



The Anchorage VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE
PO Box 101345
Anchorage, AK 99510-1345
907-274-8477

July 2020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| President | |
| Vice-President | Cari Zawodny |
| Secretary | Carol Dickason |
| Treasurer | Tina DeLapp |
| Directors | Joyce Anderson |
| | Jasmine Carter |
| | Keri Clark |
| | Margaret McDonagh |
| | Beth Nordlund |
| | Shirley Pittz |
| | Pat Redmond |
| | Schawna Thoma |

Email:

league@lwvanchorage.org

Visit us at:

www.lwvanchorage.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/LWVAnchorage

For Alaska information:

www.lwvalaska.org

For National information:

www.lwv.org

LWVUS CONVENTION UPDATE

The LWVUS Convention was held on Thursday, June 25, Friday, June 26 and Saturday, June 27. LWVAnch was allotted one delegate, Tuan Graziano was elected by the board. One of our board members represented the LWVAK as a delegate, Jasmine Carter. Carol Dickason, LWVAK and LWVAnch board member, attended the virtual convention as an observer. Please take time to read their impressions of the conference.

LWVAnch Youth Vote gave a Caucus presentation, Build Your Own Youth Vote: Get the Tools to Empower Youth Voice, Monday, June 22. See Tuan Graziano's recap of the presentation on page 2.

Jasmine Carter LWVAK Delegate & LWVAnch Board Member:

"Nevertheless she persisted" This was something I kept thinking to myself as I attended the first ever LWV virtual convention. With a little over 1,500 attendees on a zoom call, it was quite an experience. The discussions we had around land ownership, immigration, and DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) policies were powerful and engaging. Our guest speakers were magnificent as well.

Throughout the convention, I was inspired to bring some new ideas to our league around DEI and student members.

I applauded the LWV US board for putting together a virtual convention in a matter of months. While we couldn't see or hear each other during the convention, I could feel the energy and determination of our organization. I am proud to be part of a strong cohort of women and men that believe in our democracy and the importance of defending it.

VOTING - PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION

You have three options to cast your vote in the August 18 Primary Election & November 3 General Election.

1. In-Person Voting on Election Day at your Polling Place
2. Absentee Voting by Mail
3. Early Voting at an Accessible Vote Center during the two weeks prior to Election Day.

ARE YOU 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER

By now you should have received your Absentee Ballot Application sent to you from the State Division of Elections. Complete the form and return by August 8th if your option is to vote by mail. A ballot will be mailed to you. (See more information on Page 5.)

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.

LWVAK CONVENTION REPORTS - Continued

Tuan Graziano - LWVAnch Delegate and Member

This year I had the pleasure to once again serve as the Anchorage delegate for League of Women Voter's Delegate biennial convention. It was an experience full of firsts, for myself, for the league, and for Youth Vote. For me and the league, it was the first time we've experienced a full virtual convention. It was quite a drastic change to go from a room full of League delegates to a Zoom full of League delegates. However, the process was surprisingly well managed for the plenary sessions I attended. There were ample support and avenues of contact with the conference for any questions or concerns delegates had. I also found myself better able to focus on the discussion of the different motions.

Of the several motions that were discussed, the motion to make membership dues for students free really stood out to me. As a member of Youth Vote and someone who joined the League while in college, I initially found the motion to be vital for introducing new members. However, after hearing the thoughts of other delegates, my perspective soon changed and I was swayed by their arguments that this should not just be for students, but any young person who wants to join the league. After all, not all young people have the same educational opportunity. The League was built on the principles of removing barriers of participation and being open to all. I am glad to see our members take meaningful and mindful actions in this regard.

Carol Dickason - LWVAnch Secretary & LWVAK Board Member

I was able to sit in only on the last day and these are superficial impressions:

- Virginia Case, LWVUS CEO, spoke about the unforeseen challenges of 2020.
- Six-months reserve of operating expenses. Per Member Payment remains at \$32.00 the next two years.
- Technical difficulties – often President Carson could not hear what was being said.
- Voting: Done by a show of hands and some by a program which produced results much quicker.
- Most negative votes to any program items were very small in numbers – except for the non-recommended proposal to abolish the Electoral College by Constitutional Amendment which passed 681-458 and the New Mexico non-recommended proposal (to which the LWVAK had concurred) regarding the transfer of Federal Public Lands which passed 885-207. One delegate from either North or South Carolina spoke in opposition: “The western states receive more money from the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program because they are bigger – it's not fair.” (Unfortunately I cannot find again the chart showing payments but not all western states received more funds.) No one spoke to the need to preserve these designations for future generations.

A summary of the LWVUS Convention activities was sent to Anchorage members on June 28. Given the uncharted waters of conducting a convention by video-conferencing, it went well and the National Board and staff should be congratulated for their efforts.

