

6-24-21 SGGL General Membership Notes – 7:00 p.m.

Candidate Help Questionnaire – 22 folks have signed up. If anyone else wants to help, they can fill out the questionnaire on our website or facebook or go directly to the candidate websites. This survey will be sent out again. Bruce said he has not been in direct touch other than at the demonstration. Kathy had a coffee talk. Candidates are refining their websites and building teams. Suggests holding coffee talks. Especially if one is scheduled and one of the team members invites others who don't know the candidate – that is helpful, as is introducing the candidates to involved community members. This is a good time to be gathering endorsements.

Postcards – We're getting ready to send out 3,000+ postcards and have 58 volunteers.

Meet the candidates sessions – we will be participating in the LWV forums.

LTE Campaign – Need volunteers to write letters; we're working on templates and topics. Candace introduced Judith Parker who will be helping create letter writing templates that people can use to create their own LTEs.

Good Governance historical "database" – we will post to the SGGL page and share to the group a solicitation to submit entries with dates to be added. This will be important as we get very near the election so that it does not get forgotten. These can be incorporated into the LTEs. Karen reported she and Marsha have been working on documenting violations and creating venues for responding via multiple channels and having a watchdog "squad". Marsha asked if the observer reports can be shared from LWV. Candace will look into this.

Government meeting monitoring – We encourage folks to attend and report on what occurred.

No racism in Sequim? Lots going on: 6/12 Blondie's Plate incident; June 14 Council decision to stop all equity work. Virginia shared that she saw the video from the employee at Blondies trying to justify the actions. It seems like a parking space issue isn't significant to be this awful. Steve guessed there wasn't a direct connection between the 12th and 14th but that there is a cultural phenomena that it is OK to be an a**hole and long before the incident the owner of Blondie's has a reputation that precedes him. Bruce commented that he agrees about the role of SGGL but that there are other racist incidents that take place every day and this one happened to be fairly public and there was a bit of judge and jury. When he thinks of good governance there needs to be confidence in local agencies and enforcement. People will use social media to react. That reaction video was very well scripted and set in its location. The group SGGL needs to focus on taking a look at racism in our community and hold local governments accountable. To summarize – ask the city council to rejoin GARE and continue the community conversations. Make the point that it happens here and those unaffected of course aren't seeing it. Steve did not mention the name of the restaurant because he is aware but this is a bigger problem than that one incident. Dale added that this conversation helps us be aware about how SGGL should be talking about this and also how the community can come from different conversations. Marsha suggested this ties in with good governance that if you look at the "Armacost 4" that they are informed by an extreme ideology. That has caused a lot of our safety issues, even including COVID-19. A discussion was held about racism and the discussion to be had and that it isn't about SGGL not calling for any action about Blondie's but for calling for the City Council to continue to recognize that there is an issue. Steve brought up that a good way to have a pulse on diversity is to pay attention to the classrooms. PJ

brought up that if we make a statement to comment on the fact that it took so long for us to make a statement. When we wait there's a passivity about that. Steve Koehler noticed as a teacher that with POC in Sequim the tendency is to fit in. What we're seeing is a reaction to not wanting to take this anymore. Bruce said if you have been following the PA city council forums they are being conducted by the business associations with a focus on a visceral reaction to PA issues. Is this a distraction from Sequim issues? Also noticed the two issues for the school board were critical race and sex ed. Thinks SGGL members can support the LWV as nonpartisan organization and putting on an unbiased forum and inviting folks.

Board changes – we have appointed PJ Harris to the Board

PAC – We've set up a PAC to keep the political separate from good governance and are a couple of days away from having our bank account set up and the donation button ready. We are set up with the PDC and IRS. We need \$3,000 to fund our work for the PAC to support the candidates and also encourage folks to contribute directly to the candidates via their sites.

Meeting adjourned 8:24 pm