



Grandparents Against Gun Violence Meeting Minutes January 28, 2019

Our Mission:

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

Judy Sherry convened the meeting at 4:05 pm at Colonial Church in Prairie Village.

Judy welcomed all forecasting that the tide is turning with good legislation beginning to take place all around the country. For GAGV, this is the year of advocacy, and an advocacy action on gun safety and sensible gun regulation will take place at each meeting.

The 2018 GAGV Annual Report was presented reviewing financials, successes, and goals for 2019.

Judie Becker was awarded the Pat Russell Volunteer of the Quarter Award. Judie is fondly named Judy Sherry's Chief of Staff because of the many hats she wears.

Charlotte Davison welcomed those attending their first GAGV meeting.

Barb McNeile asked for volunteers at upcoming Lock It For Love events. Several events are planned with Children's Mercy Hospital's Dr. Shayla Sullivan and her class, "Prepped and Ready: Parenting into the Teen Years." To volunteer, please contact Barb at bmcneile@gmail.com.

Barb introduced new GAGV board member Chris Glenski who will help coordinate LIFL and development activities. Joan Jacobson has joined the board to coordinate membership and volunteer activities. Barb invited anyone interested in joining the development committee to contact her at bmcneile@gmail.com.

Today's speaker, Prof. Don Haider-Markel, chairman of the political science department at the University of Kansas, co-authored a study comparing the political activity of gun owners versus non-gun owners in presidential election years from 1972 to 2012. The study found that gun owners have increasingly become more politically active during that time. This could be a key reason why major gun control legislation in Congress has not been successful, even after Sandy Hook and other mass shootings, and even when a majority of Americans support stricter gun laws. In order to make a difference, gun law advocates need to match this level of participation and mobilization.

- Gun owners tend to see a dangerous world and think advocates for gun control/gun safety are making the world more dangerous for them. They cite protection as a major reason for owning a gun. Non-gun owners fear too many guns in their communities. Both sides are speaking from positions of fear.

- Gun owners see owning a gun as essential to their sense of freedom, like freedom of speech and the right to vote.
- Gun owners develop a sense of who they are through gun ownership; it is part of their core identity. By carrying a gun, they can exercise that right on a daily basis.
- Gun owners are more likely to protest, contribute money, and vote than non-gun owners.
- Advocates for gun regulation need to recognize that gun owners see the world as dangerous.
- Prof. Haider-Markel believes that because it is difficult to change the perceptions of gun owners, GAGV is on the right track by focusing on Lock It for Love and suicide prevention.

Advocacy: Mary Dees explained today's action. Post cards and addresses were provided to write representatives encouraging them to vote in support of HR8, the by-partisan Background Check Act of 2019 that will close the Brady Bill loopholes to cover ALL gun sales including internet, private sales, and non-federally licensed dealers.

Upcoming events:

Saturday, February 16, 2019, 2-4 pm – Students Demand Action Vigil at Unity Temple on the Plaza, 707 W. 47th Street.

Thursday, February 28, 2019 – **American Public Square – “Lifelines – Preventing Teen Suicide,”** Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Avenue.

Registration required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lifelines-preventing-teen-suicide-registration-55051447361>

6:30-8 pm, program

8-8:30 pm, community fair (including LIFL)

Next GAGV meeting: Monday, February 25 – Advocacy – How you get it done.

Minutes submitted by

Charlotte Davison, Secretary