offerings. 70% of family wage jobs in WA require a post-secondary credential, but only 31% of Shelton School District students are attending college, compared to 65% in Olympia School District. The panel will cover issues such as readiness to learn and student debt and what is being done to help Mason County college students be successful.

The May 21 meeting is still in planning.

7. Climate Change Committee. Francesca R. spoke on the meeting with the consulting group working with the city commissioners. The concern was that the questions directing the interviews with community leaders did not include the Climate Resiliency Act. It was explained as not being included in the last update, and will be included in Hazard Plan. Peggy M. reported the League will be included in the planning process next meeting with Planning Commission is April 15, and the League is included. Amy D. mentioned a great book, "The Heat Will Kill You First." The DNR land on Harstine Island is on hold for now.

8. Communications. Peggy M. announced the LWVMC Facebook page is growing with 368 followers. There is a technical glitch on posting graphics with text, but is working on it. Peggy M. is preparing a survey to all members which should be sent in about a month.

New Business-Nominating Committee

Lynda Links is chairing. The current treasurer Sandy M. and secretary Eileen P. have agreed to run again. The nominating committee is looking for leadership team and committee chairs.

The business meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm. Amy D. turned the meeting over to Colleen Carmichael, Executive Director of Quixote Communities, to present her program on "Housing Hurdles", challenges in housing the poor and homeless of Mason County.

The community members who joined the meeting for the program introduced themselves, and Colleen Carmichael gave her power point presentation and answered many questions. The audience was engaged in the topic.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen P.
Secretary
LWVMC