

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALASKA
2020 STATE CONVENTION
April 25, 2020
Held by ZOOM Video Conference

CONVENTION MINUTES

9:00 a.m. Call to Order: The Convention was called to order at 9:05am.

President's Welcome: Judy Andree welcomed all and reminded us that circumstances have forced us to use new technology and we will need to be patient and flexible.

Deborah Turner—LWVUS Liaison: President Andree introduced Deborah Turner, MD, JD, LWVUS Liaison, and a member of the Des Moines Metro League. She is in her 4th year as chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee and is the liaison for small population states. She is also the President! – Elect for the next two years.

- HR 4- Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA) - a priority for LWVUS. It has passed the House of Representatives but is languishing in the Senate. Members need to contact their senators and urge passage. This is a LWV priority.
- ERA – has finally gotten the last vote necessary. Now the deadline has to be extended.
- LWV League Update: members should add their names to ensure receiving monthly update on policies, priorities.
- 100th Anniversary of the 19th amendment is August 18, 2019.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: League needs to change and DEI needs to become part of our culture. *DEI- why now? If not us, who? If not now, when?* Diversity-being invited to the party if you are someone different. Equality is the opportunity to have your music played. Inclusion-invited to dance. Make DEI a part of the DNA of the LWV. It is part of how we do things. Put your policy on your website.

She then explained these concepts in detail (and will send us the slides). Diversity is being invited to the party, equality is the opportunity to have your music played, and inclusion is being invited to dance.

- Diversity- Sometimes we just see race or ethnicity. There is much more-- backgrounds, beliefs, abilities.
- Implicit bias can destroy diversity.
- Equity-everyone has the opportunity to participate. It requires unequal distribution of resources. Some groups require more because they started with less.
- Inclusion- people feel valued. No one wants to be a token.
- Be careful with labels.
- Equity lens: can be used every time to make any decision, so anything. Questions: Who was involved? Who will be impacted? What are intended and unintended consequences? Does this action line with our vision of an inclusive organization?
- DEI Webinars: 7:00 EST every 3rd Thursday of the month. Recordings on LWV Management sites.
- DEI Tool Kit On website.
- In litigation in many states, usually around access to voting.
- Now invited to the table of many organizations.
- Encourage every member to get League update – must opt in, not automatic.
- League is really focused on voter suppression, particularly Vote By Mail
- Board Source.org: helps develop non-profit boards develop and run more efficiently. National bought the membership so every member of LWV can use .
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Roll call of Local Leagues. Credential Report/Establish Quorum: There are 4 Leagues represented, 9 Board members, and 10 delegates. There is a quorum.

Present:

Board:

Judy Andree
 Marianne Mills
 Carol Dickason
 Shirley Pittz
 Hetty Barthel
 Cathleen Rolph
 Mary Lee Guthrie
 Sue Sherif
 Pat Redmond

Delegates

Shari George (TV)
 Rebecca Heaton (TV)
 Carrie Henson (CKP)
 Sarah Garity (CKP)
 Heather Flynn (Anc)
 Jasmine Carter (Anc)
 Judith Mitchell (Jnu)
 Kirsia Hughes-Skandjijs (Jnu)
 carolyn Brown (Jnu)
 Cheryl Jebe (Jnu)

Guests:

Deborah Turner (Liaison, LWVUS)
 Lois Pilliant
 Margaret McDonogh
 Gail Knobf
 Sheryl Wittig
 Ouida Parker
 Keri Clark
 Penny Goodstein

Marjorie Menzi
 Keri Clark
 Penny Goodstein
 Mary Borthwick
 Luann McVey
 Marilyn Russell

Introduction of Delegates/Board Members and Nominees/Visiting Members: Attendees introduced themselves.

Adoption of Agenda (Orders of the Day): Marianne Mills moved, Carrie Henson seconded, the Agenda (Orders of the Day) be adopted. (copy attached). Motion passed without objection:

Adoption of Convention Rules: Marianne Mills moved, Sue Sherif seconded, the adoption of the Convention Rules (copy attached). Motion passed without objection.

