

**League of Women Voters Juneau
Annual Meeting Minutes
Saturday March 14, 2015
10 a.m. to 12:00p.m. – CBJ Assembly Chambers**

Call to Order, 10:00 a.m. by President Marianne Mills. Welcome and Introductions of members and Board members attending:

Judy Andree, Kim Andree, Hetty Barthel, Mary Borthwick, carolyn. Brown, George Brown, Robert. Burns, Kendri Cesar, Fran Compton, Karen Crane, Alyson Currey, Geny Del Rosario, Vivian Hegg, Karl Hegg, Dixie Hood, Cheryl Jebe, Nadine Lefebvre, Marjorie Menzi, Gary Miller, Marianne Mills, Connie Munro, Chris Niemi, Amy Paige, Bridget Smith, Margo Waring, Nancy Waterman, Pat Watt

Welcome and Introduction of keynote speaker, Karen Crane, CBJ Assemblywoman:

CBJ Budget: Enjoys working in the Assembly; Borough has very complicated issues; CBJ is in a strong financial position \$7M in fund balance and \$11 in reserves for emergencies. \$15M deficit in 2015 – CBJ found \$3M early; two year budget in 2015 needed to find \$6M. Discussion on how we got to deficit. We used to get investment income and \$1.5M loss a year in federal funding plus \$1M a year in state revenue. PILT is no longer active and it is a year-to-year guess on what the federal government will present. Loss rural schools money from timber receipts, working hard to get the monies back for next year. \$2.7 coming out of fund balance, \$1.7M in program reductions; \$300K in Dept. fees and rates revenue, took \$1M out of capital improvements sales tax money for operations. FY16: \$2.8 in reductions in CBJ; PILT revenue \$1.8; \$1M in sales tax with increased cigarette tax \$1.7M, property tax assessment value up by 1% for a small increase; \$5M in department fees rate increases, police and ambulance. Proposed \$3M out of fund balance but doesn't think the Assembly will approve. There is a lot of Sales-Tax-Exemptions publicity, this is more than Senior exemptions: \$2.8 Senior sales tax because it is expected that Senior population will increase to 20% by 2025. Nine scenarios of how people want to structure. Agreed in the Finance Committee through Tax Committee and then will go to Assembly for restaurant exemptions, out of borough senior exemptions; sale of single item goods or services, i.e. jewelry, car, refrigerator (\$7500 is tax exempt since 1997), agreed to raise that cap to \$12,000 with a review every two years with COL increase bringing in additional \$1M. For Seniors at 250% of Fed poverty level would get exemption (that is \$49,100). CBJ is not over-staffed. Most airports are operated by the State not Juneau, who brings in their own revenue; Bartlett is a community hospital. . MIL levy 9.26% , property assessments went up not taxes; 1/10 of percent for debt service; School district, only one of two in the state that are funded to the cap. Cap determined by full and true value in Juneau and number of students formula. Juneau has funded above the cap with transportation and other legal avenues. Have to watch what they are funding. All Assembly members want to put in max funding for education, not sure where that will come from. Wait and see what state funding is and what our cap is. 5% sales tax; 1% is permanent; 3% is temporary approved in 2012 for five years - expires 6/30/17. She expects some money from marijuana; we will see when that is really legal.

Question: Money in marijuana: increase in tobacco, looking at costs for essential services and relationship with alcohol use: why don't we raise taxes on alcohol to offset the burden to essential services? Answer: Excise tax has to be passed by public. Tobacco was designated and did not have to go on ballot. \$950K a year in alcohol taxes, I agree we need to look at that. CBJ doesn't want revenue from the state marijuana licensing they want to be able to excise tax instead.

Question: Medicare increases would increase \$\$ to Juneau? Answer: Would be beneficial to Bartlett. Believes it will pass in special session.

Question: Sales tax, do seasonal employers pay fair share, how is it audited? Answer: We think they are.

Question: Treadwell Arena empowerment board? Answer: Treadwell will stay an advisory board and one is being considered for Pools.

Question: Was the empowerment board for the Pools on the ballot?: Answer: The statement was to give authority to Assembly to create an empowerment board. CBJ Assembly had a whole list of questions and are not going to put in an empowerment board in place until questions are asked and answered. Ordinance created, has been sent back to Human Resources Committee (HRC); questions sent to the City Manager who has volunteers review and respond. That information goes back to HRC and back to Assembly.

