



# The Anchorage VOTER

August 2018

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE  
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Lily Van Alstine, Tuan Graziano, Jasmine Carter

## LWVUS CONVENTION YOUTH PERSPECTIVES

By Cari Zawodny, Vice-President &  
Youth Vote Coordinator

When Anchorage Youth Vote was chosen to give a caucus presentation at the 2018 National Convention, the State League made the presenting youth part of our delegation. Alaska Leagues are so forward thinking when it comes to inviting young people to the table, setting an example for other Leagues to follow. In addition to giving a wonderful presentation to a standing-room-only audience, the three youthful delegates made wonderful connections, and have fantastic plans for moving forward. We anticipate Youth Vote will be leading local leagues toward meaningful engagement of youth all over the country.

All three expressed profound and sincere gratitude to LWVAK and LWV of Anchorage for the opportunity to participate actively in the Convention. They also offered additional thoughts on their experiences. For more, see p. 2.

### MARK THE DATES!

**WHAT:** Monthly Board Meeting

**WHEN:** Tuesday, Sept. 18  
6:00pm - 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** BP Energy Center  
900 E. Benson Blvd

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

Board Meetings through the rest of 2018—all at BP Energy Center unless otherwise stated

Tuesday, October 16  
6:00—8:00 pm,

Tuesday, November 13  
6:00—8:00 pm

December meeting date, time & place TBA (We'll party a bit in December!!)

**BE ACTIVE and BE INVOLVED!** Be an active participant in shaping our future! Become involved in your community!

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.



Jasmine Carter

I grew and learned so much at the Convention; it was truly an eye opening experience. It was very uplifting to be around so many dedicated ladies and gentlemen who are committed to fighting the good fight and protecting the rights of the people.

Something that I found especially exciting was the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC). I went to their morning session on the NPVIC and learned that there only needs to be 98 more votes to enact this compact. This is something I would like to pursue further as a new member of the league. I am extremely excited of the future of Youth Vote and where we will go. Thank you again to the league for giving us this opportunity to showcase what Anchorage's youth have accomplished.

Jasmine Carter



Tuan Graziano

The revelation that Youth Vote's would host a caucus at the LWVUS 2018 Convention was both a surprise and joy to me. Youth Vote, partners, and fellow co-conspirators became energized knowing that we had a chance to educate LWV members across the country about the possibilities that empowered youth presented. I never expected the overwhelming support we received the night of our presentation. It has inspired me to think and work towards a future where Youth Vote can exist across the nation.

I learned a lot about the suffrage movement and women's fight for equality. Rosa Rios's presentation was particularly interesting and gave me a new understanding of how women are viewed and valued unequally. During voting on issues and motions, I found new appreciation that we can vote and freely express opinions. I felt that voting in favor of the League supporting efforts to combat climate change was incredibly important. Also very important was the vote on the ERA and the right to privacy as an individual to make reproductive choices.

Tuan Graziano



Lily Van Alstine

The interest other leagues showed in Alaska Youth Vote was so heartening. I realized that there are adults who are ready to hear the voices of me and peers. Talking to other leagues showed me that, although youth engagement is valued, we really are the only ones doing anything like Youth Vote. Our nation's youth are a valuable resource and Alaska Youth Vote knows how to recruit and get youth excited about coming to the political table. I am more energized than ever about becoming politically active and spreading our organization's values.

The voting process was very exciting! The LWVUS has a lot more political power than other organizations I have been part of. It exhilarating to weigh in on positions on issues like gun control or abolishing the electoral college. Of all the votes I cast, the most significant one for me was on a motion specifically supporting the national popular vote. The outcome was a rare unanimous vote in favor of the ultimate goal of ending the electoral college.

Lily Van Alstine

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## Message From the President



### **Hello League Members**

We're coming to the end of Summer. August brings blooming fireweed, earlier darkness, dropping temperatures, the onset of fall, and a noticeable uptick in things going on around our city. Children are back in school and back to the busy routines of the school year. Hopefully the transition from the slower, more relaxed pace of summer to the humming activity of fall is a smooth and welcome shift for everyone.

It is also election season, which means the Anchorage LWV is busy, busy, busy. Now that the results of statewide primary election are nearing certification, the General Election ballot is mostly set! Concerned that Anchorage voters would be confused by the switch from the successful vote-by-mail municipal election last Spring to the more traditional in-person precinct voting, the Anchorage League published an Op-Ed piece in the Anchorage Daily News on August 10<sup>th</sup>, just before the primary election. The goal was to inform Anchorage voters how the statewide elections required a return to voting at the polls. If you didn't see it, you can read it here:

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/2018/08/10/its-election-season-heres-how-to-exercise-your-civic-responsibility/#>

If you have moved, you need to update your voter registration before the General Election in November; October 5 is the deadline for updating your Registration. You can check the status of your voter registration by going to the State website: <http://www.elections.alaska.gov/>. Here you can make all the changes you might need and find out all the information you will need to know in order to participate in the Election.

The LWV of Anchorage has agreed to partner with the State Division of Elections to help get the word out to different Anchorage community groups that the statewide election in November is not being conducted as a Vote by Mail election. Citizens who do not vote early or apply for an absentee ballot will need to travel to their neighborhood polling place on election day to cast their vote. We hope that in this partnership we are able to get this important voting information out to the community and have a respectable turnout for the November election.

