

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALASKA  
2022 STATE CONVENTION  
April 23, 2022  
Via ZOOM

Convention called to order by President Judy Andree at 9:00 A.M.

Cathleen Rolph reviewed Zoom rules; remain on ‘mute’ when not speaking, one speaker at a time, raise hand on the bottom of the screen to speak or agree/disagree (reaction button) or physically raise your hand.

President Judy Andree welcomed the members to the 2022 Annual Convention.

1. Quorum is present.

Judy Andree introduced the Delegates, the Board members and the nominees.

All voting members are present:

Board members: Judy Andree, Cathleen Rolph, Sandra Garity, Pat Redmond, Shari George, Shirley Pittz, Marianne Mills, Sue Sherif, Gayle Garrigues, Carol Dickason,

2. Delegates: Kirsa Hughes-Skandjis, Barbara Jewell, Lois Pillifant, Barnardo , Phylis Brushdara, Donna Knight-Staton, Joyce Anderson, Judith Mitchell, Sally Sadler, Heather Flynn
3. A motion was made by Carol Dickason to adopt the agenda, and seconded by Marianne Mills. The motion was approved with no objections.
4. A motion was made by Marianne Mills to adopt the Convention Rules and seconded by Carol Dickason. The motion was approved with no objections.
5. The appointment of Heather Flynn was made as Parliamentarian.
6. The reports of the president, treasurer and Local leagues are on the lwvalaska.org under the Convention button.

Speaker:

Leah Edwards is the LWVUS liaison for the state of Alaska and Treasurer for LWVUS.

. Liaisons serve as a resource, to update on activities and to provide information and support as needed. The LWVUS’s core belief is that everyone has the right and opportunity to participate in our democracy. We all have a constitutional right to vote and exercise our voice. The voice of the people is heard through the power to vote. As the 2022 vote approaches, the League has been fighting hard to protect our democracy through both education and advocacy.

Following the attempt to overturn our government, there has been disinformation and misinformation about our democracy and hundreds of bills being passed to suppress the vote. The League has been active in federal voting rights through legislation, this includes the passing of the Voting Rights bill and the John Lewis Act. We need to continue supporting democratic rights by recognizing National Registration Day, Voting Early Day and working closely with election officials to make sure that voter information is available to all.

We need a national standard for equal rights. In 2020, 38 states ratified this bill and we need to be sure that Congress removes the timeline placed upon it. LWVUS considers the ERA a very necessary step and continues to fight for and support the act to ensure gender equality and allow the courts to more closely scrutinize sex discrimination. LWVUS has been fighting this for 50 years.

The National league has formed a task force to address the Transformation Road Map for restructuring. This will create a renewed, larger, and unified organization. This has four components.

- . The first recommendation is restructuring the National organization to better empower the State Leagues to streamline their focus on education, diversity and advocacy. There has never been an agreement between the National and State Leagues. An agreement is being designed for a member to know their rights and responsibilities in LWV. There will be a clear guide of what is to be expected of the National League. These agreements will be shared following the National Convention of 2022.

- . The second recommendation is restructuring the mechanics of membership, this can be done by simplifying the membership process. We need to grow our membership exponentially to ensure that we have the power necessary to fulfill our mission that every citizen can have a seat at the table of American Democracy. A member can join from any League site across the country. The membership information will be shared across all Leagues.

- . The third recommendation is to increase the power of State leagues so that they can support greater political power. To fight for fair free elections the State and Local Leagues will be freed from administrative duties to focus on their political and legislative issues. This is a long term commitment.

- . The fourth recommendation is empowering State and Local leagues to better serve in advocacy, education and voter services. By reducing the administrative duties, this allows the Leagues to be more involved in their important work.

- . The National Convention is being held in Denver, CO June 23-26, 2022.

In the question and answer period Leah Edwards was asked if National could look into liability insurance that would cover State & Local League events. She will take this information back to LWVUS.

Carol Dickason asked if LWVUS supports the Amendment to the Constitution to overturn Citizens United. It is her understanding the National League does not support this movement.