Question: Future funding from state will change, what impact on CBJ fiscal? Answer: I think we will have a state income tax, but that will not solve the problem. State will have to do something, probably tap into Permanent Fund. There are closed doors in legislature – will not talk about revenues this year. 22% state pays of CBJ PERS obligation. \$2.4 revenue sharing proposed to phase out. CBJ will be ready with proposals in the fall. Every community association will have to come out with a position statement. We will run out of money in two years.

Member suggestions for avenues for revenue: at the state level, reinstitute school tax, \$100 of every pay check based on income, \$5M or \$100 for two paychecks for \$10M. At the City level a Special fee for tax exempt property; and a Fire and Police surcharge for vacant buildings?

Answer: State requires Senior exemption from property taxes, would like to see State reimburse CBJ which has never happened. That exemption becomes fees based. It has been proposed to use the federal poverty level with tiers system reduction. PILT to cover fire and police.

Question: How about an increase in MIL rate on property tax because sales tax hits low and middle income? Answer: CBJ discussion last year to raise property taxes, not five votes. Maybe this year.

President Mills: Thank you Ms. Crane for this enlightening presentation. The membership quorum is established to conduct this meeting.

Motion from N. Lefebvre to Approve Agenda, second, no objections, approved.

Approval of minutes of Annual Meeting of March 23, 2014: Motion made by C. Jebe, no discussion no objections, Minutes of March 23, 2014 approved.

President's report: M. Mills presented her highlights for the *2014 Report from LWVJ* which she will present to state delegation. Please let Mills know additions or changes to her list. Very important:

- First to recognize the incredible program and production by carolyn and George Brown for the Peratrovich Project. Highly successful and becoming more recognized as time goes by with support from teachers and libraries across the nation.
- Thank you Judy and Kim Andree for this past year's *Juneau VOTER* newsletter.
- Highlights include Voter Registration grant by c. Brown with outreach led by Bridget Smith with a dedicated team who registered young adults and adults throughout the year.
- Pat Watt, carolyn and George Brown attended National Convention.

- Carolyn Brown and Robert Barr took the lead in developing and directing a successful program named *Juneau Votes*.
- Cheryl Jebe and Judy Andree worked with the Juneau Empire to produce the Annual Voters Guide
- Geny Del Rosario and Anne Fuller worked with Huna Totem to present a candidate forum in Hoonah.
- Marjorie Menzi, Cheryl Jebe and Geny Del Rosario registered new voters at all Naturalization Services.
- Marjorie Menzi also worked with State committee to study Election Processes and Procedures to develop a State League position in 2015.
- Pat Watt started up the communications committee and with Kim Andree updated Facebook and redesigned the Juneau LWV webpage. The Committee conducted a survey and increased communication.
- Bridget Smith and Pat Watt chaired a Board Retreat with goals established to grow membership.
- Marie Olson was front and center at the Get out the Native Vote event and recruited five new members.
- Joy Lyon organized a *New Members Orientation* at Thunder Mountain High School Library with Marianne Mills, Hetty Barthel, Alyson Currey and Marjorie Menzi making presentations.
- Reception for Juneau Legislators that Representative Munoz attended.
- Annual Program Planning and hosting State convention.
- Fundraising trip collaboration with FL League did not come to completion but lessons learned for our next fundraising venture.
- Legislative Action Committee Reports being presented by Judy Andree:

State League Convention will be held at Centennial Hall in the Egan Room on Saturday March 28th and Sunday March 29. The kickoff on Fri March 27th interested members will meet at 4:20 on the 3rd floor of the Capitol building in the Cabinet Conferenced Room with Lt. Governor Byron Mallott. There is a no host dinner and silent auction Saturday evening at the home of Marjorie Menzi. Saturday morning's agenda includes addresses from First Lady Donna Walker and LWV US representative, Chris Carson. Hetty will send email requesting R.S.V.P. sign up for Lunch. Gail Fenumiai will be the keynote speaker. Saturday afternoon workshops including "EZ Web, our new website"; "Consensus and Concurrence" from C Carson, and the Peratrovich Legacy movie. Donate and bring silent auction items to the Saturday night dinner for fund raiser.

