

LWV ANCHORAGE UPDATE
September 2016
First Edition

NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES: LWV Voter Registrars witnessed 4 citizenship ceremonies in August; during those ceremonies, a total of 66 new citizens pledged allegiance to the U.S. and received their citizenship certificates. Following the ceremonies, five different Anchorage LWV members registered 70% of those new citizens to vote; the remainder promised to register later as they hurried back to work. They were reminded of the 10/9 deadline to register if they wanted to vote in the upcoming election. We have been providing voter registration services for these ceremonies for many years.

If you are not a Voter Registrar and would like to be, contact the Anchorage Division of Elections at 522-8683 for information on dates and times of training sessions. Registrars are authorized to witness the voter registration application; making it effective the day it was signed instead of the date the Division receives it. This can be extremely crucial close to or on voter registration cutoff deadlines.

UAA VOTER REGISTRATION PROJECT: We are working with Marsha Olson, a Communications instructor at UAA, who has incorporated a Voter Registration activity into her Fundamentals of Oral Communication course – a course taken by nearly all students who complete a degree at UAA. The registration project is taking place Monday, October 3, through Thursday, October 6. We will provide Voter Registrars at various times during these days in four different locations.

Signup sheets have been emailed to our Voter Registrars. If you did not receive the email and are interested in helping with this activity, please contact Tina DeLapp at 345-0802 or send an email to tdelapp@ak.net.

YOUTH VOTE AND SPIRIT OF YOUTH FREE MOVIE NIGHT: Voter Registrars were available at the free movie night at Century 16 on Tuesday, August 16, sponsored Anchorage Collaborative Coalitions, which includes Youth Vote and Spirit of Youth, a Youth Vote partner. Several new registrations were taken and one person updated their registration.

THREAD'S BOOK PARTY IN THE PARK: Voter Registrars were available at thread's 10th annual Book Party in the Park on Thursday, August 11. New and updated registrations were completed at the event.

ALASKA LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN: We are working with the LTC Ombudsman to provide Voter Registrars at specific nursing homes and long term care facilities on specified dates in the Anchorage and surrounding areas. We will register new residents and update voter information for current residents. At the same time we will be assisting residents complete an absentee ballot application for the November General election. After residents receive their absentee ballot, we will again go to the nursing homes and long term care facilities and provide assistance with completion of the absentee ballot. We also reviewed a voter pamphlet, [Registering to Vote, Make Your](#)

Voice Matter, prepared by the LTC Ombudsman's office and offered several suggestions to make the information more succinct.

Signup sheets have been emailed to members. If you are interested in helping with these activities and did not receive an email, even if you are not a Voter Registrar, please call Tina DeLapp at 345-0802 or send an email to tdelapp@ak.net.

ANCHORAGE MUSEUM – VOTING RIGHTS FILMS: Two films addressing voting rights – Bad Romance: Women's Suffrage and Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot will be shown at the Anchorage Museum on Tuesday, September 20, at 7 p.m. A discussion of the films, voting rights and the importance of voting will follow. Our co-sponsors are: Alaska Common Ground, Anchorage Museum, Anchorage NAACP, Bridge Builders of Anchorage, Spirit of Youth, UAA Student Life and Leadership, 2016 Youth Vote and YWCA Alaska. We are also working with the Anchorage School District social studies teachers to promote the film event. Youth Vote will give a gift to the teacher with the most students attending the event.

We hope to see you on Tuesday, September 20.

SPENARD LIONS CLUB: Wednesday, September 15, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. we will give a presentation on elections and voter registration along with information about the League to 20-25 Lions Club members.

RUNNING SERIES THROUGH ALASKA PUBLIC MEDIA: We will be working with Alaska Public Media to provide assistance with the Running and Debate for the State Series (candidate debates) the week of October 17 (exact dates and times TBD) and on November 3 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.. Channel 7 KAKM and 91.1 FM KSKA. This has been a long-standing activity performed by the League.

ALASKA LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON CIVICS EDUCATION: Cari Zawodny, Board Member and Coordinator of 2016 Youth Vote, gave a presentation to the Legislative task force on August 16, 2016. Chair, Senator Gary Stevens, specifically asked for a presentation of the LWV Anchorage on-going Youth Vote program in the Anchorage School District. The presentation was well received and legislators asked multiple questions. The task force was set up based on research that shows one of the most significant ways schools can foster youth civic engagement is by providing students with opportunities to engage in reflective civic action through their classes and cocurricular and extracurricular activities.



YOUTH VOTE UPDATE:

- Spirit of Youth, Kaladi Brothers, BP, Headron Collider, and LWV membership and friends of League have all generously contributed to Youth Vote. The Anchorage School District will provide vital in-kind support. Thank you to our wonderful donors and partners who have supported this very worthy project.

- The Youth Vote Planning Team, made up of students from the ASD, home school programs, and UAA has been meeting and planning this year's events. It's a dynamic group – very passionate about community service and youth voice.
- The Candidate's Forum will be held on October, 25th at noon. KTUU, Channel 2, will broadcast the event live. Candidates for US House and Senate have been invited.
- Youth Vote is registered as a partner with National Student Parent Mock Election.
- We will hold the mock election October 24th – November 3rd, in conjunction with NSPME efforts. Youth Vote will host a press conference or media event to release the results.

MONETARY & VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LEAGUE

So far, members and friends of League have donated \$1,845 to Youth Vote. Some of the contributors have generously donated since 2004 when Youth Vote was first implemented. THANK YOU.

A big THANK YOU to our Voter Registrars for volunteering to staff numerous events, especially the naturalization ceremonies, and register citizens to vote. Without your help we would not be able to provide these services.

THANK YOU to board members and League members for volunteering time and energy on various projects to make our League a successful working organization that makes a difference in our community.

