

THE LWV MASON COUNTY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING:

Working from guidelines that the LWV Study Group on Citizen Advisory Boards had submitted to the county commissioners, the BOCC has come out with their "Mason County Boards and Commissions Handbook".

The LWV Study Group had made the recommendation that all appointees receive training about the Open Public Meetings Act, the Appearance of Fairness Doctrine, and Conflict of Interest procedures. We have learned that there will be a training session in May 2012, for county staff and advisory board members,

As was suggested by the Study Group, the BOCC is asking all advisory boards to adopt by-laws.

There was also concern expressed regarding the county website. The Study Group thought it was very important that all county advisory groups be listed on the site and that they should provide a link to specific, regularly updated information about the group including announcements about up-coming meetings, as well as agendas and minutes for all meetings. The BOCC assures us that improvements to the county website are being made, and that staff has been asked to post meeting agendas, minutes, and by-laws on the website along with any other pertinent information.

The entire process demonstrates that citizens and elected officials can work together to improve the community, that they can unite to further a common goal. This is in keeping with the principles of the League of Women Voters, to inform the public and to take necessary steps to improve social policy and responsible local government.

We wish to commend the Board of County Commissioners for their attention to this issue and their cooperation in improving the viability of the county Citizen Advisory Boards.

A link to a copy of the handbook is listed below