



The Anchorage VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE
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June 2016

Joyce Anderson, President

Welcome warm weather! We sure have had a great beginning to summer. And it continues . . .



At our annual meeting in March, Beth Nordlund was elected to the board. Welcome Beth. Board members bring a wealth of experience and expertise to League. Meet your Board.

Joyce Anderson

Master of Arts in Public Administration, retired after 13 years as Administrator Alaska Legislature Ethics Committee, retired after 30 years with the City of Minneapolis Minnesota, 14 years as Director of Elections, chair Anchorage Municipal Election Commission. Union Representative for NEA-Alaska (teachers and support employees).

Keri Clark

Tina DeLapp

EdD, RN, FAAN, Emerita Professor of Nursing University of Alaska Anchorage, Proud Member of the Western Institute of Nursing.

Carol Dickason

Long-time League member, retired Administrative Assistant to the Legislative Affairs Agency's Executive Director and former Legislative Information Officer, Anchorage Legislative Information Office, current LWV of Anchorage Secretary and LWVAK Treasurer. Finance Director Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Board Member for Infants and Children.

Diane Mathisen

Margaret McDonagh

Social Studies Teacher and School Counselor at East High for the past 18 years. Life-long Anchorage resident.

Beth Nordlund

Shirley Pittz

Executive Director Anchorage Park Foundation.

Master of Science in Counseling, UCLA Johnson and Johnson Fellow, University of Massachusetts Parent-Infant Mental Health Post-graduate Fellow, 30 years experience focused on young children and families with special emphasis on early childhood mental health, retired after 10 years as Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Program Officer and state lead for Strengthening Families Program, currently a private consultant.

Pat Redmond

Long-time League member, retired IBM Customer Service Coordinator, retired Administrative Assistant Holy Family Cathedral and St Patrick's Church, seasonal worker for the State Division of Elections, Community Council member serving three terms as President, community activist and current LWVAK President.

Cari Zawodny

Youth Vote Coordinator since 2012, and facilitator for the Spirit of Youth Teen Advisory Council. Elected to the LWV Board in 2013, current Vice President.

We Need You. Think about volunteering **your** time and expertise to League. See the article on "Volunteering" in this newsletter. Members are needed to serve on several LWVAK committees as well as several positions with the Anchorage League.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Joyce Anderson
Vice-President	Cari Zawodny
Secretary	Carol Dickason
Treasurer	Diane Mathisen

Directors

- Keri Clark
- Tina DeLapp
- Margaret McDonagh
- Beth Nordland
- Pat Redmond
- Shirley Pittz

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Visit us at:

www.lwvanchorage.org

For Alaska information:

www.lwvalaska.org

For National information:

www.lwv.org

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 of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

Voter Registration Activities

ANCHORAGE LEAGUE MEMBERS CONTINUE VOTER REGISTRATION EFFORTS WITH NEWLY NATURALIZED CITIZENS

Thus far in 2016, Anchorage League members have registered a total of 84 new citizens to vote; that represents 77% of individuals who were naturalized in administrative ceremonies at the offices of the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service. Serendipitously, five friends and relatives of took advantage of the League's presence to either update their voter registration or to register to vote for the first time.

Administrative naturalization ceremonies are typically held twice a month, generally toward the end of the month. The number of individuals naturalized at each ceremony varies greatly; in 2016, the number has ranged from six to 21 new citizens originally coming from five to twelve countries.

An additional 14 naturalization ceremonies are scheduled to be held through the remainder of 2016. If you are interested in registering new citizens to vote – or in becoming a Voter Registrar – please contact Tina DeLapp, who can be reached by e-mail at tdelapp@ak.net.



LEAGUE PARTNERS WITH UAA COMMUNICATION FACULTY MEMBER TO PROMOTE VOTER REGISTRATION

League member Marsha Olson taught several sections of COMM 111 Fundamentals of Oral Communication at UAA during the Spring 2016 semester. Involving her students in voter registration activities seemed a perfect way to address the three aspects of the course: 1) interpersonal communication; 2) small group communication; and 3) public speaking. In addition to learning the basic of oral communication, students learned how to assist people to use the on-line registration process available at https://www.elections.alaska.gov/vi_vr_how.php.

