



JUNEAU VOTER

Call To Spring 2017 Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters of Juneau
P.O. Box 22048 Juneau, Alaska 99802
<http://www.juneaulwv.org/>

Nominating Committee Report Bridget Smith, Committee Chair Proposed LWVJ Board of Directors April 2017-March 2018

President		
Chris Niemi	One Year	
Vice President		
Carolyn Brown	One Year	
*Secretary		
Judith Mitchell	One Year	
Treasurer		
Kim Andree	Two Years	
*Director		
LaRae Jones	One Year	
*Director		
Marianne Mills	One Year	
*Director		
Pat Watt	One Year	
Director		
Judy Andree	Two Years	
Director		
Sarah Lewis	Two Years	
Director		
Monica Todden	Two Years	

*These Board Members are filling out their 2-year terms.

2017-18 Nominating Committee:
Bridget Smith (Chair), Rebecca Gaguine,
Nadine Lefebvre, and two League Board members.

The Board can also appoint up to six Directors for a one year term each. The new Board will decide the best monthly meeting time for all. All members are welcome.

Join Us for the Juneau League Annual Meeting Saturday, March 25, 2017

9:30 am - 12 Noon

Please plan to attend this year's Annual Meeting for all members of the League of Women Voters of Juneau. The Meeting will take place at the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Assembly Chambers on the morning of Saturday, March 19th.

League members and potential new members are invited to a delicious **Continental Breakfast at 9:30 am**, followed at **10:00 am** by our keynote speaker Rorie Watt, City Manager for the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ). Mr. Watt will talk about his first year in this important role as well as challenges and opportunities ahead. You won't want to miss his presentation of "CBJ Update and Perspectives."

Members are invited to bring their questions pertaining to Juneau's housing challenges, environmental issues, and other concerns for our guest speaker to address, followed by the Annual business meeting.

The **business meeting** is scheduled to begin at **11:00 am**. During this time, members will vote on:

1. which local activities or issues to focus on during the coming year (program);
2. the new board of directors, officers; and nominating committee;
3. the budget for FY 2017-2018
4. proposed bylaw changes.

The proposed Program, Board of Directors, Budget, and a discussion of the proposed Bylaws changes can be found in this Voter Newsletter.

Please plan to attend and bring this issue of the Juneau Voter with you to the meeting. Thanks!

Capitol Visits Project in its Second Year

Longtime League member Marjorie Menzi organized the Capitol Visits Project whereby eighth graders from Juneau middle schools are learning about the state legislative process. In the photo on the right, Instructor Kayla Epstein led a Committee Simulation on HB 13 in the House Finance Committee room.



LWV of Juneau Proposed Programs For April 2017- March 2018

1. **Retain the following local positions:**
 - Advisory Committees
 - Avalanche and Mass-Wasting
 - Charter Commission
 - Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
 - Education
 - Library
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Planning and Zoning
 - Solid Waste Management
 - Water and Wastewater
2. **Review and update positions on Estuarine Resources – Environmental Quality and Mendenhall Wetlands Boundary Consensus.**
3. **Update the Local Election Procedures position to make it consistent with the new State Position.**
4. **Conduct a new study on Climate and Renewable Energy (specific to Juneau).**
5. **Action Priorities:**
 - Coordinate a forum on Homelessness
 - Continue Voter Registration (Youth Voters, Naturalization Ceremonies)
 - Develop Municipal Voters Guide
 - Conduct Municipal Candidate Forum

”Program” means governmental issues adopted for study and action by the members.

Proposed FY 2017-18 Budget Cheryl Jebe, Committee Chair

Income

Membership Dues*	\$4,800
Fundraising	\$3,500
Donations	\$ 500
Dividend Income	\$ 2

Total Income **\$8,802**

Expenses

PayPal Charges	\$ 100
Board	\$ 200
Fundraising	\$1,000
State Dues*	\$1,245
National Dues*	\$3,440
Program/Activities	\$ 200
Convention-State**	\$2,112
Communications-Print	\$ 100
Website	\$ 200
PO Box/Postage	\$ 200

Total Expenses **\$8,797**

Net Income **\$ 5**

***LWVAK** Dues FY17
(99@\$10)+(17household@\$15)

***LWVUS** Dues FY17
(99@\$32)+(17household@\$16)

**AK Convention in Fairbanks, April 22-23, 2017 (4 airfare \$468 to Fairbanks + \$240 (4 registrations \$60) = \$2,112

Proposed Bylaws Changes

The LWVUS is encouraging Local Leagues to convert from 501(c)4 status to 501(c)3. At the LWVUS Convention in 2016, a pro-bono lawyer did several workshops on the subject and offered pro-bono help to local LWVs. LWVJ Board member, Pat Watt, attended the workshop and has been leading the work to determine if our League should do this conversion.

Note that, evidently, the initial 501(c)4 status for new LWVs was originally chosen out of what the LWVUS now says was an unnecessarily cautious interpretation of how much "lobbying" local and state Leagues actually do. Several state LWVs, and the local LWVs in those states, have already done the conversion to 501(c)3. The LWVJ Board has discussed making this change, decided it is the right thing for us to do, and has retained the pro-bono assistance of Beth Chapman (with Faulkner Banfield PC). Also, Elgee Rehfeld has indicated they would be willing to provide whatever pro-bono accounting help we need.

Advantages of converting to 501(c)3:

- All donations would be tax-deductible to the donors including membership dues;
- It would dramatically reduce the workload for us to get at the funds in our Ed Fund account now held with the state League;
- It would reduce the workload for the state League in that it wouldn't have to maintain an Ed Fund account for us;
- As a 501(c)3 organizations we would have to review our accounting records periodically (a good thing);
- We would be eligible to apply for foundation and other grants;
- It would have no effect on our advocacy work (the perception that 501(c)3 organizations are strictly limited in their advocacy work is mostly incorrect.)

Disadvantages

- The conversion process is lengthy; (Although we have already completed the bulk of the work)
- We would have to amend our bylaws to comply with Alaska requirements for incorporated nonprofits, and to comply with IRS requirements for 501(c)3s. (Up for approval)
- We would have to file an annual Form 990 with the IRS – however, since our gross receipts are less than \$50,000, only the simple 990-N postcard is required (failure to do so by the deadline automatically revokes the exemption); (Treasurer responsibility)
- We would have to file a Biennial Report every 2 years with the state Division of Corporations (\$25 fee) in order to remain in Good Standing;
- We would have to send receipts for all donations. (Hopefully, we do that anyway.)

The first step in the conversion from 501(c)4 to 501(c)3 is to amend our bylaws to conform with legal requirements of the state and the IRS. Our Bylaws Committee (Mary Borthwick, Cheryl Jebe, Chris Niemi, and Pat Watt) have prepared proposed amendments in the attached documents. [These amendments will be presented to the membership for action at the Annual Meeting on March 25.](#)