

League of women Voters of Mason County
Membership Meeting
February 16, 2016
Olympic College, Johnson Library
Minutes

President Ruby Bailey called the meeting to order at 11:30 am & those present introduced themselves.

Attendance: 19 members, 4 guests

BUSINESS MEETING

Secretary's Report – Minutes from the January 2016 Membership were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Pat C gave the Treasurer's Report. The current balance is \$3347.55 with 31 paid members. A donation of \$100 was paid to Olympia College for use of the meeting room.

Member Services – Nancy M reported that she sent letters in January to members who have not paid and has received some response. She showed a flyer she is developing, which can be sent to guests, and a business card which can be given potential guests or members. Lynn B is focusing on recruiting, inviting guests to attend meetings to see if LWV is a good fit for them.

Voter Services – Bobbi S reported that she and Michelle B met with Josh Parker, civics teacher at Shelton HS and found him very cooperative re the Young Voters Registration Project. About ½ of the students are already registered. Help is needed to develop an information sheet re who is eligible to vote, with sensitivity to issues such as homelessness, non citizens, felony history, etc. Volunteers are needed when the project is scheduled –either the last week in March or the second week in April. It was suggested students be given TRY brochures. Nancy M suggested adding Josh P to our email list and pointed out that attention also needs to be given to urging students to not only register, but actually vote.

TRY Brochures – Nancy M, Pat C, Jeanette G. In light of the above suggestion, 100 more brochures will be printed.

PROGRAMS – Lynda L. and Amy C.

March - Human Trafficking. Speaker pending

April – Panel Presentation on Commission Vs. Council as form of local Government

May – History of voting rights and ALEC presented by Pat C. and Trans-Pacific Partnership and ALEC, Nancy M presenting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cheryl Williams, AARP Tax Aid Representative, announced that tax help is offered free at Belfair Library on Tuesdays 1-4pm, Shelton Library on Saturdays 10am-3pm, and the Senior Center on Wednesdays 10am-3pm.

Lobby Team – Amy D urged members to read the LWV Legislative newsletter, which is sent by email weekly to summarize current issues before the legislature and invites readers to contact their legislators and committee members. Currently public school funding is under consideration, including funding for charter schools. Anyone not receiving the newsletter should contact jbrown@LWVWA.org or call the State LWV office: [\(206\)622-9061](tel:(206)622-9061) to make sure their email address is correct.

Commission Watch -Ruby B circulated a sign up sheet for attending county commission meetings representing LWVMC.

KIWANIS PRESENTATION – Sandra H presented a power point history of LWV, which she and Michelle B recently presented to the Shelton Kiwanis Club. This led into a cupcake celebration of the League’s 96th Birthday. Ruby B read a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt, who served as Vice President for Legislative Affairs of LWV, monitoring federal legislation and hearings in Congress: “I always found that the best workers in a political party frequently are graduates of LWV.”

PROGRAM - Superintendent of Shelton Public Schools, Alex Apostle spoke on “Graduation Matters”, a community-wide effort the district has adopted to keep students in school, and for those who have discontinued their education, to promote academic reentry with high school completion. He stressed the importance of each student graduating from high school in today’s world, and the necessity of support from the entire community for 100% graduation. Answering questions from those present, he described the goals, action steps and plans for developing strategies to motivate, inspire, and excite students to come to school, and to engender hope for what they want to do after graduation. Current overall graduation rate is 74%; dropout rate to this point in this school year is 4.4%.

Adjournment: Ruby B moved to adjourn at 1:30 pm.