



The Anchorage VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE
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July 2018

EXCITING NEWS!!!

WE WON!

The League of Women Voters of Anchorage received a STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY LOCAL AWARD from the LWVUS at its 53rd National Convention held in Chicago on June 30. Accepted by Anchorage Board members Shirley Pittz and Cari Zawodny, the award presentation was witnessed by Youth Vote participants (also LWV members).

Our project was titled: **Voter Engagement through Voter Registration and Vote-By-Mail Education and Outreach**

The award recognized the work of Anchorage LWV members in:

- ◆ Registering high school & college students, new citizens, and other members of the Anchorage community to vote;
- ◆ Providing community education regarding the new Vote By Mail system at 41 different venues;
- ◆ Drafting an eight-page *Ballot Review*, distributed to all Anchorage households;
- ◆ Partnering with and assisting the Municipal Clerk's office with pre-election, Election Day, and post-election activities;
- ◆ Creating a voting PSA for youth by youth (Youth Vote); and
- ◆ Participating in the Anchorage Elections Stakeholder Groups from July 2015 through April 2018.

MARK THE DATE!

WHAT: Youth Vote Presentation

WHO: Tuan Graziano & Lily Van Alstine, LWV & Youth Vote members

WHEN: Tuesday, July 10
12:00n - 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Paris Café & Bakery
346 E. 5th Avenue

All members are encouraged to attend. Voice your opinion as we chart our direction for the coming year.

2018-19 will be a busy and exciting time for League. We need your INPUT, EXPERTISE and EXPERIENCE. Come and bring a friend!

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Any person 16 years of age and older, male or female, may become a League member.



Message From the President

Hello League Members

I am Margaret McDonagh, the newly elected Anchorage League President. I've been a member of the League for three years and on the Board for all of that time, this past year serving as Secretary. I am a life-long Anchorage resident and have been a public educator for twenty years. Prior to joining the League, I worked with my union to support public educators. While I know I have a lot to learn, I am excited to fulfill the duties of President. Fortunately, I am following in the footsteps of Joyce Anderson, a very talented and knowledgeable Past-President and will have her and the other members of the Board to help me with my learning curve! I'm excited to meet all of you, hopefully soon!

Vote By Mail (VBM): On May 16th, the Board sent a resolution proposing the use of the VBM system in the upcoming Primary (August) and General (November) elections to the Alaska Division of Elections. Although the community response was positive and we received significant press about the resolution, the Division of Elections position was that such a move would require legislative action. Without another alternative, the Board opted to offer to partner with the State Division of Elections to get information on how voting would be conducted in the upcoming August Primary and the November General Elections out to voters. Still, there is real concern that Anchorage voters will be confused and frustrated with the shift back to in-person voting, becoming disengaged as a result. We will continue to work to make VBM a reality in future statewide elections. And, of course, we will keep you informed about this important issue in the coming weeks.

June General Meeting—Redistricting: On June 25th we had the pleasure of hearing Senator Tom Begich speaking about *Redistricting in Alaska*. In an insightful talk covering the history of redistricting in Alaska, he also shared personal stories about his involvement in the redistricting process over the years.

June Board Meeting: At its June 25th meeting, in recognition of her substantial institutional knowledge, the Board unanimously voted to appoint Past-President Joyce Anderson to a one-year term on the Board of the LWV of Anchorage.

Anchorage Members at the LWVUS National Convention: The Anchorage chapter was well-represented at the LWVUS 53rd National Convention held in Chicago last month. Representing the Anchorage chapter were Cari Zawodny and Shirley Pittz. In addition three student members of the Anchorage league—all Youth Vote participants—attended, two representing the LWVAK and one serving as a delegate of the Central Peninsula LWV. The LWVAK generously covered the cost of Convention registration for the student attendees. At the Convention, student members Tuan Graziano, Jasmine Ramos Carter, and Elizabeth (Lily) Van Alstine gave a presentation on our Youth Vote program on Friday night to a crowd that was standing room only! According to Cari Zawodny, Youth Vote Coordinator, they were still answering questions nearly an hour after their presentation was supposedly over!

We've already been busy this year — and things show no sign of slowing down! We look forward to your involvement in our many on-going activities.

Find us online: WEBSITE: lwvanchorage.org and anchorageyouthvote.com FACEBOOK: [AnchorageYouthVote](https://www.facebook.com/AnchorageYouthVote) and [LWVAnchorage](https://www.facebook.com/LWVAnchorage) INSTAGRAM: [ancyouthvote](https://www.instagram.com/ancyouthvote) TWITTER: [ANCYouthVote](https://twitter.com/ANCYouthVote)

RECAP OF ANNUAL MEETING

FEATURED SPEAKER: Carolyn Hall, Outreach Coordinator for the Municipal Clerk's Office, had been scheduled to speak on Vote by Mail (VBM), implemented for the first time in the Municipal election; she was unable to attend at the last minute; Joyce Anderson, served as an able substitute. She reported that VBM meetings started in July 2015; by March 2018, 71 stakeholder representatives were involved with the group. The LWV of Anchorage was a stakeholder, represented by both Joyce and Pat Redmond. Joyce went on to describe the steps completed in the process leading up to the adoption of the VBM system for the April 2018 Municipal election. She also reported that she continues to be involved as a member of the State Election Policy Work Group formed by Lt. Gov. Mallott to update/change the statewide voting system by the 2020 statewide election.

