

## President's Report

The COVID shutdowns started just before our local league's annual meeting in 2020 and in lieu of an in-person meeting, our elections and position were decided by survey. We were lucky and grateful to have a quorum response to that survey, and as Zoom emerged as the preferred virtual meeting software we were able to conduct board meetings on schedule through the year. 2020's co-President, Judith Mitchell, was particularly helpful and adept at implementing electronic solutions smoothly and we are lucky that she will continue to offer her assistance as a member.

We turned to technology for other in-person events such as our How To Run For Public Office workshop which worked surprisingly well as a webinar - so much so that we are exploring retaining an online presentation even if/when we are able to meet in person again. Attendance was undeterred and tuning in online probably increased accessibility to folks who might not be able to sacrifice half a day finding daycare, getting downtown, finding parking, and attending in person. As always, we were very grateful to the city and borough staff, Assembly and School Board members, and community members who volunteered their time and wisdom.

Our league focused on getting the word out to boost Census participation and participated in the statewide support for the ERA and VRAA. We worked with local artist and new League member Pat Race to sponsor a contest intended to involve young artists and their audiences in getting the word out, but unfortunately did not have a huge response. The artist that did take advantage of the offer made a beautiful infographic shared on social media.

Our annual local Candidate Forum was held via Zoom, unsurprisingly, and was a success, with the Clerk's office presenting information on the ballot initiative between panels. As this was the first year the city held a by-mail election, and absentee ballots were a popular option statewide in the primaries and general elections, we worked on educating and promoting voter participation. Carolyn Brown was proactive in seeking out new opportunities for visual education and reminders via bus placards. Voter turnout for the municipal election was the highest it's been in decades and the city is looking into purchasing the necessary equipment to offer by-mail voting as an option going forward.

Our local Capitol Visits also moved online, as in-person visitation is still prohibited, and our local delegation were generous with their time creating videos explaining how state government works. These videos, along with handouts and guide materials, were made available to Juneau teachers to integrate in their distance learning. Representatives Story and Hannan and Senator Kiehl, their aides, and the Capitol Visits Virtual Design Team adapted to the challenges of the pandemic to ensure that our 8th graders are informed about the legislative process.

Our by-laws were updated to reflect the national commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and we are now in the process of organizing the committees who will work on the positions we adopted at our virtual annual meeting last month. Many thanks to our board members - newcomers, long-termers, and outgoing alike.