

# Juneau VOTER



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's an exciting election year and a growing number of League members are getting involved. We have attracted several new members who are interested in helping with voter registration. Marjorie Menzi, Cheryl Jebe and Geny Del Rosario participated in the recent Naturalization Service, registering several new citizens. League registrars, including Kim Andree and Michele Thompson, helped out at the Maritime Festival on May 10. The Youth Voter Registration Program, with Bridget Smith at the helm, is actively engaging new and soon-to-be new voters with the help of fellow League members.

League leader carolyn Brown has been working with Robert Barr, director of Juneau Public Library, to form the Juneau Votes coalition of diverse community groups toward the goal of active and informed voting in the upcoming elections. June 6-10, League Communications Chair

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*From left, Juneau League members Geny DelRosario, Marianne Mills, carolyn and George Brown, Hetty Barthel and Judy Andree enjoy the Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum in Fairbanks during the LWVAK State Convention. Pat Watt was busy networking and missed the photo op.*

## STATE CONVENTION

The Juneau delegates to the State Convention in April were treated to a wonderful event in Fairbanks thanks to the amazing work of the Tanana Valley League of Women Voters. We met for Friday and Saturday meetings at the I.B.E.W. Hall where we were welcomed by Jennifer Schmidt, Tanana Valley President, and were treated to a social media presentation by Meadow Bailey of the Alaska DOT. In the evening, Charlie Dexter of U.A.F. reminded us how wonderful the League was, is, and will continue to be.

Saturday we heard from Susan Wilson, LWVUS Regional Liaison, and LWVAK Legislative Liaison Caren Robinson via teleconference. Sarah Obed, Vice President of External Affairs for Doyon Ltd, described Doyon's efforts to get out the Native vote. On Saturday night we attended the 50th Anniversary of the Tanana Valley League at the Fountainhead Antique Automobile Museum where we heard an address from Alice Rogoff, publisher of Alaska Dispatch and recent purchaser of the Anchorage Daily News. Rogoff

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## 2014 ELECTION DATES

**AUGUST 19: PRIMARY**  
(State and national)  
Register by July 20  
Early Voting begins Aug. 4

**OCTOBER 7: LOCAL**  
(Assembly/School Board)  
Register by Sept. 7  
Early voting begins Sept. 22

**NOVEMBER 4: GENERAL**  
(State and national)  
Register by Oct. 5  
Early voting begins Oct. 20

## NEWS NOTES:

- Juneau League member Margo Waring has been appointed to the LWVUS Task Force on Redistricting.
- Join the LWVJ Board at 9:30 a.m. June 21 in the KTOO Conference Room for a discussion with Robert Barr, director of the Juneau Public Libraries, about Juneau Votes!
- Join the LWVJ for the Fourth of July Parade! We will be handing out voter information along the parade route!



**LEFT:**  
League members Kim Andree and Geny DelRosario register voters at the Maritime Festival on May 10.

**STATE CONVENTION (cont.) ...**

has great enthusiasm for the future of the printed newspaper industry! In between these talented speakers, the delegates managed to accomplish the business of the LWVAK.

New state board members include Directors Gail Knopf, of Kenai, and Judy Andree, of Juneau, new state President Pat Redmond, of Anchorage, Past President Linda Witt, Vice-President Carol Dickason, and re-elected state Secretary Hetty Barthel, of Juneau. Marianne Mills, of Juneau, was appointed to the Board at the post-convention meeting, and continuing Board members include Shari George, of Tanana Valley, as state Treasurer, and Directors Diane Mathisen, of Anchorage, and Lois Pillifant, of Kenai.

Issues of concern that came up in conversation and discussions included voter participation, government transparency, voter education, length of the Legislative session and dealing with local League paperwork. The LWVAK Board voted to authorize a new study on Election Processes and Procedures. In addition, the State Position on School Finance will be updated.

Several local Leagues are using the University



*Bridget Smith, chair of the Youth Voter Registration Project, works at the LWVJ registration table during the Maritime Festival. Thanks to Bridget's efforts, many League volunteers, and a grant from LWVUS, the Project this spring has assisted 99 voters to register or complete address changes.*

of Alaska archive system, and Hetty Barthel is investigating what the Juneau League might do to preserve local minutes, VOTER's and other important documents. Local LWVJ members who attended include Marianne Mills, Hetty Barthel, George and carolyn Brown, Geny Delrosario, Pat Watt, and Judy Andree.

