



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF JUNEAU
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
KTOO Conference Room
9:30 AM-11:30 AM
July 19, 2014

DRAFT MINUTES

Call to Order: Marianne Mills 9:30 a.m.

Present: Judy Andree, Kim Andree, Hetty Barthel, Carolyn Brown, George Brown, Fran Compton, Alyson Currey, Geny DelRosario, Anne Fuller, Cheryl Jebe, Marjorie Menzi, Marianne Milles, Nancy Waterman, Pat Watt,
Introductions and Welcome

Approval of Agenda, C Jebe motion for unanimous as changed

Guest Speaker: Representative Sam Kito

- Education – we have seen an increase in grad rate and decrease in dropout rate, showing progress but seeing budget pressures on schools. Education is priority. Funding, supporting public schools, not vouchers.
- Health in Communities – make sure our communities are safe and healthy.
- Good paying jobs for people in AK, graduate, stay to work, go to college and come back to raise families with good jobs.
- Funding for K-12 in AK: We have a large state budget and want to focus educating kids in AK. Classrooms have funding they need, then look at other state needs. Funding flat, declines, slight bump this year – recommendation with nurses being pulled out of schools, put nurses back in school with issues of students' needs. Concern about policy shifts away from neighborhood schools – state charters opportunities, neighborhood schools are priority. Strong supporter making sure funding goes to schools. State loses ability for oversight and be accountable for money going in to them. Big thing: state support for pre-pay education, class of studies with positive results is early childhood education. Mixed bag with elementary, everyone agrees that exposure at younger ages do better in school.
- Energy development - hope for successful gasline project. In the meantime, opportunities with natural gas with VISTA. 90% of state revenue from oil royalties and taxes, the energy picture is trying to get a big picture of balance in the state. We could put together alternative plans; try to shift from oil dependence in smaller communities to small

hydro projects. Challenging for communities who don't have the water conditions, technologies are getting better for tidal or river runs projects.

- Voter protection/redistricting – one person one vote redistricting becomes a problem; we need to be statesman like and professional rather than partisan and regional. We can't control population. 2008 there was an effort to add district and would have saved SE and still a possibility – each represents 17K people.
- Health care advocacy – expansion of Medicaid, the governor can, hoping he finds a number that could benefit. CBJ's health care program, self-pay and catastrophic insurance. A single payer model with reasonable sideboards, strong believer of preventive care. Sees treatment of symptoms rather than illness. Less of a dependence on pharm and more life style changes.
- Reconcile equal pay for equal work – I will do whatever I can if there is a law we can pass. Publications of pay rates in private. Do a good job at state level. Complaints in private sector.
- Promoting active in – communication. Continue to promote that when he visits. Seems to be the same people civically. Votes matter. Important to be involved, be aware of what is going on in your community. Great opportunities to be involved in Juneau, letting people know those opportunities are available. Australia has compulsory voting, concern re complacency – do they know what they are voting for? If I haven't met or not know who or what they are voting for. Balance of people of engagements.

Q. Ms. Waterman – Ideas for improving voter turnout. Rep. Kito: Getting to major events where young people are. Perennial challenge and education process.

Q. Ms. Fuller – energy, fossil fuel, Coast Guard and artic communities in the future and how we use energy. Rep. Kito: I look at that with iPhone and commuters, energy use is climbing. USA uses 3-4x electricity per capita, we shouldn't have to. Success was Snettisham, demand was down 40% and demand didn't go back up. We can get by with less usage, less demand, concerned that it becomes a financial impact as when AEL&P asked for rate increase. AK will be bellwether with permafrost and coastal erosion – set example using fewer fossil fuel.

Q. Ms. Brown – AK plan, wind, etc. Rep. Kito: Alaska does not have a plan for energy use of the future. There were attempts/plans not followed. We used to have a state agency, a great place to do research. Organization no longer active and we don't have any agency looking at change. AK Energy Authority – energy efficiencies but not advancing Alaska into new technology.

Q. Ms. Brown – what is it going to take? Rep. Kito: Based on my experience – we might start with tax credit. Tax credits are extremely limited. Benefits are limited. We could support pilot programs to get broad support in legislature. Sun in summer not in winter when schools

and business need, River freezes in winter, plenty of wind – maintenance and knowledge is challenge.

