



**League of Women Voters of Juneau  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
Saturday March 19, 2016  
10 a.m. to 12:00p.m. – CBJ Assembly Chambers**

**Call to Order: 10:00 a.m. by President Geny Del Rosario.**

**Members attending:** Geny Del Rosario, Marianne Mills, Judy Andree, Kim Andree,, Mary Borthwick, Carolyn Brown, George Brown, Robert Barr, Sally Smith, Chris Niemi, Connie Munro, LaRae Jones, Pat Watt, John Pugh, Gary Miller, Cheryl Jebe, Hetty Barthel, Margo Waring, Sue Detweiler, Kim Kiefer, Nadine Lefebvre, Judith Mitchell.

**President Geny Del Rosario: Welcome and Introduction of keynote speaker, Kim Kiefer, CBJ City Manager (retiring end of April)**

**Kim's Topic: "Everything you ever wanted know about CBJ but were afraid to ask."** Kim discussed Juneau, past, present and future. Starting in her past: 1982, and reminiscing, when she started at the CBJ. She discussed that people in Juneau are frustrated with not knowing what's happening, so , thank you to the LWVJ as we help get the word out. The CBJ has implemented many plans. And, these plans take a long time to implement. For example, the Diamond Park master plan, adopted 1988, and that vision for the 80 acres has been played out. High school, track, swimming pool, covered play area, field house, and new library, etc. Plus a trail system part of the plan. How to connect the Univ. to the community. The CBJ needs help from the LWV to help provide communications around these master plans. The Waterfront plan, was adopted in 2004. People weren't happy at that time, and so how to we get together on this? Sea walk behind Taku smokeries, new dock being built, northern dock will push the ships off the current walk way. Is a safety issue now, as they have to close the dock for emergencies and they won't have to in the future. Sea Walk from the bridge to Gold creek, over the water, behind Fish and Game, where the whale will be going (the whale is totally paid for by private donations, no money from the City.) This is a plan that is 12 years old, keeping that in front of the community is important. City Government is an economic engine, think about street work, salmon creek, a redundant water supply, city is putting money out in the economy. Not just CBJ employees, but a large number of contractors are hired in the town. The City established a Valley snow storage area (for the next 3-4 years), need to relook at this. Forest service wants to use it. The City established a new transportation plan. City just adopted an Auke Bay master plan and are starting to act on it. Working on a Lemon Creek plan now. How to co-exist businesses and residential. Need a steering committee, get involved. The residency is not engaged, it is the lowest voter turnout area as well. How do we establish contacts with them? Assembly has a plan for bio-solids. We'll have a dryer, with pellets, and we'll be able to keep it here and take care of it. Assembly approving it now. Working on a Land Management plan which says what do we do with the property that the City owns? What's within the urban service? Introduced to the Assembly in April, and public comment in May. Housing progress has been made with great strides. Opened up Lena, we have a housing action plan, meeting end of March at KTOO, and in the valley. Made lots available to developers next to DZ. Zoned D15, so 15 units per acre. Evaluating this and back to the Lands Committee end of April. City provides the streets, water and sewer, to save the developers cost. Hired Scott Ciambor as chief housing officer, moving forward with that he starts soon . We've expanded sewer services out N. Douglas. Improvements to roads, harbors, airport, Centennial hall roof. Last 4 years has been a focus on the budget. The city right-sized, we have done the work already, we looked at both revenue and reductions. That puts the city In a good place to respond to the state

budget issues. One concern: there could be layoffs at the State, so how does the city respond to that? Her view of the future is bright. Rory Watt is new City Manager. Challenges: we've had 4 mayors in the last 6 months. 33.4% voter turnout, now we can look to the future. How to move together forward? Thanks to the LWVJ - please stay with us.

Question: Municipal support from the state. What do we get now, and what do we expect? Answer: we get 2 million now, and don't know where we'll be, also, \$800K was cut from what we get from the feds.

Question: What is the CBJ involvement in the health and welfare of the community? Answer: Marijuana issues, Heroin issues, the city's role is to help see how can we assist other organizations to deal with this. With respect to marijuana how can we create as safe a business as possible? Will be one of the biggest challenges out there. We need a testing organization here, or there won't be marijuana here.

