

Juneau VOTER



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since our last newsletter, a growing number of League members have engaged in voter registration and information efforts.

Our involvement in the Young Voter Education Project, new citizen registration at Naturalization, the Juneau Empire Voters Guide, National Voter Registration Day and our municipal candidate forum immediately come to mind.

Please contact me at 723-0226 (text or call) or mariannemills@msn.com if you would like to get more involved.

Regardless of the time you're able to commit, your continued membership is powerful. If you have not yet submitted dues payment for our new fiscal year, please do so today through the mail or online at juneaulwv.org.

Thank you for your commitment to the League and its principles!

Marianne Mills
LWVJ President



COURTESY OF ANNE FULLER
League of Women Voters Juneau members at Candidate Forum in Hoonah in September. President Elect Geny Del Rosario at the microphone and Anne Fuller seated.

HOONAH CANDIDATE FORUM

REPORT BY ANNE FULLER

The League of Women Voters Juneau worked with HunaTotem Corp., to present a candidate forum on Sept. 26, 2014, for the local election in Hoonah, Alaska.

League members Anne Fuller and Geny Del Rosario volunteered to take the overnight trip and moderate the forum. Staff members of the HunaTotem Corp. — Amber Henderson, Nancy Barnes and Larry Gaffaney — organized the event, including transportation and lodging.

JUNEAU LEAGUE TO HOST 2015 STATE CONVENTION!

Please mark your calendars for March 27-29, 2015, when we will host the State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Alaska. We are seeking a couple of energetic Juneau League members to co-chair the planning of this special event which comes around every four years. Please contact Juneau League President Marianne Mills at 723-0226 for information and/or to volunteer to provide food, transportation or housing. We want to make the 2015 State Convention an event which our fellow League members from around Alaska will remember for years to come! Thanks in advance for your help.

PIZZA AND POLITICS

Please mark your calendar for **Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014**, from **5:45 to 6:45 p.m.** at **Thunder Mountain High School Library**. Come celebrate the accomplishments of the LWV this election year, and learn more about the League in Juneau, in Alaska, and in the nation. If you are a new member, or you have been a member for years, this is for you! Brownies and fresh fruit will also be provided. We hope you can join us.

VOTER TURNOUT — 2014 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

In addition to LWVJ's collaboration with Juneau Votes!, the LWVJ contracted two weeks of radio announcements, three per day on five local stations, beginning Sept. 22 the day Early Voting began.

We were hoping that adding consistent voting reminders by radio would increase voter turnout for the municipal election. In 2013, voter turnout for the Juneau municipal election was 19.1 percent of registered voters. This year, 2014, the voter turnout was 29.2 percent.

Another way to look at the change is the number of ballots cast. The total ballots cast in 2013 equaled 4,591 compared to the 7,127 cast in 2014.

There was a definite increase in voter activity from 2013 to 2014; however, Juneau's turnout rate continues to need attention. The election in 2007 produced the highest rate — 40.4 percent, with 9,936 ballots — of the past decade.

The radio announcements were paid for by a grant from the Education Fund of the League of Women Voters of Alaska. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the LWVAK Education fund, you can send a check to the following address:

**League of Women Voters
of Alaska Ed Fund**

P.O. Box 71974

Fairbanks, AK 99707

Checks can be made out to the LWVAK Education Fund.



COURTESY OF KIM ANDREE

From left, LWVJ President Marianne Mills, Pat Watt and Cheryl Jebe discuss League goals at the Board Retreat on Oct. 18, 2014.

LWVJ BOARD RETREAT

We completed a second survey of League members to get input and suggestions for priority goals and activities for 2015. More than a third of our 100 members responded.

Based on this member input, the Board held a day-long retreat in place of its October meeting at which it identified top priorities, with action plans, that should strengthen the organization and put it on a more stable footing for the foreseeable future.

Member responses to the surveys indicated the need for the Board to focus on four core areas:

1. Board development
2. Membership development and engagement
3. Enhancing civic engagement
4. Ensuring financial sustainability

The top priorities to come out of the retreat are as follows:

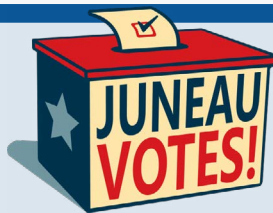
1. Write job descriptions for each Board member and Committee chair.
2. Create a Membership Committee to increase and involve members, including a membership interest survey and one-to-one contacts.

FUND-RAISING ADVENTURE

In collaboration with Florida LWV, we have embarked on a major fund-raising project — a Trip to Southeast Alaska in June 2015 for League members from the Lower 48. We are hopeful this trip will not only raise funds for our Juneau LWV, but will let our members meet and exchange ideas with other Leaguers as we host them on adventures and educational activities. A side benefit should be a small boost to our local economy. Pat Watt is chair of this committee and reports that a whale-watching event has been planned as well as a cookout for the travelers. Stay tuned as plans continue to be made for the week of June 15.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

We have begun the conversion of our website to the League Easy Web format, and hope to complete that for cut-over by the end of the year. This is a user-friendly web format increasingly being used by other Leagues. We hope this will make it much easier to maintain the website, and allow Board and Committee members to take ownership of their information and to keep it current. Be sure to check out the LWVJ Facebook page to keep up with the very latest news from your League!



JUNEAU VOTES REPORT

The League's collaborative community project, Juneau Votes! was instrumental in increasing the turnout for the October Municipal Election by 50 percent. This project has brought our League increased visibility and prestige, and deepened our relationship with local media and community organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, high school government teachers, the University, and Native organizations. LWVJ members collaborated with Juneau Votes! to register voters and assist with candidate forums.