Youth Vote's Caucus Presentation

Tuan Graziano - Youth Vote Member since 2014

As the League was able to adapt to this new digital climate, so did Youth Vote flawlessly adapt to presenting a virtual caucus. Despite having some newer Youth Vote members who were not extremely familiar with the material in our presentation, they were able to deliver as if they had been experts. This was reflected in the large amounts of compliments, praise, and encouragement from our audience. Several questions and expressions of inspiration rang out that gave us hope that sparks of new Youth Votes would soon occur across the country. Youth Vote has proven once again that what we have to say as a youth-driven organization piques the interest of so many League members. Our Zoom audience limit of one hundred was reached within minutes and additional interests from those who were not able to make it into the room. So much so that we will be conducting an "encore" presentation on July 30th at 3pm. It truly shows how much power and voice young people have to offer.

As always, Youth Vote could not have done this with the continual kindness and generous support from the League of Women Voters of Anchorage. Our adult co-conspirator, Cari Zawodny, once again displayed her characteristic unending support and love for Youth Vote. To all of you, thank you so much once again. We can't wait to keep the momentum going and to see the positive change we can all make.

Thank you Jasmine, Tuan and Carol for your very informative reports. Thank you Cari for all your dedication and work with YV.

Recap of July 1st on-line Presentation by Beverly Beeton, Ph.D.

Shirley Pittz, LWV Anch Board Member

From Then to Now –Continuing the Fight for Voting Rights



On July 1st, 2020 the LWV of Anchorage hosted the first in a series of online presentations entitled *From Then to Now –Continuing the Fight for Voting Rights*. The presentation was very well received and we are looking forward to the next presentation on July 23rd about Lena Morrow Lewis, another Alaska suffragist.

The presenter was Beverly Beeton, Ph.D. Dr. Beeton served as a university administrator for 25 years, most recently as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Dr. Beeton has published a wide variety of books, articles, and reviews. Her best-known work is *Women Vote in the West: The Woman Suffrage Movement, 1869-1896* (New York: Garland Publishing, 1986). She served on the Alaska Historical Commission, the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Accreditation Association, the Anchorage Museum Association and the Building Committee that planned the major expansion of the museum with art, history and science galleries including one with objects from the Smithsonian. Dr. Beeton is a fabulous storyteller and extremely knowledgeable historian.

Dr. Beeton's presentation focused on Cornelia Templeton Jewett Hatcher, a women's right advocate and national temperance leader. She met and married Robert Lee Hatcher of Hatch Pass and Independence Mine fame. They lived in Knik (later in Wasilla) where she got a petition for votes for women signed and sent to Alaska's first territorial legislators. This inspired passage of their first law that granted Alaska women voting rights. Then Cornelia went on to organize and lead the campaign for prohibition of liquor effective, January 1, 1918. Thus, Alaskans voted 2 to 1 for prohibition in 1916 resulting in 16 years of Bone Dry Alaska 1918-1934. However, Hootch continued to flow.

#####

Don't forget to check out:

Alaska State Museum on-line exhibit, ALASKA'S SUFFRAGE STAR

The effort by Alaskan women to obtain the Right to Vote during the 1910-1920 era.

<https://lam.alaska.gov/suffrage-star>

From Then to Now Continuing the Fight for Voting Rights

ALASKA SUFFRAGE Reminder — Upcoming Events

NOTE: You do not need to be a LWV member to participate. Please free to share this information with others who may be interested.

First Event: ZOOM EVENT– PRESENTATION and DISCUSSION

WHEN: Thursday, July 23rd

TIME: 7:00—8:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93031864158>

Meeting ID: 930 3186 4185

One tap Mobile

+14086380968,,93031864158# US (San Jose)

Guest speaker: Beverly Beeton, Ph.D.

Beverly Beeton holds a Ph.D. in social and intellectual history from the University of Utah. She served as a university administrator for 25 years, most recently as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Alaska Anchorage. (Full bio in the June 2nd Edition *The Voter*.)

Lena Morrow Lewis

The summer of 1912, when she was forty-four-years-old, Lena Morrow Lewis, an ardent suffragist and first woman elected to the national executive committee of the Socialist Party of America, moved to Alaska. She lived in Fairbanks, Juneau and Anchorage where she edited 4 different newspapers and ran unsuccessfully for city council in Juneau and territorial delegate to congress. While women did not vote in large numbers for Lena for public office, they went to her speeches on women's rights and looked to her for political education through her parliamentary law classes that she taught around Alaska. Lena was known for rallying Socialist and labor union members to support votes for women and prohibition of intoxicating drinks.