Q. Ms. Watt – way to start foundation? Rep. Kito: I would like to see that. Everyone agrees that we have to do something.

Q. Ms. Menzi – what can public do about partisanship and campaign financing. Rep. Kito: Partisanship goes back to State primary system, we are not as partisan as in DC but became when we allowed Republicans a closed primary. Caution against Dem closed primary – I will support an open public primary, but I don't know if we can get back there. Citizens United is a concern we are giving corporations of benefits of individual rights, but they are not in line with responsibility (can't put corporation in jail). In Alaska we do OK but we have \$500 limit, limited outside money \$3K. We could change the campaign time to six weeks before the race and spend the money during those six weeks. You can put a limit on \$ spent during that six weeks.

Q. Ms. Watts – Reports are that Alaska is most corrupt state, based on how legislature handles conflict of interest. Rep. Kito: No strong conviction. We might get past that with fulltime professional legislators. As a citizen legislator hard to tell them they can't vote. At least now, they have to make a conflict of interest statement for public record.

Q. Ms. Waterman – Is there a way to get education funding along during legislative sessions so local school districts can depend on funding. Rep. Kito: We are forward funding legislation – based on student populations. Bring increment in the following year to pay. There is some effort.

Q. Ms. Brown – redistricting board partisan, what do we do to act. Rep. Kito: Redistricting has always been partisan, changes in 2000 board that made it more partisan (House and Senate vs. Governor appointment). Change at Federal level on voting rights issue created an issue – current redistricting plan is a lot less onerous than the one in 2012. Could change how the board is appointed, don't know if there is a way to make it less partisan. Select members that represent groups, i.e. AK Natives, Urban, and Rural of certain size. Prepare a white paper that identifies the problem and presents a solution and describe how to get there.

Approval of May Minutes as amended. Motion by Ms. Jebe and ask unanimous consent, no objections.

Treasurer's Report – Ms. Jebe: Balance of \$1,786. Report is filed for audit.

President's Report: Ms. Mills: Peratrovich Press Release on Voters Rights and Peratrovich project and don't think Empire printed either. Will send Press Release regarding Margo Waring's appointment. Discussion. From Membership and Leadership Development Handbook, "Little things to engage your League Board" handouts. If you want to be in the next MLD conference call contact Ms. Barthel.

Immediate Planning

- **Date of Municipal Candidate Forum** - Draft of letter to request member renewal that also identifies Candidate Forum. Ms. Jebe discussed dates with City Clerk and KTOO representative; Sept 24 is best date. Motion: Select September 24 as date for Candidate Forum by Ms. Del Rosario, Ms. Barthel second – discussion. As alternative *Juneau Votes* is doing some forums. No opposition. Ms. Jebe will be Chair of LWVJ Candidate Forum. Need Moderator, please submit suggestions. Need to develop Questions to candidates and review with Juneau Empire, possibly August 19. Ms. Andree spoke with Juneau Empire regarding publication of Juneau Empire Voters Guide. Ms. Andree will email last questions to Ms. Jebe and Ms. Mills for review.
- **Juneau Empire Voters Guide:** Ms. Mills request Ms. Andree determine with Empire contact what the publication date is.
- **Hoonah Forum:** Ms. Del Rosario – Proposal to do it on September 26. She needs to coordinate with Ms. Fuller. Encourage a request for a contribution to LWVJ.

