



President's Report – 2021-2022 Kirsra Hughes-Skandijs

As we worked through our second solid year with COVID safety restrictions, virtual meetings continued to be the new normal. The silver lining is the increased accessibility for attendees who otherwise wouldn't be able to make it downtown for an event, or out to a library for a board meeting and the opportunity for free events that previously required airfare and attendance budgeting. The downside, besides the risks to our vulnerable members of the community, is that Zoom fatigue is real, and it's harder to converse naturally through a screen.

June saw members from Juneau and other local Alaska leagues attending the National League's Council, an opportunity for members from around the country to meet, compare experiences, and share tips with each other based around League positions and emerging topics. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and navigating nonpartisan policy during hyper-partisan times continue to be foremost national concerns that also resonated at our local level.

Our annual How to Run for Local Office workshop was held virtually and was a success. This event depends on the collaboration and hard work of the Public Library, the City Clerks, and our volunteers, and this summer will require us to step up to the plate to account for a heavier than usual workload in the Clerk's office. Our fearless leader, Peggy Cowan, will be out of town for some of the crucial planning period, so volunteer opportunities abound – but we'll get to that in a bit.

The municipal election was held absentee again, and there is still a need for voter education and outreach. With the city's decision to purchase the necessary equipment to count ballots "in-house," this will remain a League priority. This year's new tactics included a call for young artists to create messaging, social media outreach, and an explainer from the Clerk during our Candidate Forum's intermission.

The Forum itself was again virtual, with a technology assist from our partner, KTOO and moderation from KTOO and the Juneau Empire. We hope to invite even more media partners to increase voter outreach, and of course we hope to be able to meet in person this fall prior to the municipal election.

2022 Capitol Visits was held virtually this year for Juneau's 8th graders – a last minute decision amid the Omicron uptick in case counts and tightened restrictions. Marjorie Menzi led a cadre of League volunteers to adapt the program to a virtual experience on short notice. We hope that next year will be the students' return to the Capitol in person – and I'd like to thank the

Alaska Committee for their donation this year that will be rolled over toward next year's costs. Major thanks to Marjorie for her dedication to this program and its establishment among our regular annual events.

Another tireless member of the local league, Carolyn Brown, has continued her work promoting health care reform, and she will be recapping her work and some opportunities for others to get involved later on in our meeting.

Just before the Legislative session began in January, we again had a virtual meet and greet with our local Representatives Sara Hannan and Andi Story (who are members of the LWVJ!), and Senator Jesse Kiehl to hear about their plans and concerns for the legislative session. We received many excellent questions and remarks for their consideration, and although time flew and we weren't able to get to everyone's contribution during the meeting, a copy of the unread questions and feedback was sent to each of their offices.

Our annual program planning meeting was held shortly after, and as the positions we selected last year were not all updated, it was agreed that progress should continue on those. The local elections position was updated, and you probably saw a draft and final copy of Laurie Sica and her team's work.

Our fundraising efforts were put on hold during the pandemic, and as many people are still a bit leery of indoor events, we are planning an online auction. As was noted in the Juneau Voter that Marianne Mills graciously put together, your local dues also include membership in the State and National Leagues. This has been a minor point of confusion for some members, but there is no need to enroll independently as a member at the state or national level. The majority of your dues to the LWV Juneau pay those additional memberships. In FY22, the local league made only \$313 in income from dues. Thank you so much to all those who round up or make an extra donation for your support. If you are interested in assisting, we will shortly be seeking donations to the auction and can always use an organizational hand. Otherwise, stay tuned for your opportunity to bid!

Thank you all for attending – here's hoping that next year we can do this in person.