



## Grandparents Against Gun Violence Virtual Meeting Minutes July 27, 2020

### **Our Mission:**

*We work to reduce gun violence to keep all children safe at home, at school and in our community.*

The meeting was convened at 4:15 pm by Judy Sherry. Attendance: 72

Judy reported on a successful GAGV swag drive-by event at Colonial church where GAGV shirts, sweatshirts, and hats were available for purchase.

M. J. McCall reported on a webinar on Ghost Guns, build it yourself firearms that skirt most federal gun laws and are virtually untraceable. Under federal law, they require no background check or serial number, making them a growing weapon of choice for criminals. M. J. recommended we ask candidates for elected office about their position on these guns and put gun violence prevention on the ballot.

Barb McNeile reported on two LIFL events: a Harvesters pop-up food pantry at the Kansas City Health Department (20 locks) and Christmas in July organized by Urban Community Connections (113 locks). These events are models for upcoming opportunities: they are drive-through events, volunteers wear masks and gloves and have plenty of sanitizer, and the police are not involved. Please contact Barb or Chris Glenski to sign up.

Judy has participated in three media opportunities: 1) Interview on KSHB about gun violence, 2) KCPT's Flatland on the John Brown Society, a left wing group who believes they should be armed. Judy commented that is not the way people should solve disputes. 3) July 30 Road to Background Checks Tour featuring Gabby Giffords, Kansas State Senator and candidate for the US Senate, and GAGV member Dr. Barbara Bollier; and GAGV president Judy Sherry.

Carla Oppenheimer reminded attendees of the virtual October 12 Heartland Coalition Community Forum Against Gun Violence. Registration is open and sponsorships are available.

[www.moksgagv.org/community-forum/](http://www.moksgagv.org/community-forum/)

Executive Director of the ACLU of Kansas, Nadine Johnson, discussed its efforts to ensure voters' equal and robust access to the election process across the state and at the national level. The ACLU is fighting to protect and advance access to voting by mail, early voting and, in an unprecedented pandemic, safe in-person voting as well.

Ms. Johnson provided updates on several lawsuits brought by the ACLU involving the Kansas Secretary of State's office and its attempts to curtail Kansans' voting rights. She'll also suggest Advocacy Actions we can take to support the ACLU's efforts including joining ACLU phone banks, voting and encouraging friends to vote, and writing legislators to let them know you are watching.

Next meeting: Monday, August 24, 4:00 pm via Zoom – Suicide Awareness

Minutes submitted by Charlotte Davison, Secretary