



**League of Women Voters of Juneau
Annual Meeting
Saturday March 25, 2017
10 a.m. to 12:00p.m. – CBJ Assembly Chambers**

Minutes

Call to Order: 10:03 a.m. by Acting President Chris Niemi.

Members and guests attending: Sarah Lewis, Barbara Learmonth, Marie Darlin, Marianne Mills, Judy Andree, Kim (Andree) Jones, Mary Borthwick, Chris Niemi, Pat Watt, Hetty Barthel, Margo Waring, Nadine Lefebvre, Karen Dillon, Christy Blair, Nancy Waterman, Monica Todden, Kayla Epstein, Judith Mitchell.

Welcome and Introduction of keynote speaker, Rorie Watt, CBJ City Manager by Acting President Chris Niemi

Rorie's Topic: "Pay attention to the data." Rorie discussed a number of hot topics going on in Juneau today. He touched on the new "Camping Ordinance" by saying that sometimes we lose sight of the core problem. The data showed that we have about a dozen people who need a place to sleep, and the business community clearly had concerns, but the data wasn't clear that we needed an ordinance to fix this problem. He discussed the situation with the closing of the Bergman Hotel, and he felt that the public wasn't fully informed of how many chances the city gave the owners' to fix the problems before they closed it for valid code violations. He said it is impossible to know when an emergency might occur, citing the deadly fire in California in a building with violations. He then went on to discuss that "there is worth in the city investing in providing services" which sometimes gets lost in the politics. He then discussed the budget and expressed a positive view that the city was poised to be able to handle the state budget crisis due to city having the foresight to plan and not overspend in prior years. He didn't anticipate that there would be much new construction going on in the next few years although it is clear that the city does still need to invest in its infrastructure. He also mentioned that there were about 40 Boards and Commissions and perhaps that may be too many for a city of our size. He completed his speech by asking the League to help involve the next generation. One way would be to continue the "How to Run for Office" workshop, which (according to Pat Watt from the LWVJ Board) would include a section on participating in Boards and Commissions.

Question: Speaking about the Bergman Hotel shut-down: Why doesn't the city do a better job communicating to the public? Where do we find the information? Answer: The city now has a public relations person, who is going to help get the information out there. They will try to make the web pages better.

Question: Any plans for trying to save money by implementing energy saving ideas? Answer: Right now, there is nothing systematic set up to focus specifically on energy saving.

Question: What would be the reasons for the increase in crime in the city? Is it due to more people coming in? Answer: There is no data to support that, the belief is that it is due to the increased drug use in the city and that it remains profitable for people to bring drugs into town. There is some data to support that we have about 300 active drug users and that would explain the crime.

Question: What, if anything, can the city do about the landfill? Answer: Since the city no longer owns the landfill, the best focus is on recycling and trying to keep as much as possible out of the dump. It is doubtful that we will get the permits to increase the size of it. The city is focused on getting rid of old

cars, and on hazardous waste. There was an update on the garbage situation at the last Assembly meeting on the 20th. Perhaps there will be a way to help focus on better curbside options due to a change in ownership for Arrow Refuse.

Acting President Chris Niemi: Chris thanked Rorie Watt for his presentation. Based on attendance (16 members), the membership quorum is established to conduct the business meeting. We can start with the agenda.

Motion from Nadine Lefebvre to approve the agenda, seconded by Judy Andree. There were no objections, all approved.

Approval of minutes of Annual Meeting of March 19, 2016: Motion made by Judy Andree, seconded by Pat Watt, no discussion no objections, Minutes of March 19, 2016 approved.

Acting President Chris Niemi discussed a letter from President Carolyn Brown. (both the Presidents' letter and the Acting Presidents' letters will be sent to the membership after this meeting).

Chris read parts of Carolyn's report and highlighted a number of the activities that the League was involved in including: The Kids to the Capitol (Capital Kids - Capitol Visits); the Lunch & Learns; Candidate forums; among many other activities. She read a number of these items. Chris also touched on a few activities in January to March, and reminded the audience that there was a "How to Lobby" seminar coming up on April 1st, to continue our commitment to voter education.

Marianne Mills presented the proposed LWVJ program for April 2017-March 2018:

As published in the *Juneau Voter*:

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**

There was a Motion to retain all current local positions, including those in #2, and #3 below. "We need to retain them all first, then, we can work on updating the three listed." Motion made by Mary Borthwick, moved, and seconded. Unanimous vote, motion approved.

2. Review and update positions on Estuarine Resources – Environmental Quality and Mendenhall Wetlands Boundary Consensus.

There was a Motion to review and update the positions on Estuarine Resources and Mendenhall Wetlands Boundary Consensus. The Board was looking for a volunteer to help with updating that one, and Judith Mitchell volunteered. Motion was made and seconded. Unanimous vote, motion approved.

3. Update the Local Election Procedures position to make it consistent with the new State Position.

There was a discussion that updating the local election procedures might not be a difficult endeavor, and then there was a Motion to review and update this position. The Board was looking for a volunteer to help with updating that one too. Motion made by Pat Watt, and Hetty Barthel seconded. Unanimous vote, motion approved.