Question: A followup on marijuana. Breckinridge CO is taking over banking of this as the issue for cash. Wherever there is cash, there's organized crime. Does the city have a consideration for that? Answer: we haven't thought about that particularly, it is a safety issue for the city as well. The City has sent information to DC to encourage the federal government on banking.

Question: Regarding our solid waste problem. How do we deal with this? Possible options in the Lemon Creek plan. Answer: We don't own the landfill. It is a state permit. We don't own the collection business. How do we take the solid waste away from it? At what point do we take a transfer from it, our plan is can we divert?

Question: How many senior exemption cards were issued this year? How many in prior years? Answer: don't know the numbers, for more information, contact Kim.Kiefer@juneau.org

**President Geny Del Rosario:** Thank you Kim for this enlightening presentation. Based on attendance, the membership quorum is established to conduct this meeting. We can start with the agenda.

**Motion from N. Lefebvre to Approve Agenda, there were multiple seconds, there was no discussion, no objections, and the Agenda was approved.**

**Approval of minutes of Annual Meeting of March 14, 2015: Motion made by P. Watt, seconded, no discussion no objections, Minutes of March 14, 2015 approved.**

**President Geny Del Rosario presented the President's report for April 2015 to March 2016 (full notes attached).**

Geny recapped the LWVJ activities for 2015: In April, we did Youth Voters Registration, we started a communication website, Judy Andree reported on the legislative issues. May, registration of the new citizens after the Naturalization Ceremony. June, we did a workshop on how to run for office, July, distributed fliers, 4th of July, and communications. August was Voter registration at the Governors Picnic. September: collaboration on the voters guide for the October election. October: we had a youth participant from TMHS on the board. Also, Mara Early from TMHS, was involved in helping inform her students. Also in October, Kim Andree sponsored our first fundraiser which was very successful. November, Marianne, membership chair, worked with National and State coaches to pass out information to the Board. Dr. George Brown was acting president with Geny gone. In December, Chris reported to the Juneau LWV about the Judicial Selection & Retention Study. Chris represented our league in the state study. A consensus meeting was held & the LWV-J results were reported to LWV-Alaska. We now have a LWV-A position on Judicial Appointment and Retention. In January, Robert Barr was acting president, and we had a project for the capital visit for 8th graders to attend the legislature with 4 sessions in January with little budget. This was a year of a lot of firsts: PFD initiative on the ballot, Mayoral race - 120 people attended the forum in February. Thanks to everyone for year. You are in good hands.

## **Judy Andree presented the Legislative Action Committee Report**

The AK House took out almost \$50 million out of UA budget and cut pre-K. But Senate has put back 50% of it. Issues are all budget related. Governor's slide show; oil tax credits are the 3rd largest item in the budget. There are Bills concerning women reproductive rights, attacking Planned Parenthood, because of privately funded safe legal abortions. Hetty delivered paper copies, Bills 89 and 191, and communicated that the LWVJ is opposed. Another HB is for a 12 month prescription for birth control pills. This is important for a lot of women and there were a lot of young women testifying. Women's health, HB 153, equal pay for equal work. After that meeting, there was a picture of lobbying in the Juneau Empire and George Brown mentioned a lot of people asked why the women were lobbying? We need to do more to inform the public. If you can't get birth control, or equal pay, it is a matter of equal rights. HB 174 bill to permit canceled carry at the University. She sent a letter on behalf on the LWVJ. She mentioned that she believes that this is one issue that ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Committee) is pushing with the NRA. As we see these things pop up, they are coming from out-of-state big money groups. All of us, and encourage our other constituents to write our legislators. Medicare support was a good example, all of the public commentary was ignored. Per Chris Niemi: "During the Yakoose HS Capitol Visit a student made the comment that he couldn't believe that the committee for SB181 would pass a bill out of the committee when there was so much testimony opposing it." She said, that the chair of the committee where the bill was heard is the sponsor of the bill & another committee member is a cosponsor. Other comments heard included that even with a huge budget crisis they are still holding talks on women's issues, but won't take up equal pay. Judy requested that we all keep writing, please.