New Business

- **Board Appointment:** Ms. Mills – Pat Watt has been invited to join the Board. **Motion by Mr. Brown – to appoint Pat Watt to the Board of Directors, second Ms. Del Rosario. No objection. Motion Passed.**
- **Board Retreat Date:** Ms. Watt – Full day to bring out board priorities and organize to achieve. Spoke with Ms. Menzi who will host, Ms. Sheinberg will design the retreat agenda. Ms. Smith will facilitate process with Ms. Watt. Will send out a questionnaire, consolidate info and present at the Retreat. Ms. Brown suggests we invite members that have years of investment into the League. **Motion by Mr. Brown - at selected date we hold a Board Retreat, second, Ms. Barthel. Discussion. Friendly amendment to designate Oct 18 in lieu of meeting. No opposition, so moved.** Board members hold that date. Plan all day.
- **Alaska Common Ground Forums:** Ms. Mills – listed in *Alaska Voter*. Ms. Barthel - we can get a CD to show, she needs input. There was a Forum with Anchorage participants, Q&A after Forum. Do we want to show this city wide? Just membership? Ms. Brown will take to *Juneau Votes* meeting. Ms. Barthel will contact KTOO and see if they will show on *360 North*.
- **State Convention Date/Committee Chair:** Ms. Mills – Juneau is hosting next year's convention. **Ms. Jebe made a Motion to recommend April 11&12 to propose to state board, Ms. J. Andree second. No opposition. Motion passed.**

Reports

- **Youth Voter Registration Project** – Ms. Smith sent in report for board to read. Ms. Mills requested her to continue to participate. National Voter Registration Sept. 23, Mr. Brown is getting emails and will respond that LWVJ will participate.
- **Communications Committee** – Ms. Watts is webmaster for website; new website proposed for us to review. Ms. K. Andree helped with setup; Questions and Discussion. At their request, Ms. Watts found a Google website where Ms. J. Andree and Ms. Menzi could communicate with their committees easily. You have to have the link to get the information.
- **Social Media Training** - Communications committee has developed a training agenda. Next will be social media for newbies. Ms. Barthel: Communications training for board, six members at a time – Judy, Pat, Allison and Bridget will be coaches, bring your iPad, laptop – coaching on how. Potluck after next meeting August 16. Ms. Watts also has items from the National Convention for purchasing.
- **Peratrovich Legacy** – Mr. Brown: thanks to Ms. Jebe for doing the follow up accounting for this project.
- **Juneau Votes** – Ms. Brown: steering committee meeting this week, future plans aren't firm, will share after this meeting. Ms. Watts met with the Bar Association who are very interested and may join the group. Ms. Mills shared concerns about *Juneau Votes* relationship – it is the board's job to set parameters with group, the League name and logo needs to be on documents. Ms. J. Andree believes that *Juneau Votes* needs to provide information on who is part of this project. They have a Facebook page with member list and charter information.

Future Planning

- Girl Scouts – M. Menzi: email from Ms. Mills proposes to collaboration – Ms. Ellis of Girl Scouts made suggestions. Ideas are to have Girl Scouts hand out flyers and we could help with their badge work or participation patches or community service opportunity. Do we want to send this out to membership to work with Ms. Menzi to involve Girl Scouts? Collaborator with LWV and Juneau Votes; **Mr. Brown motion - LWVJ establish a collaboration of a project to work with Girl Scouts. Ms. J. Andree second, no objection, passed.**
- **Mr. Brown motion, Ms. Currey second - to Invite Mr. Dukowitz to our August meeting to address same questions posed to Rep. Kito. Discussion. Motion carried.** Ms. Brown will invite him and send questions.
- Fund Raising Idea – Ms. Watts: was concerned that we balanced budget taking money out of reserve so she started coming up with ideas to share. She went to the convention and met Florida representative. Florida puts on trips and recruit people to go on trips and League makes money. She has teamed up with Florida to start. Potential to raise \$2-\$3K. Ms. Barthel: go to Skagway as a starter. Hotel, transportations, tours, dinners to arrange and fill with tours and speakers. Recruiting throughout LWV nationally.

Motion: Ms. Barthel: we continue this fundraising idea of sponsoring a travel trip with FL LWV, Ms. Watt second. Discussion. No oppositions.

- Member Orientation Date – Ms. Mills let's schedule at the retreat.

Good of the order: Ms. Brown: civic education in school system – please think about ideas. 100th Anniversary for suffrage, get women to run and participate – when session starts, suggested a forum and luncheon for women in AK government and learn their stories and encourage women to vote and participate and be potential fund raiser.

Ms. K. Andree: suggested doing a *YouTube* video of on process of voting with a link of FB and website.

Ms. Menzi: *Ted X* talks are lectures available on line; there is one tomorrow night in Sitka.

President Mills Adjourned the meeting at 12:26 p.m.