Ms. Olson had her students form into groups to staff voter registration tables situated across campus throughout a day last March and League members Mary Rosenzweig and Tina DeLapp volunteered to help staff those tables for part of the day. Each student group planned their approaches which included preparing written material, perfecting their pitches, and providing food and juice boxes to attract potential voters to their registration table.

Overall, the project was wildly successful. A total of 57 individuals registered to vote, with 21 of those being facilitated by LWV Registrars.



ALASKA INNOCENCE PROJECT

Executive Director, Bill Oberly, of the Alaska Innocence Project, spoke at the LWV Alaska annual state convention held in Anchorage on April 23-24 to share information about the important work of the organization. The Alaska Innocence Project is an Alaska-based non-profit that provides legal, educational, and charitable services to identify and exonerate individuals who have been wrongfully convicted in the Alaska.

Mr. Oberly started with AIP in 2008. He had prior practice as a private attorney, including defense work. When he began with AIP he knew nothing about the work. He was immediately contacted by people from interior Alaska and defense attorneys about a potential exoneration case, now referred to as the Fairbanks 4. As a result of many conversations with people in Alaska as well as across the country and from reading the case file, it did not take Mr. Oberly long to realize and agree that this was a wrongful conviction case. In 2012, four years after he started working on this case, Mr. Oberly found a man in jail in Oregon who confessed to the murder that the Fairbanks 4 had been sent to jail for. The work wasn't over. It wasn't until December 2015 that the Fairbanks 4 were finally released from prison. These men include George Frese, Kevin Pease, Marvin Roberts, and Kevin Pease. It was a great day for justice in Alaska.

Delegates and guests attending the convention had many questions after the presentation. They also commented on the very detailed and complex work involved in gathering the information necessary in the Fairbanks 4 case in addition to the fact the exoneration took seven years after AIP agreed to take on the case.

The Alaska Innocence Project website can be found at www.alaskainnocence.org. As a registered non-profit they can receive funds under Alaska's Pick, Click and Give program. They also gladly accept donations at any time.



ANCHORAGE 2017 VOTE-BY- MAIL – UPDATE



What is Vote-By-Mail (VBM)? All eligible voters with a current mailing address on file with the State of Alaska Division of Elections will receive a ballot in the mail for every municipal election. With VBM you do not have to go to the polling location and wait in line to vote. Unlike absentee voting, you do not have to fill out an absentee application to obtain a ballot. Once you fill out your ballot, you return it to the Municipality – by dropping the envelope in the USPS mail, by placing the envelope in a secure voting drop box located in various areas of the Municipality, or by delivering the envelope to an accessible voting center.

The Anchorage Assembly passed a 2016 ordinance adopting VBM as the preferred voting method. The Municipality's plan is to conduct the 2017 elections using the VBM method. Currently two RFP's have been issued for services needed to implement the project. One is for [Professional Services to Provide and Implement a VBM Envelope Intake and Signature Verification System](#) and the other one is for [Professional Services to Provide and Implement Election Management System \(EMS\) and Centralized Ballot Tabulation System for Vote By Mail Elections](#). The timeline for award of the contracts is the end of July. The Municipality is also looking for a warehouse to store equipment and other election supplies as well as to use for the tabulation of votes.

Pat Redmond and Joyce Anderson are members of the Anchorage Elections Stakeholders Group and have attended many meetings on a variety of topics: education and outreach, procedures, voting accessibility, technology and the RFP process.

Pat and Joyce met with Sasha Manesh, Voting Rights Advocate, from the Disability Law Center to discuss increasing awareness of accessibility and reaching voters who have disabilities. We suggested Sasha attend the Stakeholders general meeting the following week. Based on discussion at this meeting the Municipality formed an Accessibility Sub-Group. Sasha was asked to be a member of the newly formed group. She wrote, "This great step wouldn't have been possible without your help!"