Judy Andree: working with C. Robinson on what is going on in AK legislature: Handout: Special Session will discuss Medicaid expansion. Privatizing certain public assistant programs/associations; putting aside 10% you can put aside for medical care; check out the Dept. of Health and Social Services website (<http://dhss.alaska.gov/Pages/default.aspx>). Legislature looking at funding to help expand Medicaid. Letter from Pat Redmond to State supporting Medicaid with extensive support at National LWV level.

President Mills: Presentation of the proposed LWVJ program:

As published in the *Juneau Voter*:

1. Retain all current local positions:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Committees • Avalanche and Mass-Wasting • Charter Commission • Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault • Education • Estuarine Resources —Environmental Quality • Library | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Election Procedures • Local Government • Mendenhall Wetlands Boundary Consensus • Parks and Recreation • Planning and Zoning • Solid Waste Management • Water and Wastewater |
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2. Update the library position

3. Action priorities:

- Focus testimony, letters and publicity on Solid Waste Management;
- Housing/Homeless is another key issue (use National position);
- Municipal Candidate Forum;
- Municipal Voters Guide;
- Participate in the Fourth of July Parade for visibility and education;
- Voter Registration (Youth Voters, Naturalization Ceremonies).

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

MOTION: C. Jebe, adopt proposed program, G. Del Rosario second. Discussion:

M. Waring: propose amendment: 'local election procedures' should be placed on update list

because they were last adopted in 1982 and national and state positions changed. Please include Menzi and Smith proposal: **Explore capital visits for middle school students.**

Amendment second by M. Menzi, no further discussion, unanimous approved.

No objections, motion approved.

M. Waring: League strength in issues of voting and making democracy work rather than some of the ones outlined. Think about activities that are league's core mission.

Proposed Budget for 2014-2015: C. Jebe presented the handout of proposed budget (page attached).

MOTION TO APPROVE as presented by M. Borthwick, second C. Munro, discussion. Objections none. Approved.

Election of Officers: M. Mills presented the slate as presented

[Proposed LWVJ Board of Directors for April 2015-March 2016:](#)

President - Geny Del Rosario One Year

Past President - Marianne Mills One Year

Secretary - Fran Compton One Year

*Treasurer - Kim Andree Two Years

Director - George Brown One Year

Director - Alyson Currey One Year

Director - Pat Watt One Year

*Director - Robert Barr Two Years

*Director - Hetty Barthel Two Years

*Director - Chris Niemi Two Years

*Board Members being elected for new terms.

Others are filling out their two-year terms.

Thank you to the 2015 Nominating Committee: Geny Del Rosario, Larae Jones, Anne Fuller, Bridget Smith, Kim Andree. There is an Option for co-president since we did not get a president-elect.

D. Hood motion to accept slate of officers as published, K. Crane second, discussion, no objections, approved.

President Mills: Are there any further direction to the Juneau Board?

- K. Crane: Conduct a workshop "so you want to run for office".
- M. Borthwick: Is Juneau, along with any other local governments, going to stop newspaper notices of government meetings, etc. and use only on-line notices? Or will they continue newspaper notices while adding on-line notices.

- C. Munro: Look in to annual award for youth on voting issues/leadership and adult recognition for human rights outside of the membership.

For the good of the order:

- Thank you to B Smith for putting up voter registration table at next Job Fair.
- c. Brown: March is Women's History Month: Downtown Library display.

Direction to State Board:

- M. Menzi: National prohibition for league members to speak on an Action Alert as a League member. We have a spokesperson, the President, and J Andree is our legislative liaison. They are authorized to respond as a LWV members. I would like Juneau board to discuss this directive with C. Carson, from National. I believe it is counterproductive in getting LWV name as a grass roots organization – if member chooses to take action on a League Action Alert we should be allowed to state we are a member of The League.

President Mills: Presentation of special award to C. Jebe who has dedicated years to support local and state positions and is taking a break.

c. brown: The Juneau Delegates to the State convention are G. Del Rosario, c. brown, C. Niemi.

Having no further business before the members, meeting is Adjourned.

The DVD made by K. Andree of the Peratrovich presentation at the National League of Women Voters Convention was viewed at the conclusion of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Fran Compton, Secretary JLWV