**PRESIDENT (cont.) ...**

Pat Watt will represent us at the 51st LWVUS National Convention to be held in Dallas, Texas, accompanied by the Browns (carolyn and George) and two Anchorage League members. More information on the LWVUS

Convention can be found online at: [forum.lwv.org/member-resources/sections/convention-2014](http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/sections/convention-2014). In July, the League will once again have a presence in the parade on the Fourth, so please join us. Don't hesitate to give me a call (723-0226) if you

have any questions about League activities and your involvement. We are compiling a list of members who are interested in helping to register voters. I would be glad to add your name to the list! Thank you!  
**Marianne Mills**  
**LWVJ President**

**BOOK CLUB REPORT:**

The LWVJ Nonfiction Book Discussion Group will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 12, at the Mendenhall Valley Library to discuss "THE FOX IN THE HENHOUSE: How Privatization Threatens Democracy by Si Kahn and Elizabeth Minnich.

**JULY:** "IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN IT LOOKS: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the Politics of Extremism," co-authored by Thomas Mann of the liberal Brookings Institution; and Norman Ornstein a resident scholar at the conservative American Enterprise Institute. July's discussion will be 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 10, at the Downtown Library.

**Aug. 14 (Valley location TBD):** "GROWING UP NATIVE IN ALASKA" by Alexandria McClanahan. A generation of Alaska Natives is finding its place in Alaska Native history by defining what it means to be Alaska Native at the beginning of a new century. Cultures clashed 30 years ago when Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, and the reverberations of that clash are still being felt today. This book concerns itself with the human results of the act, the social implications stemming from an unprecedented decision by Congress that has been called an extraordinary national experiment. Twenty-seven Alaska Natives born between 1957 and 1976 were selected for interviews based on their potential as leaders and because they have struggled in one way or another with what it means to be an Alaska Native today. (Eight copies of this book are being borrowed from the Anchorage Public Library for distribution at the July meeting.)



## JUNEAU VOTES REPORT

At the last LWVJ board meeting, board members voted to join the Juneau Votes Coalition. This coalition currently includes the Juneau Public Libraries and the Juneau LWV.

The purpose of the Coalition, which we hope will grow with the joining of other local organizations, is to increase Juneau voter participation in all elections. For example, during the last midterm primary election in 2010, 33.7 percent of local registered voters turned out to vote. We are facing another midterm primary election this August and hope to improve that percentage.

In addition, we hope to improve turnout for municipal elections. Juneau Votes, in collaboration with the League, will be sponsoring ballot measure forums to educate the public. There are four ballot measures to consider: the oil tax issue on the primary and the minimum wage, legalization of marijuana, and the Bristol Bay initiative on the general election ballots.

You are welcome to join the LWVJ board on June 21st for a meeting with Robert Barr, director of the Juneau libraries, and hear his vision of what Juneau Votes might accomplish for Juneau and participatory democracy.

**RIGHT and BELOW:**  
*League member Larae Jones helps register young voters at Yaakoosge Daakahidi High School.*



## COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE AND SURVEY RESULTS

The newly established LWVJ Communications Committee conducted an online survey of members in April 2014, to learn how members obtained information from and about the League.

A total of 111 members were contacted and 31 members responded. The survey found that members rely most heavily for information on newspapers, email, radio and Google searches. Approximately half the respondents are active Facebook participants.

Members felt that Legislative Action Alerts were important, with the majority of respondents often or sometimes taking action on the Alerts. The preferred method of response is signing a petition or sending an email. All respondents were likely to participate in social and fund raising events as well as issue discussions. One action the Committee has taken is to make the LWVJ Facebook page more active and informative.

Pat Watt is the go-to person for Facebook submissions. The Committee would like to thank all of those who responded to the survey; we hope to use the information to create better paths of communication for members.

## NATURALIZATION PROJECT

### REPORTED BY CHERYL JEBE

On May 14, 2014, nine individuals took an oath to become naturalized citizens. Countries represented included the Philippines, Mexico, Spain and Ukraine. League of Women Voters Juneau was present to celebrate this momentous occasion and to register the new citizens to vote.

League members Marjorie Menzi, Geny Delrosario and Cheryl Jebe assisted with registration. Sally



Smith, also a League member, spoke on behalf of Alaska's congressional delegation.

Smith's inspirational message in part: "Citizenship isn't just reciting the oath, its living the oath and registering and voting. It's sharing your ideas, sharing your story and infusing your culture into our culture. Together, we are the United States of America."

Seven of the nine individuals registered that day and two, unable to wait, took the form with them.

The Oath of Allegiance that is repeated by the soon-to-be new citizens during the ceremony follows: I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.