### Other Work:

The LWV of Anchorage promotes the ideals of democracy and voting through many ways. One of which is helping other groups in the community with counting ballots in the various elections. Recently, three members volunteered their time to help count ballots at Identity Inc. for the Imperial Court Elections. Work of this nature brings in a small amount of funds to our League, and more importantly, promotes voting and the ideals of voting within these groups and within our community at large. This is a service that the LWV of Anchorage will provide to private organizations and to non-profits for a minor fee. Thank you to the volunteers who gave up an hour of their evening to count the Imperial Court ballots!

Find us online: WEBSITE: [wvanchorage.org](http://wvanchorage.org) and [anchorageyouthvote.com](http://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)

## FRED & JEAN STASSEL BEQUEST BENEFITS ANCHORAGE LWV

Jean Stassel was committed to the work and mission of the League of Women Voters; her commitment was evident in the hours she devoted to League service, including terms as State and LWV Anchorage President as well as a host of other roles. Their daughter Joan remains a long-time member of the Anchorage League. The commitment of the Stassel family to the Anchorage LWV was recently made manifest when the Anchorage League received notification that it was the beneficiary of an IRA left by Fred and Jean.

Jean & Fred grew up in Fond du Lac, WI; they met through their Methodist Youth Group, married in 1949, and honeymooned by driving the Alaska Highway, staying in Anchorage for 62 years at least partly because the road was too bad to drive back!! In addition to being a mother to six children, Jean was a substitute teacher, a commercial fisherwoman, and a tireless volunteer. Over her lifetime, in addition to her League activities, Jean was involved in the Eastern Star, the Alaska Children's Services, Scouting, and the Methodist Church.



Jean & Fred Stassel Celebrating 50th Anniversary

Fred had a varied career, working for the Corps of Engineers, the Alaska Railroad, and Matanuska Valley coal mines before settling on a career teaching math and science at Wendler until his retirement in 1975. He was a League member for many years until his death. Jean died in 2011, shortly after celebrating her 84<sup>th</sup> birthday and her 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary. Fred remained in their family home until the last two years of his life, moving to the Anchorage Pioneer Home when he was 92. A WWII veteran, he traveled to Washington D.C. with the Last Frontier Honor Flight in April 2017. He passed on the following September at the age of 94.

While no decision has been made about exactly how to use Fred and Jean's contribution, their generosity will enable the League to pursue projects to promote voter education and involvement in the coming months and years.

### ESSAY CONTEST QUESTION - *Is Voting a Privilege, a Right, or a Responsibility?*

The Anchorage LWV is providing \$250 cash prizes to the winners of the High School and College Divisions of the essay contest in the UAA sponsored **Democracy and Civic Action Week**. An overall grand prize of \$500 is being provided by the ACLU. The essay contest is part of nine days of activities, beginning on Constitution Day (9/17) and extending through National Voter Registration day (9/22); the activities are sponsored by the UAA Center for Community Engagement Learning.

Essayists will be recruited to answer the question *Is Voting a Privilege, a Right, or a Responsibility*. Participants will be recruited through classes at both UAA and Anchorage high schools, and through social media and the *Northern Light*, the UAA campus newspaper. Winners will be announced – and prizes distributed – at the closing reception to be held at the UAA Library on 9/22 beginning at 6 pm.

The Democracy & Civic Action Week schedule can be accessed on the UAA website ([www.uaa.alaska.edu](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu)); it is most easily accessed by typing *Democracy & Civic Action Week* into the search feature area on the upper corner of the site. All of the activities, which include national and local speakers as well as a diverse array of activities, are free and open to the public.

## VOTER REGISTRATION WORK INCREASES AS NOVEMBER ELECTION APPROACHES

Anchorage LWV Registrars are gearing up for a busy month when they will be helping Alaskans to initiate or update their voter registration in time to participate in the November election. October 5 is the deadline for folks to get their registration updates if they wish to vote for Alaska's next Governor, Representative in Congress and, of course, for their next representatives and senators in the Alaska Legislature.

In July and August, LWV registered 52 new U.S. citizens following their Naturalization at the Federal Court House in Anchorage. Additionally, two registrars from the Anchorage chapter attended the Annual Book Fair hosted by Thread, updating the registrations of four voters eager to participate in the November election.

Several Voter Registration events are already on our calendar for November. On September 19, the LWV will register new citizens following their Naturalization at the Anchorage Assembly chambers, part of the 2018 Anchorage Welcoming Cities Celebration. Two days later, we'll be at UAA's Wendy Williamson Auditorium, registering new citizens following their Naturalization Ceremony as part of the UAA-sponsored *Democracy Week!* And we'll man an information table – and help folks initiate or update their voter registration as part of the *Welcoming Cities Civics Fair* at Loussac Library on September 22.

We are also gearing up to get eligible high school seniors registered in time for the November election. U.S. Government teachers at all Anchorage high schools have been contacted about hosting LWV Registrars in their classroom to get their students registered prior to the October 5 deadline.

Individuals interested in participating in Voter Registration activities can contact Tina DeLapp ([tdelapp@ak.net](mailto:tdelapp@ak.net)) for information.



## PROUDLY REPRESENTING ALASKA AT THE 2018 LWVUS CONVENTION