

Minutes of the 2019 League of Women Voters of Portland Convention

The 2019 Convention of the League of Women Voters of Portland was held at TaborSpace on Monday, May 13, 2019. Debbie Kaye, 1st VP and Development Chair, welcomed everyone and explained that Doreen Binder, current LWVPDX President was out of the country and unable to attend the Convention. Debbie and Ted Kaye also explained the fundraising activities for the evening.

Debbie called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm and began with the following tribute: "Let us take a moment to recognize the many indigenous people whose traditional and ancestral homelands we stand on: the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Tumwater, Watala bands of the Chinook, the Tualatin Kalapula. We are here because of the sacrifices forced upon them. In remembering these communities, we honor their lives, their legacy and their descendants."

Debbie also took a moment to call for a cheer for Leeanne MacColl, a very active former League leader who brought Debbie into the League. Leeanne would have been 92 years old.

Debbie called the members attention to the agenda on page 2 of the Convention Workbook for reference throughout the meeting.

She began the meeting with a moment of silence to remember the Portland League members who passed away this year: Darlene Allen, Karen Labinger, Darleane Lemley, Linda Roholt and Maxine Selling.

Debbie introduced Aeloa Roush, the League's Office Manager and thanked her for all the work she did in getting ready for the Convention and the other activities of the League throughout the year. Aelora will provide the official count of members present tonight and will serve as timekeeper for discussion.

Debbie also recognized the two 50-year Lifetime members Betty Cornelison and Susan Gilbert who join the 17 other Lifetime members listed on Page 3 of the Workbook.

Debbie welcomed new Portland League members who were present and noted that a list of new members was on page 4 of the Workbook.

Volunteer of the Year Awards. Debbie presented one of the two awards to Betsy Pratt. Betsy is a third-generation League member, following in the footsteps of her grandmother and her mother, who gave her a membership in 1970 when 18-year-olds were first allowed to vote in Massachusetts. In 1981, she and her husband Philip Thor moved to Portland to work for the Bonneville Power Administration. She had a series of diverse jobs there, including internal management consultant, library manager and facilities manager. Throughout her career, Betsy was an active League member, serving on study committees and on the Portland Board as secretary, treasurer, director and vice president. After retiring from BPA in 2008. Betsy was

elected president of the Portland League for 2008-2011 and then chair of the State League's Education Fund for 2011-13. Betsy has also moderated forums and managed the Speakers' Bureau. She was Budget Committee Chair for 2017-19, chairs the ongoing City Government Study and participates in Unit 4.

Mary Hepokoski, the other Volunteer of the Year was traveling and was not present. Mary joined the League in Golden Valley, Minnesota in 1979 where she served in various board capacities for most of 23 years and lobbied at the state legislature on many issues, particularly environmental protection. In addition to raising their two sons, she and her husband Peter were foster parents for newborn babies. Mary and Peter moved to Portland in 2005 and Mary joined the Portland League in 2007. She has served in many roles including chairing Member Education (now Civic Education) 2008-10, treasurer 2011-16, assistant treasurer and now bookkeeper. She was also the local treasurer when Portland hosted the national convention in 2008. She has been an Action observer, served on the Budget Committee and attends Unit 6.

Introductions: Debbie introduced Alice Bartelt, Action Chair of the LWVOR as Parliamentarian, Election Committee members Julie Chapman and Geoff Gilbert who will count votes as needed and Aelora Roush, Office Manager, as Timekeeper. Secretary Anne Davidson was also introduced along with the 2019 Convention Minutes Committee members Carol Cushman and Susan Gilbert.

Delegate Count: Aelora Roush announced that 48 Portland League members were present and that 41 were needed for a quorum. She further determined that 25 votes would constitute a simple majority and a two-thirds majority would be 32 members.

Debbie Kaye noted that there were 3x5 cards on each table for writing motions and amendments. The cards could also be used for writing guidance to the Board, to suggest improvements to the meeting or suggesting a focus for the Board in the year ahead. All cards should be signed and turned into the Secretary at the end of the meeting.

Adoption of Convention Rules: Debbie Kaye asked for a motion to adopt the Convention Rules as found on page 5 of the Convention Workbook. Frances Moore made the motion which was seconded by Peggy Bengry. Debbie called for a vote on the motion and the Convention Rules were adopted with no discussion.

Adoption of the Convention Agenda: Debbie Kaye asked for a motion to adopt the Convention Agenda as found on page 2 of the Convention Workbook. Kris Hudson made the motion which was seconded by Norman Turrill. Debbie called for a vote on the motion and the Convention Agenda was adopted with no discussion.

Recognition and Introductions: Debbie Kaye recognized the 2018-2019 Board of Directors and Off-Board leaders including Doreen Binder who is traveling. She asked them to stand and remain standing.

Debbie then recognized the members who have served as presidents of the League in the past. The full list of past presidents is found on the last page of the Convention Workbook. She asked past presidents who were present to stand and remain standing.