Leah Edwards is not sure what the reasoning is. She will get back to Judy Andree with her follow up on this.

Carolyn Brown updated the information on the Health Care Reform for the United States that she has been involved with. 98-100 Local Leagues signed on to bring this information to the National Convention. She would like to bring this project to the attention of the voters at the Convention. It is going to be included on the National Convention agenda.

#### Local League Reports: (Top 2)

##### Juneau

- . Presentation on “How to Run for Office”
- . Held a Candidate Forum

##### Anchorage

- . Youth Vote activities...presented In San Francisco “Youth Vote to Save the World”
- Also will be presenting at the Convention in Denver.
- . Ballot Revue will be sent to all homes in Anchorage

##### Central Kenai Peninsula

- . Completed the book club “The Reunited States of America”
- . Presented the documentary on the book with the filmmaker and author (via Zoom)
- . Having 5 assigned priority committees, the Education committee has joined with other groups.
- . Book club continuing on “How to Get Out the Vote”

##### Tanana Valley

- . Have presented on Rank Choice Voting
  - . Received a grant from Alyeska to purchase equipment to continue RCV presentations to outer groups
  - . Have filed for 501(c)(3)
  - . Membership over 100 members
- (Local Leagues annual reports attached to minutes)

Judy Andree updated on Special Election Candidate Voters Guide: Have received 7-8 responses from candidates. They were requested to submit a short bio including why they are running for the position. The deadline is May 27, 2022.

It may be possible for a portion of the website to place the Voter’s Guide and information. Open election with 48 candidates, top 4 will be RCV for position of Don young. This is a new system that voters are not accustomed to.

Speaker: Lauri C. Wilson who is Juneau's Region 1 Division of Elections Supervisor who has numerous years of experience in the election process. She outlined the dates of the upcoming special election for the seat to replace Representative Don Young. This vote is all by mail.

- . April 27 First mailing of ballots to the voters
- . May 12 Voter registration deadline
- . May 27 -June 10 Early voting or absentee in person voting
- . June 10 Deadline for request to receive a replacement ballot if haven't received ballot in the mail
- . June 11 Election Day, ballots must be postmarked on or before election day
- . June 21 Deadline to receive ballots.

Instructions will guide voters to properly mark ballot. Voter must provide 1 identifier and signature and date in front of a witness.

- . Ballot placed in the mail Voter should have the envelope/ballot hand canceled at the post office rather than drop in mailbox.
- . Voter will vote for only 1 candidate.
- . Ballot security to follow all state absentee processes. L=
- . Ballot logged to voter's record, staff will review ballot envelope and signature and identifier present, voters record flagged that they have voted. If voter attempts to vote again, it will be recognized that the voter has already voted.
- . Envelope has a sequence number added to it
- . Voter can check ballot status on Division of elections website
- . Regular primary and Special Elections on August 16 07-8:P.M.
- . Absentee application and electronic voting Jan 1-16
- . Regular primary vote for 1, the RCV ballot clearly marked

Regular General Election

- . Absentee voting Oct 24-Nov 7
- . November 8 Election Day RCV

Systems Security

- . Multi-steps process outlined
- . Sent through encrypted files
- . If no activity for 4 years, voter notified 30 days followed by 45 days to respond. If no response voter removed from the rolls.
- . Alaska and 28 other states are members of ERIC (electronic registration information center)
- . Active system that works with Social Security to identify deceased voters
- . Very comprehensive system to validate voter status, moved, deceased, etc
- . Inactive voters will not show up on Precinct list, they will need to be reinstated.
- . There is no way for voter fraud with the present system that is in place.

Speakers: Bruce Botelho and Cathy Giessel (Defend Our Constitution)

DOC is a bipartisan statewide coalition.