If you are interested in VBM, would like more information about the process/procedures or would like to be involved in meetings concerning this subject, please call Amanda Moser, Deputy Clerk-Elections, at 343-4314 or send an email to MoserAK@muni.org

YOUTH VOTE 2016

Youth Vote 2016 planning continues with several exciting developments. Three generous sponsors are already on board this election cycle. Spirit of Youth will continue their support with increased grant funds. BP is also a much appreciated returning sponsor. New this year, Youth Vote will receive generous in-kind support from the talented graphic artists at Headron Collider. Watch for a letter later this week asking for your financial support to Youth Vote. As a member of League, you know and understand why voter education is so important, especially for the next generation of voters. Become a partner in educating tomorrow's leaders!

With the help of new board member, Beth Nordlund, Youth Vote is receiving a complete visual make-over. Jontue Hollingsworth, artistic director of Headron Collider, had worked with Beth on projects for Anchorage Park Foundation. Jontue was inspired by the goals of Youth Vote and offered to create a brand for the project. His work is thoughtful and dynamic. Youth Vote is thrilled with the results. Watch for the new brand in the next newsletter.

Youth Vote will continue to be an active member of the Anchorage Collaborative Coalition, a network of organizations dedicated to enriching the lives of Anchorage's young people. The Youth Vote planning team, made up of ASD students will begin meeting in July. The Candidates Forum is scheduled for noon on October, 25th at West High School.

If you would like additional information about Youth Vote 2016, please call Cari Zawodny at 223-0477.

Important Election Dates and Information

STATE ELECTIONS (www.elections.alaska.gov)

2016 Primary

Sunday, July 17, 2016: Registration to Vote Deadline

Monday, August 1, 2016: Early Voting / In-Person Absentee / Special Needs / By Electronic Transmission Voting begins

Saturday, August 6, 2016 Absentee By-Mail Application Deadline

Monday, August 15, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. Alaska Time: Absentee by Electronic Transmission Application Deadline

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY Tuesday, August 16, 2016: Polls open 7am – 8pm

2016 General

Sunday, October 9, 2016: Registration to Vote Deadline

Monday, October 24, 2016: Early Voting / In-Person Absentee / Special Needs / By Electronic Transmission Voting begins

Saturday, October 29, 2016: Absentee By-Mail Application Deadline

Monday, November 7, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. Alaska Time: Absentee by Electronic Transmission Application Deadline

GENERAL ELECTION DAY Tuesday, November 8, 2016: Polls open 7am – 8pm

Offices up for election this year:

- U.S. Senator (Senator Lisa Murkowski's seat)
- U.S. Representative (Representative Don Young's seat)
- State Senate Districts B, D, F, H, J, L, N, P, R, and T
- State House of Representatives Districts 1 through 40

General Election Ballot Question

“An Act Allowing Qualified Individuals to Register to Vote When Applying for a Permanent Fund Dividend.”

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (www.muni.org/elections)

Tuesday, April 4, 2017: Next Municipal Election

Sunday, March 5, 2017: Registration to Vote Deadline

Vote By Mail – no dates are listed for this yet at the website



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LWV Anchorage Annual Meeting. Thanks to all who attended and help make our March 22nd annual meeting a success. The annual meeting was well attended.

LWV Alaska State Convention. The LWVAK state convention, hosted by the Anchorage League, held on April 23-24 was a great success. Delegates and guests from the Tanana Valley League, Central Peninsula League and Juneau League appreciated the informative convention with interesting discussions, good food and fellowship. Thanks to all who assisted in planning, organizing and carrying out many activities from Friday through Sunday; i.e., delegate welcome bags, providing housing for a delegate, transportation for delegates and guests, food for the breakfasts and lunches at the YWCA, Saturday night dinner at Carol and Gene Dickason's house, the play at the PAC, Friday night dinner at the Rice Bowl, opening and luncheon speakers, our League's workshop and of course all the other less noticeable activities/items that make a convention a success. We need to give ourselves a big round of applause.

