

League of Women Voters of Mason County Membership Meeting
11:30 - 1:30 PM, April 16, 2019; Harmony Hill Retreat Center, Union, WA 98592
MINUTES

Call to order; Welcome and introductions: President Cindy S. called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m. and welcomed members, guests & speakers. She referred to the mission of the League to empower voters and defend democracy, and challenged us to think about ourselves as voters; why we vote, and reasons why others do not engage in the process.

Business Meeting Reports:

Secretary: Cheryl W. moved to approve the minutes as presented; Joanne B. seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Pat C. reported a current balance of \$5099.76, minus a check for \$36.00 she had just written. A bill has been received from the state LWV for \$700 in dues. She reminded all that Vote note cards are available, 5 for \$10 and that the Donation Boot continues to gather donations for education projects.

Nominating Committee: Lynn B. presented the proposed slate of officers for 2019-20: President: Cindy Shotts; Vice Presidents: Bobbie S, Sandy P; Treasurer: Pat C., Dee Ann K. back-up; Co-secretaries: Jenn D., Jonnel A., Polly H. Amy D. moved to accept the slate, with possible additions, Arlene A. seconded.

Member Services: Lynn B. asked for volunteers for a 3 person team for the Spell-e-bration fundraiser for Sound Learning May 10 at the Civic Center. The team will be called "Suffer Jets", and members will dress in period costumes; all are encouraged to come support our team.

Volunteers are also needed for next year: 2 Voter Services Chairs, Newsletter & Website Editors, Photographer, Planning Committee for Community Celebration of Anniversary of 19th Amendment, Climate Change Action Team, and League of Readers Committee.

League 101 will be held in the fall, date TBA.

Voter Services: Bobbie s. reported that young voter registration at North Mason HS has been held & will be scheduled soon at Shelton HS. Cindy S. drew attention to sign up sheets on tables for voter education opportunities at various events in the county and displayed a Voter Registration Guide which is now available for volunteers to use in assisting people with registration. An experienced member will be present with new volunteers.

Lobby Team: Amy D. reminded us of the Legislative Newsletter, available on line, and urged everyone to click on Action Alerts. Anyone who is interested & not currently receiving the Newsletter may contact Amy D. The current session is set to end April 29. The league is supporting Initiative 1000, to reinstate Affirmative Action.

Programs: Lynda L. announced the program for next month, May 21: **Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System--PUD3 at 6:00 PM.** Speakers will be: Jim Madsen, Juvenile Probation Supervisor; Marilyn Roberts, President of National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI); Abe Gardner, Mason County Community Services Outreach; & Mark Freedman, Director of Thurston Mason behavioral Health Organization (TMBHO). Volunteers are requested to arrive between 5:15 & 5:30 to help set up. June 11: **Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon --Harmony Hill, 11:30 AM** . We will discuss the book "The Uninhabitable Earth" by David Wallace-Wells. Members were encouraged to read & share other books about climate change as well.

Program: Free, Fair, and Accessible Elections---Paddy McGuire, Mason County Auditor presented reassuring evidence of the ways in which Mason County assures protection of ballots and elections, and outlined challenges facing his department as we look for secure ways to use electronic methods for voting and managing ballots.

The Census and Redistricting---Alison McCaffree, LWVWA Redistricting Issue Chair provided an informative review of the importance of an accurate census to insure fair representation, and the complex process of redrawing legislative districts. She identified Calls for Action for League members for the 2020 census & redistricting projects: (see next page)

Census -

1. Support funding from State Government to do outreach & communication - contact your state legislators today.
2. Develop strategies for outreach to hard to reach communities
3. Create language & materials to help spread the word and combat fear.
4. Organize in your community to distribute Census materials

Redistricting -

1. Support Current 2019 Session Bills - Support 5287 which places prisons in their home districts
2. Support greater transparency & public input in the redistricting process - bills in 2020 session
3. Organize to vet candidates and influence choice of commissioners to be more diverse
4. Support a state constitutional amendment to add citizen commissioners that are not Ds or Rs.
5. Maps: use technical skill or local knowledge to help make the maps.

Take Action: Cindy S. encouraged us to Take Action this month in these ways:

Contact legislators using the Legislative Newsletter that comes out every Sunday.

Register for the LWVWA Convention: June 6-9 at the Murano Hotel, Tacoma, Early Bird registration deadline is May 16. \$240; \$290 after that.

Read "The Uninhabitable Earth" by David Wallace-Wells &/or other books about Climate Change

Participate in a rally, register voters, get involved with activities in the calendar!

Donate at the May meeting to provide needed feminine products for homeless women and teens in our community. See the note below.

Calendar Announcements

April 23: Workshop for candidates, 5:50 PM, Mason County Administration Bldg., 411, N. 5th, Shelton
May

- 1: Immigrants and Workers Rally, 5 PM, Kneeland Park, Shelton
- 3: Board meeting, 12:30 PM, Shelton Library
- 11: Belfair Saturday Market--Voter Ed table, Belfair Elementary School
- 16: Early Bird Registration for Convention ends
- 21: Membership meeting, 6 PM, PUD3 Building,
- 31: Board meeting, 12:30 PM, Shelton Library

June

- 6-9th: LWVWA Convention; the Murano Hotel in Tacoma
- 11: Annual Meeting and Luncheon, 11:30 AM; Harmony Hill
- 15: Shelton Farmers Market-- Voter Ed table, Kneeland Park, Shelton
- 22: Salmon Center Music---Voter Ed table, Belfair Salmon Center

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Attendance: 27 members, 12 visitors, 2 speakers, 1 press. Respectfully submitted by Esther R.

A note from Gretchen Stewart about her local project to provide feminine products for homeless women and teens in our community: *Hidden from view are so many woman and teens who are homeless. My goal is to serve them in a most basic manner by providing a small comfort we may all have taken for granted our entire lives. I hope to bestow them with confidence and dignity during their monthly menstrual cycles by providing feminine products. If everyone donated just one box of pads and/or tampons every month we could serve the hundreds that are on the street or at domestic violence centers, and the teens who are couch surfing just to survive.*

Can you join me? I am willing to work with a group to pick up and deliver any donations