

League of Women Voters of Portland
2021 Annual Business Meeting
May 19, 2021

The 2021 Annual business Meeting was held virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. Debbie Kaye, LWVPDX President, introduced herself and thanked everyone for attending. She announced the theme for the upcoming year, "Opportunities Ahead", and was happy to report that the Portland League's current membership stood at 345, the highest in several years.

Debbie called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm using a Susan B. Anthony replica gavel that member Joella Werlin donated to a League auction. Member Bob Lustberg had bought it and given it to the Portland League.

Debbie then began the program with a video by LWVUS Chief Executive Officer, Virginia Kase. Among other remarks, Ms.Kase noted that 2020 had the greatest voter participation in a century. She also noted that there is no off-season for the work of the League and that, as a trusted voice, the League must recommit to empowering voters and defending democracy.

After the video featuring Virginia Kase, Debbie presented a video developed by Portland Board members, Audrey Zunkle-deCoursey and Margaret Noel, featuring the Portland League's accomplishments in 2020-2021.

Introductions: Debbie introduced Alice Bartelt, LWVOR 2nd Vice Chair and Action Chair who was serving as Parliamentarian for this meeting. Debbie also noted that Becky Gladstone, LWVOR President was unable to attend the meeting but sent her regards.

Quorum Count: According to the Bylaws of the Portland League, 15% of the membership as of January 1, 2021 must be present for a quorum. There were 320 members as of that date, so 48 would need to attend to meet that requirement. Marion McNamara, LWVPDX Vice President for Administration announced that 51 members were currently in attendance so the quorum requirement was formally met although the total participant count may be greater due to late arrivees. Marion noted that 26 votes would constitute a simple majority and a two-thirds majority would be 34 members based on the formal count. The quorum count was approved without objection.

ZOOM Voting Instructions: Marion McNamara explained the technical aspects of the meeting, primarily how voting would take place. When a vote is required, a poll would be launched which would pop up in a window on each member's screen. Members would then respond with Yes, No, or Abstain and click the Submit button. If members are sharing a screen, one person would respond to the poll on the screen and the other would "raise their hand" next to their name in the participant's list. Members were asked to click on the participant's icon to launch that list. All members were asked to stay muted unless they wished to make a motion, comment or ask a question.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda: Debbie Kaye noted that a change had been made to the agenda sent out to members, adding a short Treasurer's report to add context to the budget presentation. Debbie asked for any additional changes to the agenda. Hearing none, the amended agenda was adopted.

Adoption of Meeting Rules: Debbie Kaye asked for any questions of the meeting rules. Hearing none, the rules were adopted.

Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes of the 2020 Business Meeting were provided to members in advance of the meeting. They had been reviewed and approved by the members of the 2020 Minutes Review Committee, Carol Cushman and Susan Gilbert. Debbie Kaye asked for any corrections to the minutes and hearing none, declared the minutes approved as written.

Anne Davidson will be taking minutes for the current meeting. Carol Cushman and Susan Gilbert are returning as members of the Minutes Review Committee.

Office Tour: Using her phone, Debbie Kaye provided the meeting participants with a virtual tour of the new office. The office is operational but there is no Office Manager at this time.

Proposed Budget for 2021-2022: Mary Hepokoski, Portland League Bookkeeper, reviewed current financial reports which contained revenue and expenses through March 31, 2021.

Debbie Kaye then introduced Adrienne Aiona, Budget Chair, for the discussion of the proposed budget. Adrienne began by thanking the Budget Committee, including appointed members Anne Davidson and Margaret Noel and invited participants, Mary Hepokoski, Debbie Kaye, Jen Jacobs, Linda Mantel and Marion McNamara.

Adrienne described the two funds that make up the Portland League's financial picture. The Regular Fund is a 501(c)(4) organization and members would be discussing, debating and ultimately approving the budget for this fund at the current meeting. The Education Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization and the proposed budget is provided for review and comment only as it will be adopted by the Education Fund Trustees at their next meeting.

Adrienne, in reviewing the revenues and expenses of the budgets, noted that the overall budget is about \$20,000 higher than the previous year primarily due to increases in Voter Service activities, website and publicity investments and a training on diversity, equity and inclusion. She pointed out that Voter Service work will be primarily supported by grant funding. The budgets also do not call for a dues increase.

Adrienne thanked League members for their generous contributions to the League and answered questions about the proposed budget.

