

League of Women Voters of Skagit County
May 2, 2020 via Zoom
Annual Meeting

Members attending: Wende Sanderson, Ed and Mary Ellen West, Margaret Colony, Britt Wisnieski, Carol Sullivan, Don Wick, Doris Brevoort, Edwyna Spiegel, Kathryn Longfellow, Lory Lawson, Patti Santangelo, Paula Young, Steve and Nancy Johnson, Kathy Reim, Mary Jane Golden, Trena Berton, Barbara Carson and Barbara Robinson.

Welcome and check in: Wende had each speak to how they are doing and give a positive.

Definition and acknowledgement of Quorum: Discussion of how many are attending and how we meet the quorum when voting.

Minutes from April 4th meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Lory presented the report which had been emailed prior to the meeting:

Cash on hand: \$2,248.01
LWV WA Ed. Fund: \$697.34
Petty Cash: \$37.29
Total: \$2,982.64
After liabilities listed: \$2,874.05

Census: On May 2, 2020 we have 35 individual members with 3 household memberships totaling 38 members.

Membership Report: Carol Sullivan suggested we need to find a way to reach more young people when building our membership. She felt that we need to research what young people would need to make our league a place that they would feel welcome and encouraged to join. We also need to talk about the dues structure to see if that is an impediment to younger members joining. Wende mentioned that this might mean a change in the by-laws. Wende reminded us that we are planning to work on updating the by-laws this coming year.

Presidents Report: Wende presented written highlights of 2019:

1. Civil Discourse Across the Aisle with Rep. Norma Smith and Rep. Dave Paul.
2. Actions packed visit of the Secretary of State Kim Wyman
3. Issue Briefing with the schools on Homelessness Impact on Students.
4. Co-sponsorship of "No Place Like Home" A play giving voice to the local homeless residents at the Lincoln Theater.
5. Three forums in September and October

6. “What to Expect with the 2020 Election” with the County Auditor Sandy Perkins and Elections Supervisor David Cunningham. There was a snow issue so attendance was low. A broadcast made it accessible to the public.
7. “WE Ignite” the League participated providing two discussion panels. One: “How to Choose Who to Vote for” and second: “What do you do if you want to run for Office.”

There are results since becoming well known in the valley and beyond. Contacts are now being made to us about current events in our area. Increased visibility and appreciation increases our need to be sure we focus on our purpose and mission:

The LWV of Skagit County is a registered non-profit, non-partisan political organization. We encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League acts in support of, or in opposition to, selected governmental issues which its members have studied. We do not endorse candidates or political parties. Our mission is to **Empower Voters and Defend Democracy** and we welcome women and men who share our mission to join as members.

Slate of Officers/ Nominations from the floor: Margaret Colony presented the list of new and returning officers and chairs. Lory added that Mary Jane Golden was no longer a candidate for the Program Services committee chair. Margaret made a motion to unanimously vote to accept the following officers. Wende Sanderson as President/Chair; Ed West as Vice President/Chair; Lory Lawson as Treasurer; Kathryn Longfellow as Secretary; Kathy Reim as Voter Service Chair; Carol Sullivan as Membership Chair. After discussion, a vote was taken and the above were unanimously accepted. There were no nominations from the floor for the Program committee chair.

Wende mentioned that we need to discuss and explain how the Program committee and the Voter Services Committee are related and are different and to continue to seek ways to fill the open Program Committee chair position

Voter Services Activities Report: Kathy Reim spoke to the plans for the upcoming forums. Due to the virus issues she is researching effective methods of posting the / Candidates forums online. Using social media she feels that we may reach more people. We also can partner with more groups. The next step means reaching out to other League groups, perhaps city offices, and others that have experience in this mode of communication. Kathy invited any members with ideas or resources to contact her. She also asked members to join this effort.

After the filing dates close (May 11 – 15) the committee will begin to sort through the races and begin to make choices of who and what races to have in the forums. The next **Voter Services Committee meeting is May 27th at 1 p.m.**

Program Committee events already planned:

- June 8th Fair Vote WA Alternative Voting Methods online. Carol Sullivan has information if you need the details.
- August 22nd “Courage in Corsets” film to commemorate the 100th birthday of Women's Voting. This is to be at the Burlington Library if possible. If not there are thoughts of holding this film discussion online after viewing in a different way. Mary Jane Golden has information on this event.
- On going Civics Education discussions are being held each Monday at 11 AM. Currently we are studying the amendments to the US Constitution. Contact Wende for more information.
- Suggested topics for future events:
 - Education forum on Hospital Districts, how they work and what they mean.
 - Getting through the Noise when voting on candidates and issues-separating Myth vs Fact
 - What about our system on Health Care especially in view of the virus issues—how well is the system working for Skagitonians?
- Early 20-21 events:
 - WE Ignite in February;
 - Participation in Speak Up Schools (with Snohomish League in Jan/Feb.)

Parking lot items:

State Council meeting Friday May 29th Register online for this event. The cost is \$19.

You get a mask plus entry into many important and interesting items.

Barbara Robinson suggested members giving friends or family members a League membership for a year as a gift. Also suggested we target younger people using a scholarship to encourage a new member. Perhaps a fund raiser could raise \$ for this idea.

Kathy Reim offered using a sliding scale to make it affordable to encourage attendees to the WE Ignite event coming up in the new year.

Meeting adjourned at noon.

Barbara Robinson Secretary.