



League of Women Voters of Juneau

**Board of Directors Meeting
May 11, 2020
MINUTES**

Call to Order: Co-President Kirsa Hughes Skandijs called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm

Board Present and Introductions: Judith Mitchell, Kirsa Hughes Skandijs, Lori Brotherton, Peggy Cowan, Sally Saddler, Trish Turner Custard, Donna Knight-Staton, Marianne Mills, Sarah Moore **Quorum Established**

Members Present and Introductions: carolyn Brown, Judy Andree, Mary Borthwick, Sally Rue, John Pugh, Hetty Barthel

Discuss and Approve:

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved with addition of Annual Meeting Results.

Approval of April Minutes: Minutes Approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Lori reported we are financially healthy. There has been low activity financially due to COVID-19. It was also discussed that due to COVID-19 both the State, and presumably, the National Conventions will be held virtually, therefore allowing the funds budgeted for those events to be held in reserve. Report filed for audit.

Correspondence: We received thank you cards from DZ students who participated in Capitol Visits.

Old Business/Updates:

Membership: Marianne reported that our member numbers are strong, but there were no new members this month.

State Convention Update: Please see information from the LWVAK Voter attached to the end of these Minutes for a full review of the State Convention.



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How To Run For Local Office: Peggy and Sally are this year's leads for the Workshop. July 18th has been determined to be the date for the Workshop. Another League member is needed to help with the preparation. Thanks to the detailed work of Pat Watt for past Workshops, the vast majority of materials are already created. It was decided that a call would be put out to Members to solicit another volunteer. **NOTE:** After the meeting, Donna stepped up to volunteer with Workshop preparation and the all call to Members was cancelled.

New Business:

LWV AK Update: - Please see information from the LWVAK Voter attached to the end of these Minutes for a Grants update. carolyn and Judith spoke about the hiring of Pat Race to create a social media plan to reach potential voters. Pat is putting together a proposal with associated costs.

Voting In A COVID-19 World: The CARES Act has given states money to be used towards elections in the fall. Alaska has \$3 million. carolyn reported that Andi Story contacted the Lt. Governor regarding safe and secure voting practices. The Lt. Governor stated that the state will have directives in the near future.

Judith mentioned that the Brennan Center of Law has issued a White Paper on Vote By Mail that explores the misinformation associated and best practices. Judith stressed the importance of doing an educational campaign to reassure voters. We need to work with other entities to leverage all of our communications. Our non-partisan status could be a plus in this area as we will be less likely to alienate any political group.

Sally Rue spoke of the Alaska Center's efforts on Vote By Mail in Anchorage and the huge education effort it took.

John Pugh suggested we look to Sealaska and other Native Corporations as partners and carolyn suggested Tlingit-Haida.

Donna inquired as to who are the populations we will be targeting with our education/communications. It was suggested that millennials and other non-voters who have expressed disenchantment with the system would be a particular focus.

Judith expressed that we will work with the State League to leverage all our actions, but that our first focus is on Juneau. Although it may seem that we are behind in planning, due to the stress of the current situation most people are not thinking about November elections. However, we need to get our initiatives determined, created, and to the public soon.



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Anyone who has thoughts and suggestions as to Voting in a COVID World or knows of possible organizations to partner with, please send yours ideas/ suggestions to Judith. She will put out a proposal for a plan.

Recap From Annual Meeting Survey: Tabled until next meeting or to be considered via email. Judith asked that we review the document that she sent detailing the survey.

Discuss Activities/Programs For 2020/2021 and Review Calendar: Tabled until next meeting or to be considered via email. Judith asked that we review the document that she sent detailing the calendar of activities and programs. However, we should all work from the standpoint that Get Out The Vote will be and is our #1 priority for the rest of this year.

For The Good Of The Order:

Sally expressed concern about our budgeted \$5100 fundraising goal. Lori reminded that we have \$3300 that was budgeted for State and National Conventions that will not be spent. It was decided that this will be revisited in the fall.

Marianne asked if it had been decided who our three voting candidates to the National Convention will be. Kirsa and Judith have both agreed to attend, we still need a third. There has been limited information coming from National about the Convention.

With no further business, Kirsa adjourned the meeting at 6:35.

The Next Board Meeting is Monday, June 8th at 5:15 via Zoom.

Please refer to additional materials on pages below.





