



Grandparents Against Gun Violence Meeting Minutes March 25, 2019

Our Mission:

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

Carla Oppenheimer called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm at Colonial Church in Prairie Village.

Joan Jacobson, Membership Chair, reminded us that GAGV dues pay for locks for Lock It For Love, the Heartland Coalition Forum and more. Dues can be paid online at MOKSGAGV.org, via check to GAGV at P.O. Box 11193, Overland Park, KS 66207, or at the membership desk after the meeting. Joan recognized new members as well as Gail Robeson who brought three guests to the meeting.

The Advocacy Committee, represented by Carla Oppenheimer, Julie Young, and Carol Gee presented the meeting.

Carol Gee related that in November 2018 the Board of Health in King County, Washington, unanimously passed regulations requiring gun stores and firing ranges to post cautionary signage about the danger of firearms. The signage reads "WARNING: the presence of a firearm in the home significantly increases the risk of homicide, suicide, death during domestic violence disputes, unintentional deaths to children, household members and others." The requirement covers the 39 cities in King County including Seattle, the state's largest city and the King County seat.

That measure spurred members of our Advocacy Project to investigate what signage, if any, is currently posted at gun shops, sporting good stores and firing ranges in the metro area. Among the retailers they visited were Cabelas, Dick's Sporting Goods, Bass Pro Shop, Scheels, Academy, Mickey's Surplus, as well as Frontier Justice and The Bullet Hole Shooting Ranges.

Having found no gun safety signage, the Advocacy Committee has taken on the challenge of crafting a message similar to Seattle's that gets the warning across with fewer words using facts, for example:

60% of all firearm deaths are **suicides**.
Keep firearms inaccessible from children and teens.

They will then talk to the stores to see what their thoughts are. The Health Department will be contacted for their involvement.

Julie reviewed two handouts which are attached:

- 25 Ways to be Politically Active
- Upcoming Opportunities to Get Involved with GAGV

LIFL – Barb McNeile reported the 73rd LIFL event since July 2017 is scheduled for tomorrow. LIFL has given out 1,661 free locks involving 50 volunteers and 10 metropolitan police departments. More presentations are scheduled. If you are interested in speaking at LIFL events, please contact Barb at bmcniele@gmail.com.

Chris Glenski reminded us that at LIFL events there is always an experienced captain on the team, supplies and signage are provided, a policeman is present to demonstrate how to put a lock on a dummy gun, and volunteers report it is enjoyable to participate.

Lesa Patterson-Kinsey, Outreach Coordinator of Mainstream Coalition, reported the Kansas House began debating and voting on as many as 34 bills today. She encouraged us to visit Topeka with her. Contact Lesa at lesa@mainstreamcoalition.org.

Today's advocacy project: Write a postcard to thank Dick's Sporting Goods, which has decided to stop selling guns of any kind in many of their stores. Their CEO also backed a federal bill extending background checks and joined the Everytown for Gun Safety Business Council.

Dick's Sporting Goods Corporate Offices
345 Court Street
Coraopolis, PA 15108

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

The next meeting is 4:05 pm Monday, April 22, 2019 at Colonial Church.