



Grandparents Against Gun Violence Meeting Minutes February 25, 2019

Our Mission:

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

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

Charlotte Davison introduced those attending their first meeting and invited others to check membership status following the meeting at the membership desk.

Announcements:

- Preventing Teen Suicide, sponsored by American Public Square, Thursday, February 28, 6:30-8:30 pm at Church of the Resurrection in Leawood. GAGV will staff a LIFL table at the event.
- Prepped and Ready, Thursday, March 7, 6:30 pm, Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center, 81st and Metcalf, Presentation by Dr. Shayla Sullivant, adolescent psychiatrist at Children's Mercy Hospital. GAGV will staff a Lock It For Love table at the event.

Barbara Holzmark introduced Stacey Johnson-Cosby who is running for Kansas City - City Council 6th District At-Large.

Advocacy was the subject of today's meeting, and the speakers were experienced advocates who coached us how to get our voices heard and make our organization stronger and more successful by advocating for gun safety and sensible gun legislation.

Highlights of the presentations:

Dr. Joy Koesten, former Kansas State Representative, educator and communications professional, jkoesten@gmail.com.

- Know your audience, who they are, and why you are going to talk to them.
- Know the bill, who is sponsoring it and what it is for.
- Understand your goal. What do you want to do? Who do you want to approach?
- Know the identity of the person to whom you are speaking? How does she want to be perceived? What's the best way to approach her? Is it by a phone call, email or letter?
- Personal notes and phone calls resonate best. Write your heartfelt emotions, be personal, tell your story.
- Apply to the Johnson County Citizen's Academy; visit with commissioners, explore the county budget, learn about civic engagement/volunteer opportunities and tour various facilities.
<http://www.jocogov.org/dept/county-manager-office/citizens-academy>.
- The best advocacy you can do is within your own social network – ask who representatives are at city council and state level. Many will not know!

Al Frisby, Merriam City Council Member and Chair of Johnson County Move-on, alfrisbyformerriam@gmail.com.

Al described many advocacy and activist actions he has taken, recently for a city law prohibiting discrimination against gay and transgender people in employment and housing. Rachel Maddow covered a local Move-On demonstration which was part of a national Move-On plan to protect the Mueller Investigation should Robert Mueller be fired.

- Al urged us to see the movie *Fix-It* about Medicare for all. <https://fixithehealthcare.com/watch-the-movie/>.
- Join Al to canvas for Medicare for All/Single Payer System on March 30 at 9:45 am at Antioch Library.

Leslie Mark of Indivisible Kansas City, ldmark61@gmail.com.

Indivisible Kansas City is an area-wide, progressive, all-volunteer organization whose mission is to empower everyday people to hold elected officials accountable and to build a more equal and just future.

- Leslie wants Indivisible to be a resource for us so we can take our issue and step it up, become better activists and advocates, and help us partner with experts. Sign up for Indivisible KC's monthly newsletter at <http://www.indivisiblekc.com/>.
- Write thank you notes. Home addresses of legislators are available at <http://kslegislature.org/li/>.
- In our letters and emails to legislators, tell your personal story, why you care. Be courteous, kind and respectful. When you call, ask the admin's name and tell yours and your concern.

Lesa Patterson of Mainstream Coalition urged us to go to Topeka with her as well and Al and Leslie. She'll show you parking and find your legislators.

Then one of our attendees spoke about the Five Calls app. <https://5calls.org/>

Judy reminded us to ask candidates and legislators how they stand on gun issues.

Advocacy Action: Write postcards to state legislators in support of HB 211 supporting universal background checks and HB 2129 and SB 183 – establishing Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) allowing family members and law enforcement to request court orders for temporary removal of guns from individuals shown to be a risk to themselves or others. Postcards were provided by TOMS Shoes' "End Violence Together" campaign.

Next meeting: Monday, March 25. 4:05 pm at Colonial Church

Submitted by Charlotte Davison, Secretary