

\ LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALASKA
2021 STATE CONVENTION
April 17, 2021
Via ZOOM

CONVENTION MINUTES

Saturday, April 17, 2021

8:30 A.M. Voting Delegates begin signing in to Conference

9:00 A.M. Call to order by President Judy Andree

Establish Quorum:

Board members present:

Judy Andree	Sandra Garity
Carol Dickason	Cathleen Rolph
Carrie Henson	Mary Lee Guthrie
Pat Redmond	Shirley Pittz

Voting Delegates present:

Barbara Jewell	Lani Raymond
Sue Sherif	Heather Flynn
Shari George	Gayle Garrigues
Jasmine Carter	Cheryl Jebe
Carolyn Brown	Laura Sica

12 Non-voting members present

Panelists:

Carolyn Brown
Shea Siegert
Leah Edwards
Caren Robinson, Legislative liaison

ZOOM Housekeeping presented by Carrie Henson

Presidents Welcome given by President Judy Andree

Leah Edwards, LWVUS Liaison for Alaska: Leah is a board member of LWVUS and has served in the position of Voter Services and President of the San Francisco LWV.

Leah updated on the progress of LWVUS. She lives in San Francisco, CA.

She discussed the following:

1. Vote 411 had a successful year with six million users during the election season.
2. LWV is focusing on voting rights, fair elections, and higher national turnouts.
Voting rights are presently under attack following the November election.
3. LWV supports H.R.1/S.1 and H.R. 4 (John Lewis VRAA). A vote on S.1(For the People Act) is expected later this year. This bill supports such items as same day registration and other processes that support voter rights.
4. Equal Rights Amendment has passed the House and is in the Senate.
5. LWV supports D.C. statehood so that D.C. residents have full representation. A vote in the House is expected in April.
6. Leah mentioned the continuing need for nonpartisanship and keeping the focus on issues that defend democracy and empower voters.
7. The LWV supports the filibuster reform.
8. Outreach Circle: LWV has a new app that can be used on smartphones or laptops that allows all members who sign up to keep in touch with LWVUS as well as other Leagues around the country.

CONVENTION BUSINESS BEGINS:

1. Roll Call of Local Leagues: Four Leagues are represented, 8 “Board members, and 10 delegates. There is a quorum present.
2. Adoption of Agenda. Motion made to approve the agenda by Heather Flynn and second by Cathleen Rolph.
3. Adoption of Rules. Motion made by Pat Redmond to adopt the rules and second by Shari George
4. Appointment of Parliamentarian. Heather Flynn appointed as Parliamentarian. Motion made by Sue Sherif to appoint Heather and second by Pat Redmond
5. Reports
President (copies attached and made part of these Minutes)
Following HB-88 (Tuck bill), HB.157 (disclosure of money recall efforts), SB-39 (passed through House)
6 bills on voting
Treasurer: budget discussion held until just before voting on the draft budget 2021-2022 (copies attached and made part of these Minutes)

Local Leagues’ Reports for 2020-2021

Anchorage:

- . Held the following events and activities
- . Justice with Politics
- . March Goes On

- . Alaska Common Ground (#1 Oil Tax, #2 better Elections)
- . Zoom meeting on SB39
- . letter on H.R.-1
- . Youth Vote (2021 activities, essay prizes)
- . Ballot review
- . Membership increased by 15%

Central Kenai Peninsula

- . Candidate forum (Sept 2020)
- . Increased membership
- . Connected government teachers
- .Speakers
 - Paul Seaton
 - Senator Micciche
- . Conducting monthly meetings via ZOOM (includes membership in Homer and Seward)
- . Beginning Book Club
- . Next meeting Wed May 5, 2021 at 7 P.M.

Juneau:

- . Voted to review these positions: Water, waste, local elections, & parks & rec
- . Presented “How to Run for office”
- . Candidate forum for municipal elections
- . New officers were installed
- . Voting rights both state and national need constant focus.

Tanana valley

- . How to run for office workshop
- . Support elections (work at polls, Division of election, special needs)
- . “Just Vote” signs
- . Ballots and Beers night
- . Non-discrimination
- . Two resolutions (Black Lives Matter and Borough)
- . Book Club
- . LTE campaign
- . Connecting with high school and teachers
- . “There ought to be a law” virtual event
- . PFD the importance of the fund and the processes involved
- . 501C-3 meetings
- . Sponsor NPR/Borough Assembly

Caren Robinson's presentation

Caren reported on

- . COVID- members tested 2week
- . Extend pandemic financial emergency declaration to December 31
- . SNAP , Behavioural health and telemedicine funded
- . Legislators want personal bills to be heard
- . SB-90 extend naloxone into pharmacists hands
- . HHS--not split yet but will be coming back
- . Closure of DMV's is off the table
- . Rescue plan for new COVID funding (American Rescue Plan)
- . Senate developed budget, House not ready
- . LWV should check on violation of open meeting acts
- . SB-67 nurse compact bill (power could be given to non-government agency!)
- . HB-145 Pharmacy association
- . Energy independent along with the HB 145 line
- . Ways & Means Committee (keep an eye on gun legislation)
- . HB-5 (consent will be proving one did not consent)

Caren reported that she plans to retire. Is working with another and may present a recommendation

Presentation by Shea Siegert of ABE (Alaska Better Elections)

Shea shared ABE's plans on public education concerning Ballot Measure #2 (open primary, ranked choice voting, and campaign finance transparency. process of education

- . Alaskan Better Elections

ABE will be working closely with the Division of Elections to ensure consistency of messaging.