## **Marianne Mills presented the proposed LWVJ program for April 2016-March 2017:**

As published in the *Juneau Voter*:

### **1. Retain all current local positions:**

- Advisory Committees
- Avalanche and Mass-Wasting
- Charter Commission
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Education
- Estuarine Resources —Environmental Quality
- Library
- Local Election Procedures
- Local Government
- Mendenhall Wetlands Boundary Consensus
- Parks and Recreation
- Planning and Zoning
- Solid Waste Management
- Water and Wastewater

**Motion to retain all current local positions: Motion made by M. Borthwick, moved, and seconded. Unanimous vote, motion approved.**

### **2. Revise positions with the word "handicapped" to read "people with disabilities."**

**Motion to approve made by M. Borthwick, seconded by multiple people, no discussion, motion approved.**

### **3. Update and combine the Mendenhall Wetlands Boundary Consensus and the Estuarine Resources position.**

Discussion / question was asked by M. Borthwick - what are these positions and how would things changed. Marianne nor anyone else from the board could answer. The motion was tabled, as the board will look this over in the future and respond back to the membership.

**No motion made, not approved.**

#### **4. Action Priorities:**

- **Focus testimony, letter, publicity on Solid Waste Management.**
- **Get out the vote, with a focus on low turn-out precincts**
- **Develop Municipal Voters Guide**
- **Conduct Municipal Candidate Forum**
- **Hold monthly issue forums**
- **Voter Registration (Youth Voters, Naturalization Ceremonies)**

M. Waring asked/commented: Can/should the LWVJ contribute to the solid waste problem? She proposed that we are more effective when we deal with our core values of making democracy/elections work. Margo suggested that we resist putting this in our priorities. J. Pugh countered that this is a health issue and a local issue around Lemon Creek, if this is going to be disenfranchising a group of voters. The Board could take this to the Board, and remove it. However, the discussion felt that this was a focus on health and safety issues. S. Smith suggested we keep it as it speaks volumes about our intentions just by keeping it on the Leagues' priority list. It could be included with the draft energy plan and we have a Juneau action plan take a look at a position in relationship to those city plans.

**After much discussion a motion was made by M. Mills to approve the Action Priorities as written. It was seconded by multiple attendees. The vote was passed by majority, with one member dissenting.**

#### **Cheryl Jebe presented the Finance committee budget**

Cheryl recapped the Income, and Expenses per the information listed in the Juneau Voter. Note, we didn't budget for the AK Convention, we budgeted only for 3 airfare .M. Borthwick requested clarification on what "addhouse" meant - clarified as to the second member in the household. Discussed the cost of \$1400 for fundraising to rent the hanger, with \$1586 as profits. For this year, we put in \$3000 for an estimate for fundraising. J. Pugh remarked that the program activity budget of \$200 is very low. This should be higher. G. Del Rosario responded that a lot of the money is saved because we have a high level of volunteering and people providing food, and help. A motion was made by George Brown to approve the budget and was seconded by M. Borthwick. Budget passed unanimously. Cheryl commented that KTOO streamed the mayoral debate, and it was nice to be able to hear it even though she was out of town.

#### **Judy Andree presented the report on the nominating committee**

LaRae Jones, and Bridget Smith, and others helped on the committee.

The committee proposed:

Carolyn Brown as new President, Geny Del Rosario, for past president, Judy Mitchell, new Secretary, LaRae Jones, new Director, Marianne Mills, Director, and Pat Watt, Director.

The others on the Board are filling out their 2-year terms. Also noted by Judy was that the board can appoint up to 6 more Directors for one year term each. The members were asked if there was anyone else interested.

