

League of Women Voters General Meeting ZOOM
November 16, 2021
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

1.0 Call to Order

Cheryl W Called meeting to order @ 11:30 am

Attendees: Cheryl W (Chair)/ Katrinka H (Presenter) /Amy D / Brenda H / Carol B / Cindy S / Constance S / Dee Ann K / Eileen P / Francecsa R / Jonnel A / Karen H / Kathy B / Linda L / Lynn B / Mac Mc / Mariah R / Michelle B / Nancy S / Pat C /Randy L (Minutes) / Sandy M

Guests: William Baynum – Guest presenter / Dedrick Allen Masonwebtv / Jim Findley

2.0 Approval of Agenda

No Additions or changes

Two separate recordings: (1) Business meeting (2) Program

Cindy S – Reminder of Zoom etiquette

Lynda M Move agenda approval / Cindy S Second / Unanimous approval

3.0 Approval of Minutes

3.1 General Membership Meeting, October 19, 2021

Nancy S Move minutes approval / Pat C Second / Unanimous approval

4.0 Board Reports

4.1 President's Report

Cheryl W – No Report

From Lynn B: "Mark Your 2022 Calendars: The next statewide LWV-WA Council, from June 10-12, 2022, will be held in person at a venue in either Snohomish or Skagit Counties. Titled "Re-connect, Restore and Renew", the Council will focus on two tracks: current political issues and League management. Stay tuned!"

4.2 Secretary's Report

Jonnel A – If discussion in meeting not clear, ask President to clarify

4.3 Treasurer's Report

Pat C – 40 members paid dues to date/ Need to remind members to pay dues

\$5,618.26 balance + dues to be paid

\$740 in education fund including \$300 anonymous donation

Updating TRY brochure – Tribe elections in the spring

4.4 Voter Services Committee

Cindy S praised Eileen P and Cheryl W (& Daughter AB) for recent sign waving
Sign waving well received by community
Final Count for elections coming soon
Voter participation in MC better than other counties
Amy – Time to talk about cyber security
Meeting Nov 18 11:30 -> 3:30 Security and Misinformation
Dee-Ann – Meeting information is on website
Unfortunately conflicts with CCC meeting

4.5 Program Committee

Amy D – Law Enforcement guests at Jan 18 meeting
Talk about sustainable jail
Discussion over scheduled Dec 21st meeting – push back date?
Perhaps joint meeting with Thurston County planning an in-person party
Lynn B likes the idea – head count of those in town on the 21st
Amy D – Advocacy – Neighborhood Hosts? Send ideas to Amy D and Lynn B
Action workshop on Dec 4 / upcoming legislation / details on State website

4.6 Member Services Committee

Membership Committee Report submitted by Cindy Shotts

Neighborhood gatherings this fall identified increasing our Observer Corps as a priority. The Membership Committee will hold a “Zoomstorm” meeting at Noon, Friday, Nov. 19 with board members to brainstorm ideas for observer corps. Members who will be invited to give input are Brenda H., Rosalyn R., Carole B., Jean and Tom F., Paddy M., Karen H. An agenda and zoom link will be emailed next week.

Idea for theme for observer corps---“Defending Democracy Begins in Our Home Town.” The committee will use the results to plan a reasonable and doable timeline to implement the ideas such as small group training offerings, a system for members to sign-up for specific meetings, format for what to look for, etc. Observing local government provides excellent opportunities for members to engage with elected officials, learn about how government works, and to make reports to other members and the public.

The committee is sending emails and letters to inform members of coming LWVMC activities and to remind members to renew their membership and get dues paid.

4.7 Climate Change Committee

Nancy S – Planning and Strategy meeting Dec 2nd

4.8 Observer Corps

Lynda L – Looking forward to meeting Friday

(Cindy S Observer Corps “Zoomstorm” described above)

Amy D - Question about City perhaps replacing fleet of cars

4.9 Centennial Committee

Cindy S – No report

5.0 Upcoming Events

5.1 LWV Board Meeting Friday December 3, 2021 12:30 – 2:30 ZOOM

5.2 LWV Virtual Action Workshop Saturday December 4, 2021. See lwvwa.org for registration- Amy D – Q/A with legislators – breakout rooms

Karen H – “Can pick and choose” topics – do not need to attend all day

5.3 LWV General Meeting December 21, 2021, 11:30 – 1:30 ZOOM

5.4 USC Election Cybersecurity Initiative November 18, 2021. Details and registration info on State website - Conflicts with CCC meeting

