

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASON COUNTY
Membership Meeting Minutes November 20, 2018
Johnson Library, Olympic College, Shelton, WA 98584

CALL TO ORDER: President Cindy S. called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. and welcomed guest speaker Karen Fraser, retired WA State Legislator. Members and guests introduced themselves.

REPORTS:

Secretaries: Michelle, Norma, Esther – Pat C. moved to approve the minutes from the October LWVMC membership meeting; Joanne B. seconded. Motion passed.

President: Cindy S. reported that she recently had breakfast with Pioneer Kiwanis Club and spoke on “The Culture of Voting.” She expressed a willingness to provide this program for more organizations, and suggested that members make that known to other groups they participate in. She called attention to Mason County statistics for the recent mid-term election: 28,027 ballots were received from 39,191 registered voters; voter turnout reached 71.51%, up from 59.5% in the 2014 midterm election. She also reviewed Take Action steps formulated at last month’s meeting and asked for a show of hands by members, confirming their actions.

Vice Presidents: No report.

Treasurer: Pat C. reminded members that dues for 2019 are payable and circulated an envelope for payments. She reported the current bank balance is \$3940.10. She also promoted our VOTE cards, which sell for \$10 for 5 cards.

Program: Lynda L. announced upcoming programs for membership meetings:

- **December 18, 2018:** General Membership Luncheon at Salish Cliffs Golf Course Clubhouse. **(NOTE: location later changed to Sister’s Restaurant).** Lunch at 11:30, followed by discussion of the book Democracy in Chains by Nancy MacLean.
- **January 15, 2019:** Mason County Budget Study Update: Budget Study Committee members will report, including questions & discussion. County Commissioners have been invited to comment on their vision for the future of Mason County.
- **February 19, 2019:** Climate Change: John Bolender, District Manager, Mason Conservation District will speak on the effects of climate change & Mason County environs, specifically on the future of our forests, forestry and wildfires.
- **March 19, 2019:** discussion on Climate Change, program TBD.
- **April 2019:** Meeting topic, venue, & time TBD. In an effort to attract people who are unable to come to weekday meetings, Connie Simpson will do a poll on whether this meeting should be held in the evening.

Voter Services/Vote Local Committee: Cindy S. announced that a Voter Services Committee is being organized. Those interested were asked to meet immediately after adjournment today to set a date for the first meeting.

Member Services: Lynn B. announced that a successful new member orientation, “League 101”, was held 3 weeks ago, and another will be held in late February or March.

Commission Watch: Cheryl W. & Dee Ann K. reported on their observation of County Commission meetings this month.

NEW BUSINESS: Connie S. gave information regarding the December luncheon. A limited silent auction will be held as a fundraiser. She, Joanne B & Lynn B will each bring 2 baskets for bidding by those in attendance. Everyone was encouraged to bring cash or check for payment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Amy D. attended a town hall meeting in Olympia during which Reps. Laurie Dolan & Beth Doglio, from District 22, discussed a vision for the year's activities. Issues that will be coming up before the legislature include education, mental health, housing, fossil fuel, and capital gains tax. Civil Discourse was briefly mentioned as an outcome of the Civics bill passed last year. The Representatives were hopeful that when students get basic knowledge of civics, civil discourse in the schools may lead to the possibility of deeper thinking even through disagreement.

Sandra H. called attention to Democracy Day, sponsored by LWVWA, February 21, 2019, at the Capitol Campus in Olympia.

Cheryl W. recently received training regarding changes in income tax preparation for 2019 and indicated her willingness to present to interested groups.

PROGRAM: Karen Fraser, former Washington State Senator, spoke on **"What the Legislature Can't Do"**, discussing the four categories of government: federal, state, tribal & local, and emphasizing that the public is protected through the legislative process. However, oversight and enforcement at all levels rely, many times, on the participation of the voter. Appropriate and effective ways for registered voters to exert influence over elected officials were discussed with those in attendance.

TAKE ACTION: Cindy S. reminded members of ways we can take action during the next month: practice civility during Thanksgiving celebrations; read "Democracy in Chains"; attend "Climate Justice" (Elevate Mason County) December 13 6-7:30 p.m. at Shelton Fire Department, 2nd & Franklin Streets; participate in Commission Watch on Tuesdays or briefings on Mondays; attend LWVWC board meeting December 7 12:30 at Shelton Library.

CALENDAR:

December:

7: Board Meeting 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Shelton Library

18: Membership Luncheon & Silent Auction 11:30 at Sisters Restaurant

January:

4: Board Meeting 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Shelton Library

12: LWVWA Action Workshop on Climate Change & Environmental Issues, Shoreline

15: Membership Meeting: 11:30 to 1:30, Olympic College

19: Women's March

February

21: Democracy Day, State Capitol Campus, Olympia

ADJOURNMENT: Michelle B move to adjourn, Joanne B seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: 17 members, 8 guests, 1 press/media member, 1 presenter

Respectfully submitted by Esther R, Co-Secretary

