

Bios for 2020-21 Nominees to the LWVPDX Board and Nominating Committee

Don Brenneis, nominee for Treasurer



I moved to Portland last summer after retiring as a professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. My wife and I were drawn here by our daughter and her family and by our strong sense of Portland as a lively and engaged community in a very beautiful part of the world.

We were League members throughout our time in Claremont and Palo Alto, but my personal organizational energies were focused primarily on university and professional communities. I am a social and linguistic anthropologist, trained at Stanford and Harvard, with field research experience ranging from Fiji to federal science bureaucracies in Washington, DC. At the heart of my research has been an interest in the relationship between language and politics and a core concern with the question of how talk and other forms of communication make a difference in shaping and transforming communities. I've written on topics from children's arguments and men's gossip to the style and dynamics of research funding panel meetings. I taught for forty-five years, first at Pitzer College in Claremont, CA, and then at UCSC, where I was active in shared governance and served as Chair of the Academic Senate. I have been very involved in academic organizations, serving as President of the American Anthropological Association and editing several scholarly journals.

All the organizational participation has led to my becoming familiar with the work of budget, finance, and audit committees. I'm looking forward to learning more about and contributing more actively to the work of the League here in Portland.

Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey, nominee for the 2020-21 year to fill unexpired 2019-21 term of retiring board member, Kim Mason

Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey is a student, mother, and writer. She has previously worked as a pastor, hospital chaplain, and non-profit program manager. She has been active in advocating for criminal justice reform, environmental sustainability, and women's rights.

The daughter of a long-time LWV member in Illinois, Audrey joined LWVPDX last year and is excited to join the board to help advance the League's work of strengthening democracy.



Janet Youel, nominee for Nominating Committee, Alternate Member



I have been a League member for 28 years and was president for several years of the White Bear Lake, Minnesota League of Women Voters. My husband Doug and I moved to Oregon from Minnesota 8 years ago. Two of our three children live in Portland, and two grandchildren were the draw for us to move.

My past involvement in the Portland League was as unit leader, and I was on the LWVPDX Board as Units Chair from 2014 to 2016. The two-year government study was my most recent involvement and a great experience. I really got into it, with all of the interviews and compilation of data, and I learned a lot about Portland. I also met great people who were on the committee. I believe we will make a difference in our Portland form of government soon.

I am a retired nurse, RN, with undergrad and graduate level education. My special focus on maternal and child health education served me well for raising our three children and teaching nursing, staff nursing and limited expert witness work. A highlight for me was living and working at Ganado, Arizona, on the Navajo Indian reservation.

All of the other nominees for 2020-22 positions are current LWVPDX leaders. They include board nominees, **Debbie Aiona, Chris Cobey, Nancy Donovan, Judy Froemke, Linda Mantel and Marion McNamara**, and off-board nominees, **Carol Cushman, Anne Davidson, and Mary McWilliams**. Their bios are all on the [Meet the Board page here](#).