- . as of 2/28/21 the dark money provisions are in effect
- . March -funding through the governor's budget
- . June 1, DOE regulations open for public comment
- . July, public comments closed
- . There will be no hand counting of ballots
- . All candidates will be on same ballot
- . Top 4 vote-getters will advance to general election
- . Elections
 - . All state elections paid for by state
 - . Federal, primaries will be paid for by parties
- . Begin August 2022
- . Education, will revamp Division of Elections website, will offer information in several languages)

. ABE

1. Alaska elections simulator
2. Alaska elections white paper
3. BM2 Public information packets
4. Presentations on command
5. Constant and consistent source of information

Shea was asked for update on lawsuit--a summary judgement has been filed and hopeful will end by mid-summer

Presentation by Carolyn Brown, M.D.,MPH, LWV State Health Committee

- . Request sent to 4 Local leagues for volunteers to serve on Health Care Committee for Alaska
- . Information from these groups will be shared with the national health care committee
- . will meet (ZOOM) monthly
- . develop mission
- . evaluating what health care needs are for Alaskans throughout the state

Presentation of Convention Items Requiring Action:

- a. Minutes of Convention 2020 (attached) Motion to approve 2020 Convention Minutes made by Pat Redmond and second by Cathleen Rolph. Minutes approved without objection.
- b. Proposed Program FY 2021-2021
 1. Retain the existing positions. Motion to approve the retention of the existing positions made by Carol Dickason and second by Laurie Sica. Motion approved without objection.
 2. Continue review/revision of the following positions (attached to minutes)
Motion made to adopt these positions made by Carol Dickason and second by

Carrie Henson. Motion approved

Discussion followed the opposition statement to a Constitutional Convention will need to be written by 2022 .

Recommendation made that there be at least one person from each local league represented on this task. It is important to review Constitutional Convention.

3. Recommend Study: New Comprehensive Position of Education. Motion made to support #3 made by Pat Redmond and second by Carol Dickason. Motion approved without objection.

Discussion that Tanana Valley has researched other states on education.

Need 1-2 more people on task of recommended study to look at

- . study when state has constitutional responsibility and school finance
- . summer school for catch-up
- . look at school schedule
- . unequal educational opportunities with e-delivery of education

. look at pre-K and child care needs

4. Emphasis Areas:

These are a compilation from the Four Local Leagues

- Education of Ballot Measure #2 and voting process in general
- Protection of Voting Rights/John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act
- Climate Change
- Health Care
- Protect Judicial/Take action on LWVAK Judicial Appointment & Retention
- Constitutional Convention
- Redistricting
- Equal Rights Amendment

Motion made to adopt the Emphasis Areas made by Carrie Henson and second by Cheryl Jebe.

Motion approved without objection.

Discussion followed by Pat Redmond the ERA is in the Senate now. We should contact Senator Sullivan and ask him to explain if he is for or against ERA.

#1 on the list should mention the security of the election system.

C. Recommendation for per-member-payment (copy attached with Minutes)

Motion made to accept these fees made by Pat Redmond and second by Heather Flynn.
Motion approved without objection)

Clarification followed explaining these amounts are sent to State by Local leagues.

D. Proposed FY 2021-2022 budget (copy attached to Minutes)

Motion made to adopt the proposed Budget 2021-2011 made Cheryl Jebe and second by Heather Flynn. Motion approved without objection

E. Proposed Slate of Officers/Directors/Nominating Committee members (copy attached to Minutes).

Motion made to adopt the list of proposed slate of Officers/Directors/Nominating Committee members made by Shirley Pittz and second by Sue Sherif. Motion approved without objection.

New Business:

It was agreed that Anchorage League remains next to host the Annual Convention 2022. They will decide the date.

Comments from the Floor/Direction to the Board “For the Good of the League”

LWVAK spent much of its LWVUS grant monies on Facebook pieces, public radio, social media, website material, a Voter’s Guide for the primary and general election for our federal House and Senate candidates, and letters for various state newspapers.

Youth Vote social media piece on Social Justice was presented earlier in the convention (video) on ERA & John Lewis VRAA

Closing Remarks

There will be a post-convention meeting via Zoom on Monday April 19, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. Judy shared many thanks to Mary Lee Guthrie for all that she has contributed to the Board. She will be leaving the Board at this time. Thank you Mary Lee, your job was well done!

Motion made to adjourn Convention made by Carol Dickason and second by Mary Lee Guthrie. Convention adjourned at 1:50 P.M.

Submitted by Sandra Garity, Secretary