REPORTS: Reports were given by the President and the Treasurer, and on Youth Vote, Voter Service, VBM, Website Update, and Chapter Program. Reports were distributed in the Annual Meeting Packets distributed to all attendees; much of their content had been highlighted in previous editions of this newsletter.

President's Report: Specific accomplishments in the past year included: expanded Youth Vote activities; continued voter service activities including voter registrations and Ballot Review; intense involvement in VBM campaign; archiving LWV Anchorage records in the archives held at the UAA/APU Consortium Library; emptying our storage locker; and partnering with Alaska Common Ground on various community events.

Treasurer's Report: We started the current fiscal year with \$25,209.70 in our checking account as well as \$12,056.28 in a money market account; the latter was the result of an IRA bequest from Fred Stassel, a long time member who died last September.

Youth Vote Report: The report was given by Cari Zawodny and student member Tuan Graziano. They shared their work in forming a planning team in a non-election year, events aimed at media literacy and bullying prevention in partnership with the Alaska Teen Media Institute, Story Works Alaska and the Alaska Press Club, and a campaign to educate youth about VBM that was seen on multiple social media platforms. Youth Vote members will do a caucus presentation at the 53rd LWVUS National Convention in June 2018. Further a 90 minute presentation for the 2018 National Bullying Prevention Convention next November has been accepted.

VBM & Ballot Review: Pat Redmond noted that the VBM system had caused tightened production deadlines for the *Ballot Review*. Plans for next year's ballot review are already underway.

Website: Schawna Thoma spearheaded the website update which included an option to pay dues and make contributions on-line via PayPal; she asked members for input on website content and encouraged people to submit content items to her.

RECAP OF ANNUAL MEETING

continued

REPORTS (continued):

Voter Service: Tina DeLapp reported that we had registered 660 people to vote in the year just completed; nearly half of those were high school students who registered during their high school government classes visited by League members. Another 112 were registered during the Campus Vote project spearheaded by member Marsha Olson, while the remainder occurred at Naturalization ceremonies and other community events.

Program Committee: Shirley Pittz shared recommendations of the Program Committee. They included: inclusion of more time for issues updates and action items regarding voters, voter rights, voter education & registration, local ordinances and local, state and federal elections; scouring Assembly agendas for those issues and alert members about the need for action; offering a mix of activities and speakers at lunches with regular monthly meetings; and attending other events as Anchorage League members with LWV identification tags. The focus of the Program Committee and LWV of Anchorage from November 2017 through April 2018 was Vote By Mail!

ANCHORAGE POSITIONS: There were no changes to the positions of the LWV of Anchorage; four program emphases were adopted including: 1) focus on VBM for future Municipal & State elections; 2) Legislative and Assembly processes, including ethics, open meetings, and dissemination of information and public notices by electronic means only; 3) challenges of computer access to pertinent voter registration materials; and 4) increasing use of monthly meetings with speakers on current issues as a means of increasing member engagement.

BUDGET The proposed budget (see following page) was adopted. It was noted that the budgeted amount for storage locker rental would be re-allocated to other purposes since the locker was emptied and vacated more quickly than had been anticipated.

DUES: By unanimous consent, the dues for individual (\$65/year) and household (\$97.50) members will remain unchanged. Also agreed to unanimously was the waiving of dues for high school and college student members as long as LWVUS and LWVAK does not charge the chapter the per-member payment for student members.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The proposed slate of officers was elected by unanimous consent. The results appear on the first page of this newsletter (Note: Board action at the June 25th meeting added Joyce Anderson for a one-year term.)

League of Women Voters of Anchorage - Adopted Budget – 4/1/18 – 3/31/19

Projected Revenue	Dues	\$ 2,730
	Contributions	\$ 800
	Dividend Earnings	\$ 16
	Miscellaneous	\$ 600
	MOA Ballot Review	\$ 52,000
	Youth Vote Fund Raising	\$ 6,000
	Youth Vote—Ed Fund Withdrawals	\$ 7,000
	Restricted Grants	\$ 19,000
	Unrestricted Grants	\$ 1,500
	TOTAL	\$ 89,746
Projected Expenses		
Operating Expenses	Records Storage	\$ 1,074
	Phone	\$ 160
	P.O. Box Rental	\$ 210
	Web Site Maintenance	\$ 750
	Pay Pal Fees	\$ 120
Boards & Committees	Supplies	\$ 100
	Committee Expenses	\$ 150
Meetings & Conventions	Anchorage Annual Meeting	\$ 100
	LWVAK Convention in Kenai	\$ 1,000
	General Membership Meetings	\$ 600
	2018 LWVUS National Convention	\$ 3,800
Voter Service	Voter Information Programs	\$ 150
	Municipal Ballot Review	\$ 47,000
Financial Support of LWV	Per Member Payment — LWVUS	\$ 1,344
	Per Member Payment — LWVAK	\$ 420
Youth Vote	Contractor—Coordination	\$ 12,000
	Miscellaneous Expenses & Supplies	\$ 12,000
	Space Rental	\$ 3,600
	Youth Vote TV Production	\$ 5,000
	TOTAL	\$ 89,578
	+ / (-)	\$ 68

Note: At the time of the Annual Meeting, it was known that there was no need for funds to cover records storage. The Board will either reallocate those funds to cover unanticipated costs or will reduce the draw from the Education Fund to meet Youth Vote needs.



Shirley Pittz & Cari Zawodny with the Chapter's Strengthening Democracy Award



Tuan Graziano, Jasmine Ramos Carter, & Lily Van Alstine
Youth Vote Members at the LWWUS Convention Banquet