6.0. Program

Emergency/ Disaster Risk Preparedness

Katrinka H introduced William Baynum, Mason County Emergency Management Officer

Katrinka H’s cousin is Chief in one of the fire districts

Katrinka H presented her prepared slide show

William B – issue keeping volunteers due to the Vaccine mandate - “should not force people”

Mandate reducing ability to respond effectively - volunteer numbers reduced more than paid staff

Dedicated volunteers are often called in after work hours on their “day job”

Extensive training – not just in WA State

Map of MC Fire Districts – Shelton / Grapeview / Allan / Hoodsport / Grapeview / North Mason etc.

All districts help each other – Central Mason is a hub / Example during flooding in Skokomish valley

Work with other entities for example Puds/ WSP / City of Shelton / Tribes

If phone lines down use alternatives such as ham radios

Katrina H – Prepare for “two weeks ready” if isolated / There are 20 bridges in M.C.

Alternatives such as helicopter drops on Harstine island

William B – Funding including for his position depends on grants “scary” situation year to year

Only two people in the County in his department – less than for other counties

Amy D – Upcoming County Budget hearings in Dec 9 / William B – His position funded until 12/31/21

Urges individuals to prepare their communities – useful link:

<https://mil.wa.gov/map-your-neighborhood>

Katrinka H – Establish leadership teams / Combine with LWVMC existing neighborhood meetings?

Ways to prepare: Get to know neighbors

Identify doctors (including retired) in neighborhood / people with other skill sets such as electricians

Create contact lists / phone, email / Document children, pets / Is everyone out of the house?

Urban neighborhood about 20 houses / Rural neighborhood perhaps 5 houses

Create “defensive spaces” and “buffer zones” / Fireside website

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

Washington State Military Department (WSMD) continuous updating

William B – Plan for adverse contingencies /C.E.R.T. program/

William B conducts classes / Meets Fri 6pm -> 8pm, Sat 8am -> 5pm / Advance class Sun 8am -> 5pm

First aid priorities – stop bleeding then splints, etc.

William B - FEMA rule 15 people form committee

Kathy B – There is a “DART” equestrian team that tracks horses / In general animals in Matlock

Dee-Ann K – Are there funds available – William B Not sure but should check on it

Katrinka H – Funding had been made available for equipment for volunteer fire fighters

Amy D – When do fire districts hold meetings?

Dee Ann – Boundaries for fire districts?

(MC Fire District Map can be seen at: https://masoncountywa.gov/gis/maps/Fire_Districts_36x36.pdf)

William B – Each Fire District has its own board

Lynda L – How to recruit volunteers?

William B – Start with schools / Booths / Students can help! / As a student volunteer he rolled hoses

First priority is to protect people / Processes always improving / Landslides are an issue with record rain

Amy D – Prepare for earthquakes / Funding available?

Amy D – Good idea to map neighborhoods / How easy to get information?

William B – Signs / Knock on doors / Distribute flyers / All kinds of info at Fire Dept

Nancy S – Climate Change tied into disaster preparedness

William B – Covid a public health issue / Mental Health issues - Fire Dept staff burnout / Staff reductions

Reclassify covid as an endemic not a pandemic

Kath B – During Nisqually earthquake cell phones not useful

Karen H – Agreement with Grays Harbor County to assist each other with elections during emergencies

Provides peace of mind

Constance S – CBS program / During outage, houses with solar panels provided neighborhood electricity
Businesses & Community centers provide air conditioning during heat waves

Cindy S – Does County and City have plans? / Cooperate with each other?

William B – County does have a plan / Makes sure no overlap of resources with schools, tribes, etc.

“Continuity of Government” plans / Succession planning etc.

Cindy S – How is public informed? / Macecom, social media / PIO = Public Information Officer

7.0 Adjournment

Cheryl W – Adjourned meeting at 1:30 pm

Cheryl W provided the links below in Chat during the meeting:

Link to what they teach in CERT - https://masoncountywa.gov/forms/dem/CERT_training.pdf

Link for Defensible Space -

<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/firewise#:~:text=Washington%20Firewise%20DNR%20works%20with%20local%20fire%20districts%2C,encourages%20homeowners%20and%20communities%20to%20prepare%20for%20wildfire.>