Appointment of Parliamentarian: Marianne Mills was appointed Parliamentarian.

Reports (copies attached and made a part of these Minutes):

President: Judy Andree reported:

- Update on Landlord-Tenant Position approved
- Raised \$3,500 for the Alaska State Museum for the *Alaska Suffrage Star Exhibit*
- Submitted an Amicus brief for the Alaska Children's Trust lawsuit against the State of Alaska concerning Climate Change. Worked on three grants: People-Powered Fair Maps (\$1,000, Voting Rights (\$10,000) and ERA extension (\$5,000)
- Letters to the Editor and letters in support or opposition to some Legislative bills
- Sadly, we reported that Diane Mathisen, long-time Board member, passed away.

She continues to be impressed by the variety of activities each Alaska local league participates in to support the League's emphasis on voter rights and education.

Treasurer: Shirley Pittz reported as of March 31, 2019, there is \$16,695.70 in the general fund, \$11,421.71 in Anchorage's Ed Fund account, \$6,044.99 in the Tanana Valley's Ed Fund account, and \$55.20 in the Alaska Star Exhibit fund for a total of \$34,217.60. She explained some of the unusual entries. The report will be filed for audit.

Local Leagues (2 highlights):

Anchorage: Margaret McDonogh reported on the activities of their impressive Youth Vote project, during which students were a huge success with their presentations at the World Anti-Bullying Forum in Dublin and the International Anti-Bullying Forum in Chicago. They have been accepted to host a Caucus Presentation at the 2020 LWVUS Convention (this may not happen due to the change to a virtual convention) . Under contract with the Municipal Clerk's office, they once again prepared and

mailed to Anchorage residents the Municipal *Ballot Review*. This is well received throughout our community and is our largest fund raiser each year.

Central Kenai Peninsula: Lois Pillifant reported the membership had agreed to meet only four times as called for in our Bylaws. They concentrated on increasing membership, which required letters to the Editors of the Peninsula Clarion and regularly updating their Facebook site. They met by telecon- ference since they had three new members in Homer and wished to include them in our conversations and planning. This has worked well since they now have ten new active members in Homer.

They celebrated our 100th year of suffrage celebration by holding a birthday party at the Library and showing the film "Iron Jawed Angels". They received much attention from the newspapers and radio. Our Borough Assembly presented us with a Proclamation honoring the achievement of women. The Cities of Kenai and Soldotna also presented Proclamations to us in celebration of the 100th anniversary. All this was posted on Facebook by our new Media Chair.

Juneau: Kirska Hughes-Skandijs reported they brought all of Juneau' s 8th grade students to the Capitol to visit the legislature and court system to learn about state government. This project has been taking place for several years.

They also distributed "*Fighter in Velvet Gloves: Alaska's Civil Rights Hero Elizabeth Peratrovich*" by Ann Boochever with Roy Peratrovich, Jr. to all public libraries and all middle schools/libraries in the state (more than 450 copies). In addition copies were given to all legislators.

Tanana Valley: Sue Sherif reported this past year was marked by many opportunities for collaboration with other local groups. Their prime targets were voter education and advocacy for climate change measures, a more equitable and transparent redistricting process in 2021, Census participation, and retention of Alaska's current judicial selection process

As their event for the Day of Action and 100th Birthday of the LWVUS, they celebrated with a proclamation from the Borough Mayor naming February 14 as Borough Women's Right to Vote Day and a presentation by author Ann Boochever, author of "*Fighter in Velvet Gloves: Alaska's Civil Rights Hero Elizabeth Peratrovich*" at the public library. The University of Alaska Press collaborated with event book sales.

Presentation by Alaskans for Better Elections – Shea Siegert/Scott Kendall : Ranked Choice Voting, Open Primaries, and Campaign Finance Initiative
Establish Top Four Nonpartisan Primaries

All candidates, regardless of party affiliation, would appear on the same primary ballot and the top-four vote getters would advance to the general election. The switch would also permanently open Alaska's primaries to independent voters, who currently make up 56% of the electorate.