**A motion was made by Connie Munro to accept slate of officers as published, with M. Mills seconding. Membership approved unanimously.**

**Geny Del Rosario gave welcome to the new officers**

**Pat Watt presented the By-Laws and Amendments:**

Over the last 15 years, very little was revised. In 2014, there was a bylaws committee, but the deadline passed so this year, we reviewed in 2015, went over the new items. She reviewed the Summary of Proposed changes (attached). Pat noted that it excluded the "amendment from the floor". M. Borthwick requested a clarification on term limits, since it could be difficult to find people. S. Smith also supported questioning this, as small groups need a strong core group and it is difficult to have term limits in some cases. Board members should be part of the organization. More discussion by M. Mills that she believed that the LWVUS could have a position against term limits, did Pat review that? J. Pugh recommended using the 6 Director appointments as a way to bring in new members of the board.

**G. Miller moved to amend this Motion to remove term limits. M. Borthwick seconded. Motion carried to update the By Laws, with the exception of the Term Limits clause. The vote was passed by majority with one dissent.**

Pat then reviewed the Amendments from the floor. Clarified the sections. Discussed changing the quorum, numbers from 13 to a percentage of the membership. M. Mills mentioned that we needed to look at the national league requirements, need to clarify. C. Brown mentioned that the national organization should be reviewed. J. Pugh recommended using the words purpose and/or policy instead of 'mission'. G. Del Rosario requested that we clarify which order the initials should be (LWVJ or JLWV). C. Niemi recommended that anyone who wants to should help Pat with these amendments for the future.

Pat mentioned that the By Laws committee will follow up on the "amendments from the floor" for next year, and they will then work on putting together a board handbook. They will include a follow-up on what to do with the term limits, if anything.

Geny Del Rosario mentioned the need to continue to encourage diversity in the organization.

**Geny Del Rosario: Transfer of the Gavel to the new president, carolyn Brown.**

**Marianne Mills presented a "thank you" gift to Geny for the year of her Presidency.**

**carolyn Brown presided and requested directions to the LWV Boards for 2016/2017**

1. Directions to the local LWV-J Board from the membership:

P. Watt: treasurer's report needs to include a balance sheet. S. Smith: based on a mock assembly meeting she had with students, please focus on education to Jr. High and other students and create an educational plan. She'll be glad to help with these educational activities as Civics has been taken out of many curriculums. A comment was made by N. Lefebvre to broaden this to the community education as well as many adult voters would benefit to get out the vote. J. Andree: Do more with Lemon creek, getting out the vote. P. Watt - identified the 6 core functions - and asked to get names of people who would want to volunteer. J. Pugh, focus on DZ and get to the Jr. High, get the students involved, and he offered to help. M. Mills suggested another public event on How to Run for Public Office. N. Lefebvre mentioned the Juneau Job Fair no charge to the league to engage job seekers. Can we get more volunteers for that end of March.

2. Directions to the state LWV-AK Board from the membership:

A question was raised as to the membership needing more information on what the state league does. M. Mills mentioned that there are a few going to the state convention. J. Pugh: Climate change is affecting us more than others in the US, given the national stance, we can encourage the state?. M. Waring volunteered as well on that topic. C. Niemi: we should bring that to the state convention. J. Mitchell asked if we could work on getting cities in AK and other Leagues across AK to support of some of the issues to their local legislators. M. Mills mentioned support of dealing with the corrections issues.

**carolyn Brown gave Closing remarks**

This is the big year for the presidential elections. Need a public meeting place for the Board to meet, she will call a specific board meeting for the first Wed in April in the downtown library. We need to tend to business: 1) voter registrations - 90% registered. 2) voter participation: get the vote out.

Legislative involvement has been great with Judy Andree and the State legislatures. LWVJ needs the same focus on CBJ. Need to work on position statements. Need to have some fun, and make some money. Kim, Geny will help. We need to have meetings with guest speakers. We are looking for ideas on lunch, or buffets monthly, or even every 2-3 months. We need someone to tell us something we don't know. Focus to continue on Out-reach and communications, web, etc. getting collaboration with others, we need some more. We will have the PFD initiative, and we need to work on this, so people can make a decision. Increase communications to membership. 5 pm meeting at the library on Wed. April 6th for a special Board meeting. All are welcome, we need everyone's help.

**Having no further business before the members, meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.**

Respectfully submitted by Judith Mitchell, Secretary LWV-J

updated April 4, 2016