Second Event: MARCH and PRESENTATIONS

WHEN: Wednesday, August 26th

TIME: Noon—1:00 p.m.

Highlighting Current Issues!

In-Person with Social Distancing. Details to Come!

REMINDER: Important Information About Voting in the 2020 Primary Election



PRIMARY ELECTION, TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

If you did NOT receive an Absentee Ballot Application in the mail, you can apply by: Mail, Electronic Transmission, or Fax

Applications can be downloaded at:

<http://www.elections.alaska.gov/doc/forms/C06C.pdf>

To check the status of your request visit:

<https://myvoterinformation.alaska.gov>

Your Absentee Ballot Application Request must be received by the State Division of Elections by:

Saturday, August 8, to Receive a Ballot by Mail

Monday, August 17, 5:00 p.m. to Receive a Ballot by Fax or Email

IMPORTANT: Remember To

1. Sign the return envelope sent with your ballot -AND-
2. Have your signature witnessed by an individual at least 18 years old.
3. Apply the correct postage to the Ballot Return Envelope. Postal amount will be provided with the instructions.
4. Return Ballot Envelope must be postmarked by Election Day, August 18

NOTE: If you decide to apply for and receive an Absentee Ballot but then decide to vote in-person during the two weeks prior to Election Day at an Accessible Vote Center or on Election Day instead, you can still do so as long as you haven't mailed your completed absentee ballot.

Citizen participation in the electoral process is essential. The right to VOTE is the core symbol of our democratic political system.

The act of VOTING is government of the people, by the people, and for the people. VOTING is the most important of all participatory acts in our political system.

STATE DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

ELECTION POLICY WORK GROUP (EPWG) Meeting

Update: 2020 Election Procedure Changes

The EPWG met on Friday, May 29, 2020. Joyce Anderson, LWV Anch, is a member of the EPWG representing the LWVAK. Twenty-three members were present. The EPWG is chaired by Liz Medicine Crow. Opening remarks were given by Lt. Governor Kevin Meyer. He indicated the State is facing a huge challenge for the 2020 elections. The goal is to keep everyone safe in light of COVID-19. The Alaska legislature approved state-wide vote-by-mail; however, with only four months to plan, this new endeavor would have been more than a challenge, therefore, the State will move forward with the traditional voting methods. New voting equipment has been purchased, tested and is ready to go for 2020. The touch screen used for disability and language assistance (needed for Federal elections) will now be a large I-Pad tablet. Each polling place will have one. A “mock election” was held in February which went very well. The new ballot scanner will now capture a digital image of the ballot. The process does cause a small delay in the speed of reading the ballots. The fact the new voting equipment is paper based but uses new technology is a plus especially in the event of a recount. Gail Fenumiai, Elections Director, commented on the new voting equipment as well and continued with other changes occurring his year

Election worker training will not be in-person. The State has partnered with KTOO to produce a training video. The video will be aired on 360North multiple times, on the Division’s U-Tube site and web site, and DVD players will be provided to election workers if needed. Election workers will be required to acknowledge viewing the video.

There are 441 polling locations. Election workers are badly needed. Many previous workers are concerned about working as they are over the age of 60. As of May 29th only 56% of polling places were confirmed. 46% of polling places have less than three election workers assigned and 34 polling places have no workers. The Elections Division has approval from the State to allow state employees to work at polling places. Additionally, a new program called, “Adopt-A-Precinct,” has been implemented. Non-profit organizations may staff a polling place and receive earnings between \$1,000 to \$1,499 per election. A 1099 will be issued to the organization. The State is hopeful many non-profits will participate.

Federal dollars have been set aside for the 2020 Elections in addition to \$3 million in HAVA (Help America Vote Act) funds. Federal dollars will focus on the safety of the election process due to COVID-19. Voters will be encouraged to wear their own masks or one will be provided at the polling place. Gloves will be provided to the voter to use when marking the ballot. Election workers will be provided with masks, facial shields, sanitizing items and gloves. Posters about social distancing will be strategically placed at each polling location along with other pertinent health/safety information.

A public relations campaign will be conducted to inform the public of the options for voting with an emphasis on the use of the 160 plus Early Voting Locations. The Department of Administration is helping with the campaign. “No Excuse” absentee balloting is available. The campaign will focus on this point. However, voters must request an absentee ballot application as mass mailing of forms will not be done. Registered voters age 65 and older will receive a letter and application automatically prior to the Primary.

Election staff is working on translating the ballot into other languages. This process is considerably slower this year due to all parties not being at the same site.

New Election Day “I Voted” stickers are being reviewed. EPWG members commented on their designs and offered suggestions.

Our state won an award from the Election Administration Commission for the 2018 “I Voted” stickers. Way to Go!! Congratulations!!