4. Conduct a new study on Climate and Renewable Energy (specific to Juneau).

Discussion was held on the members request to conduct a new study on Climate and renewable energy for Juneau. Margo Waring spoke that she was a board member on a new organization in Juneau to support renewable energy. She volunteered to assist with this study. Nadine suggested that we invite additional participants participating at the Home Show this weekend.

Motion made by Margo Waring, and Nadine Lefebvre seconded. Unanimous vote, motion approved.

Marianne then review the Action priorities for 2017-2018 (**no motion needed**):

- Coordinate a forum on Homelessness
- Continue Voter Registration (Youth Voters, Naturalization Ceremonies)
- Develop Municipal Voters Guide
- Conduct Municipal Candidate Forum

A comment from the audience supported also continuing the "Lunch & Learns" as they are very helpful.

Margo Waring requested the floor to discuss Redistricting at this time. She informed the group that any changes to the current redistricting process would require a constitutional change as our redistricting process is laid out in the Alaska State Constitution. This makes it almost impossible to change. However, there are ways that there could be some 'work-arounds' in the legislature: for instance, the legislature could require that the company that is selected to draw the maps be non-partisan (there are some in the US that are); another idea would be that the legislature require minority party involvement in the case where the Governor, and both Houses are the same party. There are other things we can do on this topic. It was mentioned that LaRae Jones is trying to get a Lunch & Learn organized for April on this topic and Margo volunteered to help.

Kim (Andree) Jones presented the Finance committee budget

Kim recapped the Income, and Expenses per the information listed in the Juneau Voter. There was a discussion about how much the League was receiving in "dividend income" and Kim volunteered that there was \$3700.00 in a savings account, in addition to the funds available from checking.

A motion was made by Marianne Mills to approve the budget and was seconded by Judy Andree. Budget passed unanimously.

Nadine Lefebvre presented the report from the nominating committee

Bridget Smith was the chair of the committee, and members were Nadine Lefebvre, Chris Niemi, LaRae Jones, and Sara Boesser.

The committee proposed:

- President: Chris Niemi
- Vice President: carolyn Brown
- Treasurer: Kim Jones (nee Andree)
- Board Director: Monica Todden
- Board Director: Sarah Lewis
- Board Director: Judy Andree

Note: The others on the Board are filling out year two of their 2-year terms. In addition, the nominating committee next year will be chaired by Bridget Smith, and members are Rebecca Gaguine, Nadine Lefebvre and two new Board members will be assigned. It was noted that Kim (Andree) Jones got married recently, and thus her name will be changed on all future correspondence.

A motion was made by Marianne Mills to accept slate of officers as published, with Mary Borthwick seconding. Membership approved unanimously.

Note: "The League of Women Voters - Juneau, hereby affirm that Chris Niemi was duly elected as President of the League of Women Voters of Juneau, Carolyn Brown was duly elected as Vice-President, and Kim (Andree) Jones was duly re-elected to another 2 year term as Treasurer. Chris Niemi, Carolyn Brown and Kim Jones should have signatory rights to the League accounts at Alaska USA. There should be no other signatories other than Chris Niemi, Carolyn Brown and Kim Jones."

Pat Watt presented the By-Laws and Amendments:

Pat mentioned that due to the recommendation from the National League of Women Voters, local leagues are being encouraged to move from a "501(c)4" organization to a "501(c)3" charitable organization. She reviewed the Summary of Proposed changes (attached), and the pros and cons of such a move. Mary Borthwick requested a clarification on the change to wording: "Article IV Section 1, Number... Bylaws Committee didn't understand what was meant by the word 'qualified.'" It was that the committee removed the word since it didn't seem relevant. Pat also pointed out that the Amendment: Article XII Section 1, Amendments gives the organization some flexibility (with reasonable constraints) to change its bylaws between Annual Meetings, should that become necessary as we need to be able to do this without waiting almost a year between changes. There were no other questions and the documentation was very clear.

Mary Borthwick moved to accept this Motion and Nadine Lefebvre seconded. Membership approved unanimously.

Pat mentioned that the Communications committee will be working on putting together a board handbook.

Judy Andree presented the Legislative Action Committee Report

Judy briefly recapped a couple of critical bills in the legislature. HB1 Same day registration; helps resolve the issue of moving voting locations, and supports continued early voting. HB175 National Popular Vote. Please send letters in support of these critical bills. She also mentioned that the State LWV Board sent a letter of support for the income tax solution rather than a sales tax.

Chris Niemi gave Closing remarks

Chris spoke about how people have started coming together to speak out and to join together to bring about change. She said that we have seen that citizen activism works! The League needs your energy to help us move forward.

Don't forget that the Board meetings are the third Monday of the month at the Downtown Library. All are welcome.

Having no further business before the members, Nadine Lefebvre made a motion to adjourn. Judy Andree seconded, all approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judith Mitchell, Secretary LWV-J