

League of Women Voters of Mason County Membership Meeting

11:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Johnson Library, Olympic College, Shelton, WA

Attendance: 23 members; 4 guests

Call to Order: Ruby B. called the meeting to order at 11:30 am

Business Meeting

- Secretary's Report – Minutes from the Nov. 2015 Membership Meeting were approved.
- Treasurer's Report – Pat C. gave the Treasurer's Report. The current balance is 3227.27 with 29 members paid up.
- Membership Services – Nancy M. and Lynn B. If you need a nametag, contact Nancy or Lynn.
- Voter Services – Michelle B: Bobbie S. ,Michelle B & Ellen S. are seeking a few more MCLWV members interested in helping with the Youth Voter Registration Project, a national LWV initiative. This involves going into the schools and connecting with students who will turn 18 in the next few months. So far, Ellen S. and her daughter have volunteered.
- Programs – Lynda L and Amy C
February – Gwen Gadberry: **Children's Social Services & ALEC**. Alex Apostle, Superintendent of Shelton Public Schools, will speak on the state of Shelton's schools.
March – Pat Vandehey will report on **Air Quality in Mason County**.
April – Possible presentation of **Commission vs. Council as form of local government**
May – **Voting Rights and ALEC**
- National LWV Study "Money in Politics" – Pat C and Jeanette B. This consensus study has concluded & will be submitted to the National League. If you're interested in a summary, contact Pat C. It is also available on our website lwvmasoncounty.org , under 'Study Groups.' All members are encouraged to get involved in this interesting process in which members research specific topics and come to a consensus.
- TRY Brochures – Pat C and Jeanette B. Our vital publication, the TRY brochure, is ready for printing. Jeanette B moved to ask Nancy M to print the brochure, Amy D seconded & the motion passed. Linda A is also assisting with layout, etc.
- Action Workshop: Amy D reported on the successful Dec. Action Workshop. Attendees learned about legislative processes in Olympia, how lobbying works and how League members can best advocate for our positions. Robin Zukowski's presentation on economic justice was well received. A Clallam County league member commented that the event justified her long drive.
- Commission Watch – Ruby B. passed around a sheet for members to sign-up to attend Tuesday Mason County Commissioners' meetings. Contact Ruby if you would like to volunteer.

- December Field trip report – Ruby B. summarized the Dec. 17th field trip to the Women’s Correctional Center at Purdy. Ruby is preparing a report which she plans to submit to the State League publication, *Voter*. She will also send a copy to our tour guides. She commented that everyone found the trip to be very worthwhile.
- Announcements
Sandra H & Michelle B. will present a program for the Shelton Kiwanis on the history and activities of the LWV on 1/26/16.
Sue Hughes will find another Membership & Leadership Development Coach for our League chapter.
There is an upcoming meeting on Jan. 18th on the subject of Veterans & homelessness in Mason County at Mason Co. Public Works bldg. Note that 12% of Mason County’s homeless population is composed of veterans.
Legislative Session Opened January 11. Our lobby team member is Amy D. Check out the article in the latest *This Week in the League*. Any league member not receiving this publication should email Jennifer with the State League at info@LWVWA.org

“This Changes Everything” a documentary on climate change based on the book by Naomi Klein will be shown at North Thurston HS on January 31 at 1:30.

PROGRAM: “Modern Day Debtors’ Prison and Legal Financial Obligations”

Speakers **Jennifer Serafin**, Public Defender for both Thurston & Mason Counties and **Leslie Owen** from the **Northwest Justice Project** presented a program on the cycle of poverty and debt. In a system where few are served, this vicious circle often begins with unpaid minor fines which, when sent to collection, escalate dramatically and can end with incarceration and lifelong debt.

Adjournment: Ruby B. moved to adjourn at 1:20 p.m.

Submitted, Norma B.