## Presenting on Constitutional Convention

- . Risk opening up the Constitution
- . Convention is unnecessary
- . Alaskans have rejected a Convention every time it has been reviewed (with one exception), this is on the ballot every 10 years
- . Is expensive (approximately \$17 million) to hold the Convention
- . Could drag on for 4 years
- . Is dangerous
- . Opportunity for mischief of the worst
- . PFD is at risk
- . Right to abortion at risk
- . No limit to issues that could be approved or rejected
- . Recommend to leave the Alaska Constitution alone, if changes required process through an amendment
- . Encourage groups to engage with Defend Our Constitution
- . Risks outweigh benefits if opened
- . Visit Website
- . 3 ways for changes to the Constitution
  - Ballot every 10 years
  - Legislature has the power to act on its own. (this has never been done)
  - Amendments placed before the people
- . Alaska Family Council is pushing for opening of Constitution directing towards to right to life, taxation, parental control in schools no taxes imposed without vote of the people
- . Early poll suggests that the voters are likely to vote “yes” on ballot
- . Need to get the word out early/educate on why opening the Constitution is dangerous.
- . Website: Defend Our Constitution
- . Constitutional convention is on the end of the ballot...is voter fatigue going to be a problem with decision making. This will be a long ballot with opening the Constitution being the question and possibly Tribal Recognition as a second question.
- . Precinct workers remind the voter to look at both sides of the ballot to the bottom.

## VOTING:

- . A motion was made by Sally Sadler to approve the minutes from the Annual Convention of 2021 and seconded by Kirsa Hughes-Skondijs. The motion was approved with no objections.
- . A motion was made by Marianne Mills to retain the existing position in Section 1 and seconded by Pat Redmond. Motion approved with no objections.
- . A motion was made by Sally Sadler to continue the review/revisions of the three positions in Section 2, and seconded by Mariane Mills. The motion was approved with no objections.
- . A motion was made by Sue Sherif to approve the Recommended Study with the need of support from each Local League, to keep this open for one more year waiting for representatives

from each Local League. Motion seconded by Marianne Mills. The motion was approved with no objections.

. A motion was made by Carol Dickason to adopt the three items of recommended emphasis in Section 4 and seconded by Sue Sherif. Motion approved with no objections.

. A motion was made by Marianne Mills to adopt the proposed per member payment as outlined and seconded by Sally Sadler. Motion approved with no objections.

. A motion was made by Marianne Mills to adopt the proposed budget FY 2022-2023 and seconded by Sally Sadler. Motion approved with no objections.(proposed budget attached to the minutes)

. A motion was made by Shirley Pittz to adopt the proposed slate of officers and directors FY 2022-2023 and seconded by Judith Mitchell. Motion was approved with no objections.

Nominating Committee for next year will be Phyllis Tugman-Alexander as Chair, Marianne Mills and Lois Pillafant as third member of the committee.

Location for Annual Convention 2022-2023 is scheduled to be held in person in Anchorage.

. A motion was made by Judith Mitchell to continue with Anchorage as the location for the Convention 2022-2023 and seconded by Cathleen Rolph. Motion approved with no objections

#### Closing Remarks

Heather Flynn announced that the League does great work, she is referring to the passing of three amazing women who all got their beginnings with the League of Women Voters. Two of these women were mentors for Pat Redmond. All three of these women were in their 90's. These women were Arlis Sturgulewski, Wilda Marsten, Judy Whittaker

#### Good of the Order:

Judy Andree reminded that we need to act in a bipartisan manner to defend our democracy. Lisa Murkowski(Republican) has co-sponsored a bill with Ben Cardin (Democrat) to remove the deadline on the ERA Amendment.

Democracy is not a done deal. Encourage everyone to educate themselves and get out the vote.

Pat Redmond would like the State Board to let the membership know that the State Board meetings are open , let the membership know when the meetings are and any member can be an observer.

Lois Pillafant mentioned that the environment was not addressed. Pat Redmond responded that National is working on this and it would cover whatever we would want to do.

Post Convention meeting will be held Monday at 7:00 P.M. Will be deciding who is going to National Convention, who will be authorized to sign the checks and new appointments will be made. Sue Sherif will be leading the meeting.

A motion was made by Pat Redmond to adjourn and seconded by Marianne Mills.

Convention adjourned at 1:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by  
Sandra Garity, Secretary