LEAGUE MEMBERS AND BOARD MEMBERS - KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

Joyce Anderson, President



STATE CONVENTION REPORT

League of Women Voters Alaska Convention, April 23 & 24, 2016

Report by Member Sarah Drummond

Going into the LWVAK state convention in April, I really didn't know what to expect. I am still fairly new to LWV and I didn't really know much about the organization. But the state convention was very informative. I learned more about LWV Anchorage, LWV Alaska, and the other Leagues across the state. I realized that the state convention is a great opportunity to share ideas, issues, and possible solutions with other Leagues. I even got to learn about LWVUS's public policy positions and some of the things that Leagues have been doing in other states.

The state convention was a friendly environment. Given our current political climate, it was wonderful to see leaders discussing issues and answering questions so respectfully. I am optimistic that LWV Anchorage will be able to adopt some of the suggestions from the state convention to make LWV even better!

The Vote

Is the symbol of Equality.

We must use it

And use it well.

**- Elizabeth MacNamara, President,
League of Women Voters of the
United States**

Become Involved in your Community! Be an Active Participant in Shaping Our Future! Bring your expertise to League!

MEMBERS NEEDED FOR STATE LEAGUE SERVICE

Members are need to serve on the following LWVAK committees. Consider volunteering your time and expertise. Or you may want to expand your knowledge about League. Each committee has a unique time commitment. More than one member may serve on each committee.

2016-17 LWV AK Legislative Action Committee

Participate in weekly teleconferences, learn the legislature's BASIS system, read and follow assigned legislative bills, interact with you local League via emails, call legislators, testify when public testimony is allowed via teleconference. Most activity occurs during the legislative session mid-January to mid-April.

2016-2017 LWVAK By-Laws Committee

Review state by-laws and make recommended changes for discussion at the LWVAK convention in the spring of 2017. Anticipate the committee will meet at least four times. Board Member Tina DeLapp has agreed to serve on the committee.

2016-17 LWVAK Member-At-Large Committee

Work with committee members to increase at-large membership through recruitment and build a rapport with current MAL members. MAL's are members who do not reside directly in the local league chapter area but are represented by the local chapter and have an interest in League activities and support League. Example: MAL lives in Palmer and is represented by the Anchorage chapter.

4 NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR LWV ANCHORAGE SERVICE

The board, at the June meeting, created the formal positions of **Historian** and **Photo Archivist**. No central repository is currently in place for our historical records or photos. Additionally, the formal position of **Web Master** was also created.

Organizing historical records and photos

We are looking for a member(s) to take on the task of:

- organizing our historical records currently on file and creating a history of the Anchorage League. The task would include interviewing long-time members for additional information. It is anticipated the history would include: organization of the Anchorage league, league position statements throughout the years, citations, League awards, individual member awards, etc.
- gathering current and past pictures from members and archive on a USB flash drive.

LWV Anchorage Historian

Responsible for recording on-going historical records (after the current historical records are organized). Willing to take on the duties of the position for the 2016-17 League year (through March 2017).

LWV Anchorage Photo Archivist

Responsible for posting current pictures on LWV Anchorage web site and archiving on a USB flash drive. Willing to take on the duties of the position for the 2016-17 League year (through March 2017).

LWV Anchorage Web Master

Update the 'look' of our current web site and create a format that is user friendly. Include national, state and local positions; bio's of board members; board minutes; agendas; current activities; YV activities; newsletters **THE VOTER**; by-laws; membership brochure, "Care Line" information; allow for making donations on-line and membership fees on-line; to name a few. Member Sarah Drummond has agreed to take on the task. Watch for updates in future newsletters.

Interested? Contact Joyce Anderson at 360-7674.