Debbie also recognized members listed on page 7 of the Convention Workbook who have served the League on State and National Boards. She asked those members present to stand and remain standing.

Finally, Debbie asked all volunteers in the room to stand. She then thanked everyone for putting their skills to work for the League.

Acceptance of the Minutes: The minutes of the 2018 Convention were printed on pages 8 through 13 of the Convention Workbook. The minutes were reviewed by last year's Minutes Review Committee, Carol Cushman and Tom Dyke. Debbie asked for any corrections to the minutes and hearing none, asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Maud Naroll made the motion and Linda Mantel was the second. Debbie called for the vote and the minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Peter Englander began his report with adding his appreciation of the work of Mary Hepokoski, League Bookkeeper.

He referred members to his report on pages 13-15 in the Convention Workbook. He pointed to the number of changes including a change in the database system and the turnover in office managers. He emphasized that there will continue to be change as improvements are made in the financial operations of the Portland League. He reviewed the fund organizational chart on page 15 and reiterated the importance of the Portland Leagues reserve funds.

Endowment Fund: Anne Davidson presented the Endowment Fund report as the Chair, Corinne Paulson was unable to attend the Convention. Anne referred members to the Endowment Fund report on pages 16-18 in the Convention Workbook. She explained the history of the fund and the goals for the upcoming year. She described the distribution formula used by the Endowment Fund Committee and emphasized the importance of the support the Fund provided to the Portland League. Anne also identified and thanked the other members of the Endowment Fund Committee: Phil Thor, Elizabeth Joseph, Carol Wilson and ex-officio member, Peter Englander.

Committee and Board Recommendations: For this portion of the Convention process, Debbie Kaye reminded members that after each presentation, the presenter will move adoption of the recommendation. No second is required because the motions are recommendations of a Committee of the Board. There will be time for questions and discussions and Debbie asked members to use the cards on the table for amendments to the motions.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments: Margaret reviewed the proposed changes as detailed on pages 19-21 in the Convention Workbook. She explained that the changes in Articles I, II and III were required to bring the LWVPDX Bylaws in conformance with those of the LWVUS. She then described the proposed changes in Article IV, Section 4, 4a and 4b. These changes outline who can and cannot commit the Portland League to an action, project or financial obligation and the makeup and obligations of the Executive Committee. The major change is a new proposed section, Article IV, Section 4, 4c which deals with the interface between the Board and its Committees and decision-making abilities and responsibilities. Jane Gigler questioned the need for the wording “the entire board” in the last sentence of the Section. Margaret agreed that the word “entire” could be removed. This will be taken up in the voting process along with any other possible changes to the proposed wording in these Articles.

Margaret continued with a description of the changes in Article V. Section 4 dealt with the Board Secretary and Section 5 with the Treasurer. There was a discussion about adding the Treasurer’s responsibility to serve on the Budget Committee as well.

There was also a discussion about wording changes in Article VIII concerning programs.

After her presentation and the discussions, Margaret Noel moved the adoption of the recommended amendments to the League of Women Voters of Portland Bylaws as printed in the 2019 Convention Workbook.

2019-2020 Program: Marion McNamara, Civic Education Chair rose to present the proposed program as recommended by the Board and printed on pages 22-23 of the Convention Workbook. She explained that her motion reflects the results of the January Unit meetings.

Marion moved the retention of all current positions. She further moved to extend the Restudy of the Portland City Government to November 2019 to allow its completion.

Betsy Pratt, City Government Study Chair rose to provide a progress report on the study which is near completion and to thank the members of the Study Committee: Doreen Binder, Linda Mantel, Marion McNamara, Frances Moore, James Ofsink, Nadyne Rosin, and Janet Youel.

Debbie Kaye thanked Marion and Betsy and asked if any member had a motion to consider one of the non-recommended items for study in 2019-2020. There were none.

Proposed Budget: Debbie Kaye introduced Betsy Pratt in her other role as Budget Chair to explain the proposed budget for FY 2019-2020. The proposed budget information starts on page 24 of the Convention Workbook and includes the handout with the graphs and spreadsheets. Betsy explained that the budget included both the Regular Fund and the Education Fund. The Education Fund budget is provided for review and comment only, because it is related to the Regular Fund budget. The Education Fund budget will be adopted by the Trustees at their next meeting. After highlighting the difference between this year and

last year and hearing no questions, Betsy moved to adopt the budget as presented in the Convention Workbook and accompanying inserts.

Betsy also thanked the members of the Budget Committee: Peter Englander, Anne Davidson, Geoff Gilbert and Maud Naroll.

Nominating Committee Report: Debbie Kaye introduced Peggy Bengry, Nominating Committee Chair to present the report of the Nominating Committee which can be found on pages 27-28 in the Convention Workbook. Peggy presented the slate which she pointed out capitalized on current leadership strengths and increased participation of new volunteer leaders. She asked all members to look at service to the League as both fulfilling and exciting.