Implement Ranked Choice Voting

Ranked Choice Voting is an alternative voting method that gives voters more voice, choice, and power in our political system. Voters rank candidates on their ballots in order of preference and if no candidate receives majority support of first place votes an "instant runoff" is used until someone earns 50% of the vote.

- **Campaign Finance Disclosure**
Prohibits "Dark Money" by requiring disclosure of the true source of any
- **Establish Top-Four Nonpartisan Primaries** contribution to a candidate Independent Expenditure group; Both donors and recipients would be required to disclose any contribution greater than \$2,000 within 24 hours; Any group getting more than 50% of its funds from outside the state must provide a disclaimer with that information on all communications.

- **Call for a 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution**

The amendment would give Congress and states the authority to set contribution and spending limits to regulate the role of money in our political system

The case was argued before the AK Supreme Court on Feb. 19. “The ultimate legal question here is whether the initiative is consistent with Alaska’s single-subject rule.”

Caren Robinson – Legislative Report

- It is likely the Legislature, which has recessed but not adjourned, will come back into session to deal with the CARE Act and deal with how the funds can be used.
- Senate Bill 241: Extending Covid-19 Declaration/Relief: Extends the March 22, 2020 Governor’s declaration of a public health disaster emergency in response to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic to Nov. 15 and grants the chief medical officer the authority to issue standing orders for healthcare providers related to Covid-19. It provides for a financing plan and makes temporary changes to state law in response to the COVID-19 outbreak in several areas. It also allows the Lt. Governor to direct Alaskans to vote by mail if in-person voting is a danger to public health.
- The Legislature has not confirmed all appointments to the Boards. Will probably come back to confirm boards.
- Only about 30 bills (normally 250) have passed. Most of those were COVID oriented. SB120 to allow ___ nurses to prescribe psychotropic medications, behavior health, licensed professional counselors, extension of medical board, etc.
- Problems with getting tested for Covid-19. Self-testing is unreliable. If you waiting too long after you have it you test negative. If vaccine becomes available, most likely it will be the pharmacies that implement. Our pharmacists cannot get registered to be reimbursed for administering the vaccine, only for the vaccine itself. They will have to fix that.
- There will probably be a push to figure alternatives to face-to-face voting. We will need to be ready to weigh in with everyone- legislators, election officials, Lt Governor, Governor, local officials, etc.
- Big debate how much Care Package goes to local governments, PFDs. Governor thought he could supplant funding and he already vetoed some state funding. There is discussion about how they might over turn that. Even he is starting to dial back.
- She has been impressed with Senate President Giessel’s performance; she has been working closely with Speaker Edgmon.
- Caren will do a final report – probably coming in June. Some believe that if Leg adjourns and they come back for a special session, the agenda will depend on the Governor.
- Call or text her with additional questions @ 907-321-2551.\
- All comments should go to the Governor, Lt. Govenor, Dr. Zink, and all legislators

Presentation of Convention Items Requiring (copies attached):

- **Minutes of Convention 2019:** Judith Mitchell moved, Shirley Pittz seconded, the 2019 Minutes be approved. Motion approved without objection.
- **Proposed Program for FY 2020--2021:** The program was considered in its individual parts.
- 1. Retain Current Positions: Marianne Mills moved, Sue Sherif seconded, the current positions be retained. carolyn Brown questioned whether these positions had been reviewed by the Board and whether they are still relevant. The Board has slowly been reviewing the positions and has made recommendations on several for their review and update. Motion approved.
- 2. Marianne Mills moved, Kirsa Hughes-Skandijs seconded, to continue the review/revision of the following positions:
 1. Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure (1991)
 2. Legislative Process and Procedures (1993) Note; Cheryl Jebe is working on this.

3. Land Use (1985).

Motion approved without objection.

Judith Mitchell moved, Shirley Pittz seconded, to add Ranked Choice Voting to the Legislative Process and Procedures position. Pat Redmond pointed out that the current position would cover it.