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State Convention Summary and Grants Update (from LWV AK Voter)

State Convention: The League of Women Voters of Alaska held their State Convention on April 25 via the ZOOM video platform. We were originally planning to have the Convention in Anchorage, but decided that during the pandemic, we would not ask our voting delegates, interested League members, and board members to make such a trip. We had 19 board members and voting delegates present along with others who came and went as the speakers were heard during the course of the meeting. We began the meeting at 9 a.m. and finished at 1:15 p.m.

The meeting began with a presentation by the LWVUS liaison, Deborah Turner, who also attended last year's Convention in Juneau. Deborah spoke to us about the importance of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and how it relates to League membership. You can find the LWVAK's DEI policy on the first page of our website: lwvalaska.org. We also heard from Shea Siegert and Scott Kendall from Alaskans for Better Elections concerning their ballot initiative dealing with ranked choice voting, open primaries, and campaign finance transparency. You can read more about this initiative at this link: <https://alaskansforbetterelections.com/>

In addition, we also heard from our Legislative liaison, Caren Robinson, who reminded us that the Legislature is in recess and can be called back into session as the pandemic situation changes, but the location is unknown at this point as the location would have to allow for the social distancing requirements. Thirty bills were passed so far this session, a much smaller number than ordinarily passed. Caren also reported that there seemed to be greater bipartisanship than in recent years--a bit of good news.

The Convention delegates voted on new officers for the LWVAK. They are President, Judy Andree (Jnu); Secretary, Sandra Garity (CKP); Past President, Pat Redmond (Anc); new Directors, Carrie Henson (CKP) and Marianne Mills (Jnu); Treasurer, Shirley Pittz (Anc) in second year of two-year term; and two Directors in their second year, Mary Lee Guthrie (TV) and Cathleen Rolph (CKP). At the post-Convention board meeting, the board also appointed Carol Dickason to a one-year term as a Director.

The delegates decided to approve a new Education Position that might encompass several of our current education positions such as School Finance and Career



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Education as well as other aspects such as curriculum. If you are interested in this effort, please contact Sue Sherif (Sue.sherif@alaska.net). In addition to Sue, Peg Cowan (Juneau League member and retired school superintendent) has also volunteered for this effort.

The program emphasis areas include Voting Rights Advancement Act, Climate Change, Immigration Issues, Health Care, Gun Safety, Constitutional Convention, Redistricting, Equal Rights Amendment. We also discussed safe voting during a pandemic and how the League might advocate for that safety. The Alaska Division of Elections is set to announce their plan for safe voting in a few weeks, and the League has offered to help particularly with voter education.

As you may be aware, the LWVAK board has been holding its monthly meetings by teleconference. At the post-Convention meeting, we voted to begin using the ZOOM platform, and Cathleen Rolph and Carrie Henson have both agreed to host those meetings. They will be issuing the invitations via email for each meeting; those invitations include the link to join the meeting. This means that if you are not a board member and wish to attend a board meeting, we need to know in advance so that you can receive the link. You may contact me (jagster42@gmail.com) and I will forward that on to the host (Cathleen or Carrie). We invite all members to join us at any board meeting that we have scheduled.

Grants Report: As you may know, the LWVAK has received three grants from LWVUS. The People Powered Fair Maps campaign deals with redistricting, the Census, and the anniversary of the 19th Amendment. We were able through the actions of all four local Leagues to fulfill our contract for the PPFM grant.

The larger grants from the LWVUS include advocacy for the Equal Rights Act (S.J.Res 6) and the Voting Rights Advancement Act (S. 561). We are to correspond with Alaska's two Senators and express our support for both of these bills, establish educational events around the bills, write letters to the editors, and collaborate with partners who have similar interests in the bills.

Both grants were started before the pandemic hit, and adjustments are being made based on the pandemic requirements. We have a committee of seven members, at least one from each local League area, who have been meeting via teleconference to discuss the grants. Those committee members include Laurie Sica (Juneau), Joan Diamond (Anch), Sue Sherif (TV), Cathleen Rolph (Kenai), carolyn Brown (Jnu), Judith Mitchell (Jnu) and myself. We have met via teleconference with Senator Sullivan's state directors and outlined our support for these two bills. We followed that up with a letter to the Senator that summarized our support and asked him to either sponsor both bills or



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explain why he would not. We are currently waiting for his response. Granted, he is very busy with the pandemic issues, but we want to look ahead to the point where the pandemic is under control. Many of the workers on the front lines of the pandemic fight are women and minorities. We will need to work together as a society to rebuild, and it would seem important to do that based on equality and civil rights protections. We are mounting an email campaign soon to ask Senator Sullivan for his support for these bills, and thank Senator Murkowski for her co-sponsorship of both bills. Watch for the Action Alert coming soon!