



The Anchorage VOTER

September 2018

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE
PO Box 101345
Anchorage, AK 99510-1345

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ESSAY WINNERS: *IS VOTING A PRIVILEGE, A RIGHT, OR A RESPONSIBILITY?*



Democracy Week Essay Contest Winners
Philip Granath, Nicholas Schwantes, & Amber Brady

MARK THE DATES!

October 4 from 7:00—9:00 pm
Ballot Measure I: Beyond the Rhetoric (see p. 3)
49th State Brewing Company
717 W. 3rd Ave

October 7 - Last day to register to vote in November election

October 16 from 6:00—8:00 pm
Monthly Board Meeting
BP Energy Center
900 E. Benson Blvd

October 22—State of Early Voting in 2018 General Election

November 6 - Statewide Election

November 13 from 6:00—8:00 pm
Monthly Board Meeting
BP Energy Center

December 4 from 6:00—8:00 pm
Annual Holiday Celebration @ home of Barbara Norrell (details on page 3)

A night of celebration occurred at UAA on Tuesday, September 25, when certificates and checks were presented to the winners of the Democracy and Civic Action Week Essay Contest. Receiving \$250 prizes from the League of Women Voters of Anchorage, were Amber Brady, winner of the Youth Voice high school Division, and Nicholas Schwantes, winner of the Informed Voter College Division. Winner of the Civil Liberty Grand Prize was Philip Granath; he received a \$500 prize sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union Alaska.

Eighty-five people submitted essays responding to a single question: *Is Voting a Privilege, a Right, or a Responsibility?* Seven individuals from a diverse array of businesses and organizations in the community read and rated those essays.

Amber Brady is a Chugiak High School junior enrolled in an Advanced Placement English class. At age 16, she is not yet able to vote; still she made a strong case for voting as an extension of the “inalienable right(s) to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” addressed in the Declaration of Independence. Noting that the right to vote came only at a cost, making its availability also a privilege. And she compared asserted that it is the responsibility to protect, maintain, and exercise this right.

In contrast, Nicholas Schwantes challenged the idea that voting is a right, noting that voting privileges are denied to various groups of people. He pointed out that voting regulations can be changed at any time with the enactment of new regulations or laws and identifying (continued on Page 2)

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.

Busy Time of Year for LWV Voter Registrars



A New Citizen Gets Help With Voter Registration Application from Tina DeLapp

As the deadline for registering to vote prior to the upcoming November election approaches, Anchorage LWV Registrars have been busy, busy, busy. In addition to visiting local area high schools to register eligible (i.e., within 90 days of turning 18) students to vote, registrars have been participating in events associated with the Anchorage Welcoming Cities celebration and the UAA Democracy & Civic Action Week.

Thus far in September, LWV Registrars have visited U.S. Government classrooms at South, West, and Bartlett High Schools, with East and Chugiak High Schools on next week's calendar. Thus far, 42 high school students have registered to vote; those who will be 18 by election day will be able to vote in the November election.

Large numbers of new citizens were able to almost immediately take part in one of their new privileges by registering to vote following their naturalization ceremony. A total of 70 new citizens registered to vote immediately following Naturalization Ceremonies held on September 19 in the Anchorage Assembly Chambers at Loussac Library and on September 21 at UAA Wendy Williamson Auditorium. At least five guests at those ceremonies took the opportunity to update their own registration in advance of the upcoming election.

Finally, while participating in the Civics Fair sponsored by the UAA Democracy and Civic Action Week, two LWV Registrars registered nine voters and correctly answered Civics Quiz questions, winning turkey wraps for their efforts!!

All told, eight different registrars active during September activities thus far resulted in 126 new or updated voter registrations, bringing the total to 423 for the year. Thank you to the following individuals who participated in voter registration activities in September: Joyce Anderson, Tina DeLapp, Joan Diamond, Carol Dickason, Penny Goodstein, Diane Mathisen, Marie Murdock, and Sharon Richards.

If you are interested in becoming a Registrar, contact Tina DeLapp (tdelapp@ak.net) for information.

YOUTH VOTE UPDATE

YOU'RE INVITED!!

Youth Vote 2018 Candidates Forum

Tuesday October 23rd
Noon - 1pm (doors open at 11:30)
Wendy Williamson Auditorium @ UAA
(UAA parking fees/restrictions will not be enforced at the theater during the event)

Channel 2 will broadcast this event live. Governor Walker, Mark Begich & Alyse Galvin have confirmed their participation.

Candidate Meet & Greet

Thursday, October 25th
Time and Location TBA

2018 Youth Vote Mock Election

October 23—30

2018 Youth Vote Election Results

Announced October 31

Additional Youth Vote 2018 activities will be announced as information becomes available. Please consider joining these outstanding young citizens at one or all of their events!

ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

(continued from Page 1)

partisan politics as having potential impact. He ended his essay by insisting that everyone's suffrage is in jeopardy until "we create a society where everyone has the right to vote ... and where voting is handled by independent groups from the government". Nicholas is a Civil Engineering major at UAA who expects to graduate in Spring 2020. He recalled that he cast his first vote in the 2016 general election, feeling as though, in that action, he was part of something bigger than himself. He has been a regular voter ever since.

Intertwined throughout Grand Prize winner Philip Granath's essay were reflections on his observations of Iraqi citizens taking great risks and expressing joyous excitement as they brandished their purple thumbs in the first free elections held in their country following the fall of Saddam Hussein.



Ballot Measure 1 - Beyond the Rhetoric

Thursday, October 4th, 7-9 pm
49th State Brewing Company
Doors open at 6:30 pm
Suggested \$10 donation

Wondering how to vote on ballot measure 1 this November? Please join Alaska Common Ground for an opportunity to learn about the existing law, what would change, as well as a discussion about the pros and cons of this measure. John Tracy will moderate.

Come get your questions answered.

Event co-sponsored by Anchorage Public Library



LWV ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

You and a guest are invited to the LWV of Anchorage Annual Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 4 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

At the home of Barbara Norrell

5018 Knights Way, Anchorage

Directions: Going east on Northern Lights past East High School, turn right on Wesleyan and then left on Knights Way, or

Going east on Tudor, turn left on Checkmate, left at the stop sign (Wesleyan) and then right onto Knights Way. Call 333-9109 if you need further directions.

STAND TOGETHER AGAINST RAPE (STAR)

This year's charity, to which donations will be greatly appreciated.

There will be a short presentation by a representative from STAR.

Light refreshments will be served.

HELP WANTED - STATE DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

POSITION: Answer main phone line

WAGE: \$12.00 per hour

WHEN: **October 15 through Election Day, November 6**

HOURS: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WHERE: Region II Elections Office
2525 Gambell Street, Suite 100

CONTACT: Julie Husmann, Region II Elections Supervisor
907-522-8683 - julie.husmann@alaska.gov