- 3. Non-Recommended: New Comprehensive Position of Education: Sue Sherif moved, Judith Mitchell seconded, adoption of this proposed study item. By a vote of 18-0-1 this was approved. The Board will develop a Focus Statement for an amended Education Position.
- 4. Items for Emphasis: Marianne Mills moved, Pat Redmond seconded, the proposed items for emphasis be adopted.
 - Voting Rights Advancement Act
 - Climate Change
 - Immigration Issues
 - Health Care
 - Gun Safety
 - Constitutional Convention
 - Redistricting
 - Equal Rights Amendment--extension of deadline
 - Census (added)

Motion adopted.

- **Recommendation for FY 2020-2021 Per-Member-Payment:** Marianne Mills moved, Shirley Pittz seconded: the Proposed per Member Payment be adopted Motion approved without objection.

Per-Member Payments are:

- \$10.00 Individual member
- \$15.00 Household of two at same address
- \$0 College Student*
- \$0 Student – 16-18 years*
- \$35.00 Member-at-Large

○ * Based on current LWWUS policy

- **Proposed FY 2020-2021 Budget:** Shirley Pittz presented the proposed budget. **Under Expenses:** 2020 Convention (Anchorage) was reduced to \$250 and LWWUS Convention expenses were reduced to \$1,500.00. Cathleen Rolph moved, Pat Redmond seconded, the Proposed FY 2019-2020 Budget with these changes be adopted. Motion approved without objection.
- **Proposed Slate of Officers/Directors/Nominating Committee Members:** Marianne Mills presented the proposed Slate of Officers and Directors/Nominating Committee Members. Phyllis Tugman-Alexander and Lois Pillifant agreed to serve again on the Nominating Committee. Judith Mitchell moved, Carolyn Brown seconded, the Proposed Slate of Officers/Directors/ Nominating Committee be adopted. Motion approved without objection. Elected were:

Slate of Officers and Directors – FY 2020-2021

President:	Judy Andree (Jnu)	1 year term expiring 2021
Vice President		1 year term expiring 2021
Secretary:	Sandra Garity (CKP)	2 year term expiring 2022
Past President:	Pat Redmond (Anc)	
Director:	Carrie Henson (CKP)	2 year term expiring 2022
Director:	Marianne Mills (Jnu)	2 year term expiring 2022

Nominating Committee:

Chair:	Phyllis Tugman-Alexander	1 year term expiring 2021
Member:	Lois Pillifant	1 year term expiring 2021
3 rd member appointed by the Board		

Continuing Board Members:

Treasurer:	Shirley Pittz (Anc)	Term expires 2021
Director.;	Mary Lee Guthrie (TV)	Term expires 2021
Director:	Cathleen Rolph (CKP)	Term expires 2021

New Business:

Location and Date of 2021 LWVAK State Convention: Anchorage

Comments from the Floor/Direction to the Board for the Good of the League:

- carolyn Brown asked the Board to consider ways non-Board members might participate in Board meetings. The new Board will take this up.
- Judith Mitchell reported that a dismal 46% state-wide have responded to the Census and there is a dire need to significantly raise that figure, given how important the figures are to Alaska.
- The League was urged to make the Census an immediate focus.
- Marianne Mills requested the Census, along with DEI, be placed on the Post-Convention Agenda.
- Redistricting in 2021; we need a plan to ensure transparency, etc. We need to be able to react in a timely manner and let everyone know we are watching.
- Constitutional Convention on the ballot in 2022. League is asked to write the Con statement in the SOA Election Pamphlet. We need to be prepared.
- Focus on Census this year, Redistricting next year.
- The Board was directed to find more economical ways to teleconference and felt ZOOM was a good way to go. New Board to consider.

Closing remarks/Announcements (Post-Convention Board Meeting):

Judy thanked the Board and said she continues to be impressed by the variety of activities each Alaska local league participates in to support the League's emphasis on voter rights and education.

There will be a Post-Convention Board Meeting Monday, April 27, at 7:00pm. Whether it will be by teleconference or ZOOM will be decided Sunday.

Adjournment: carolyn Brown moved, Pat Redmond seconded, the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carol Dickason

Carol Dickason, Secretary