Peggy also outlined the positions the Nominating Committee is recommending to be appointed by the Board. The Board itself is limited to seven elected directors and not more than seven appointed directors. Peggy also listed the positions for which the Committee was unable to find candidates and she encouraged all League members to consider serving in these positions.

Peggy then moved to approve the recommendations of the Nominating Committee.

Debbie Kaye asked for any nominations from the floor. Mary McWilliams rose to nominate Doreen Binder as Nominating Chair.

Discussion and Voting: Debbie Kaye announced that now was the time for discussion and voting on the motions given.

The first motion was for the adoption of the recommended changes to the Bylaws as presented by Margaret Noel and shown on pages 19 through 21 of the Convention Workbook.

Jane Gigler proposed an amendment to the last sentence in Article IV, Section 4c. Her amendment would delete the word "entire" proceeding the word "Board" in the last sentence. Kris Hudson seconded the amendment.

Kris Hudson proposed an amendment to Article 5, Section 5 adding, in the last sentence, that the Treasurer will serve as a member of the Budget Committee and as a member, ex officio, of the Endowment Fund Committee. Peggy Bengry seconded the amendment.

Betsy Pratt proposed an amendment to Article VIII, Section 2 that the words local public policy issues be substituted for the words local government issues and local governmental measures in the first and second sentences in the Section. Nora Terwilliger rose to second the amendment while proposing a friendly amendment that the wording change apply only to the first sentence of the Section due to the additional wording in the second sentence. Betsy accepted the friendly amendment to her amendment.

Hearing no objections to the amendments and no further discussion, Debbie called for the vote on the proposed Bylaw changes as amended. The motion, as made by Margaret Noel on behalf of the Bylaws Committee and as amended above, passed.

The next two motions were on the Board recommended program items. The first motion was that the League of Women Voters of Portland retain all current positions in their portfolio of positions. There were no questions or further discussion. Debbie called for the vote and the motion passed. The second motion was that the restudy of the League position on City Government be extended to November to allow its completion. Hearing no further discussion, Debbie called for a vote and the motion passed.

Debbie Kaye called for questions or further discussion on the motion for adoption of the recommended 2019-2020 budget as made by Betsy Pratt, Budget Chair. There were none and Debbie called for the vote on the motion. The motion passed.

Finally, Debbie Kaye called for a vote on the slate of nominees as presented and as shown on page 27 of the Convention Workbook, adding Doreen Binder as Nominating Committee Chair. Debbie asked that all unopposed nominees be elected by a voice vote. The slate was elected unanimously.

Acknowledgements: Debbie and Ted Kaye announced that League members and Convention attendees contributed \$9740.00 in the 99 year +one to grow on birthday celebration for the League of Women Voters. This amount included the \$3000.00 match donation.

Debbie thanked everyone for their generosity and emphasized the importance of member support. Margaret Noel rose to also thank members for their donations and to reiterate that members' support is really vital when applying for other funding. As further proof of the importance of member support in grant applications, Margaret announced that the Portland League had just received a generous \$18,000.00 grant from the Carol and Velma Saling Foundation in support of the Education Fund.

Debbie thanked Margaret for all the work she has done in securing funding from our wonderful donors to help in our work. She also thanked all the volunteers who had helped produce the Convention. She gave special thanks to Carol Cushman who had spearheaded the planning for the Convention and the Winter Party, in addition to all the other contributions she makes to the League.

Presentation of the 2019-2020 League of Women Voters of Portland Board of Directors:

Debbie Kaye presented the Board members and asked those present to come forward: President Debbie Kaye, 1st VP for Administration Marion McNamara, 2nd VP for Voter Service Eileen Chase, 3rd VP for Civic Education Nancy Donovan, Secretary Anne Davidson, Treasurer Peter Englander, Action Chair Debbie Aiona, Communications Chair Margaret Noel, Units Chair

Judy Froemke, Volunteer Chair Kim Mason, Voter Service Forums Chair Maud Naroll, At Large for Action Carol Cushman and At Large for Communication Amber Nobe.

Guidance to the Board: Debbie Kaye announced that the final business on the agenda is to ask for guidance in the year ahead. She asked that members address the Board but to also write their suggestions on the 3x5 cards on the tables so there is a record of the guidance. Guidance to the Board included three requests that the League of Women Voters of Portland begin the process of consolidating the Regular Fund and Education Fund. These requests came from Linda Mantel, Kris Hudson and Norman Turrill. Kris Hudson also requested that the Endowment Fund Committee invest and manage the Ethel Noble Fund and report the performance to the Convention. Debbie Aiona presented suggestions for improvement to the Convention Handbook: to make sure the printed Treasurer's report is in the Workbook next year and the Budget Report have clearer print, making it easier to read. Peter Englander acknowledged that the end of year financial statements did not get into the Handbook and would be sent out separately.

Debbie Kaye thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the 2019 Convention at 8:45 pm.