Adrienne moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland approve the 2021-2022 proposed budget for the Regular Fund, as presented.* Debbie Kaye opened the floor for

discussion of the motion and any amendments to the budget. Hearing none, Debbie asked that the voting poll be launched and asked members to vote on the motion. The budget was unanimously approved.

Development: Linda Mantel and her committee had developed a creative fundraising game, Spin the Wheel of Opportunity, for the meeting. There were three rounds of Spin the Wheel throughout the evening. For each round, League members choosing to make a pledge, picked a number between 1 and 12 to win a prize. For the first round, all pledges would be for \$100.00. For the second round, all pledges would require a pledge of \$50.00. For the third round, any amount could be pledged. After the pledges were in for each round, Linda spun the Wheel of Opportunity with the 12 numbers.

The winners in the first round were Ann Dudley, Alice Bartelt and Judy Schroeter. The first round prize was a book by Jewel Lansing, Portland: People, Politics and Power, 1851-2001. The winners in the second round were Rita Fawcett and Sharon Little. The prize for the second round was Multnomah, a book by Jewel Lansing and Fred Leeson. Mary Hepokoski was the winner of the spin in the third round and her prize was two tickets to the Portland League's Media Lunch to be held this winter.

Linda Mantel's goal for the Spin the Wheel game was to match the \$2480.00 pledged by the Board members of the Portland League. The total raised at the end of the evening was \$5250.00 for a total of \$7730.00.

2021-2022 Program: Judy Froemke, Discussion Units Coordinator began the discussion of the program planning process by thanking the 65 League members who participated in seven Discussion Unit meetings to help plan the League's activities for the next year. Each discussion group made recommendations to retain, drop, update, restudy or refer for action, the League positions on a wide range of topics, including governance, climate change, environmental issues, children's issues, homelessness and affordable housing, police accountability and the overriding importance of learning about and accepting diversity, equity and inclusion.

Nancy Donovan, Civic Education Chair, followed up with the League Board recommendations based on the work by the Discussion Units. The LWVPDX Board recommendation was that all current LWVPDX positions be retained with no board-recommended study for the coming year. Nancy reported that the study on Police Accountability was recently finished and that the Consensus Committee was meeting this month to develop the advocacy position based on the Portland Police Bureau: Oversight and Accountability Study.

Nancy moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland retain all of the current LWVPDX positions*. There was no need for a second since the Board approved the motion. Debbie asked for questions or discussion and, hearing none, asked that the voting poll be launched and that members vote on the motion. The motion passed.

Nancy proceeded with a discussion of the non-recommended program items. She explained that “non-recommended items” were those no one had volunteered to work on. She further explained that if, by majority vote, members agree to consider non-recommended items, another vote would be taken on whether to adopt that item.

During program planning discussions, the following three LWVPDX positions were recommended for updates or restudies: Metropolitan Transportation, Teenage Girls at Risk and School Funding. Nancy described the positions and the reasoning behind the recommendations for updates or restudies.

Debbie Kaye asked if there was a motion to consider the non-recommended restudy of Metropolitan Transportation. No motion was made.

Debbie Kaye asked if there was a motion to consider the non-recommended restudy or update of Teenage Girls at Risk. No motion was made.

Debbie Kaye asked if there was a motion to consider the non-recommended restudy of School Funding. No motion was made.

Absent any motions, Debbie Kaye declared that none of the non-recommended items were approved for consideration in 2021-2022.

Betsy Pratt, previous LWVOR Voter Service Chair, reported that two position updates were adopted at the LWVOR May Convention, one on child care and one on election methods. In addition, a concurrence with the Washington State League position on forestry was adopted, as recommended by the Oregon Washington County League and the LWVPDX. Portland League members could be asked to participate in the update studies.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments: Margaret Noel, LWVPDX Communications Chair reviewed the proposed changes to the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Portland. She explained that the changes in Articles II and III were required to bring the LWVPDX Bylaws in conformance with those of the LWVUS. The change in Article II was an addition of a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy. The change in Article III dealt with changes in Section 2. Types of Membership. These changes can be found in the Bylaws on the Portland League’s website.

Margaret described the Recommended Amendments to the LWVPDX Bylaws. These changes were provided to participants of the Annual Business Meeting ahead of time and require a two-thirds vote for approval. Proposed changes in Article IV, Section 5 updated the wording to allow continued use of ZOOM or other electronic means for meetings. Proposed changes in Article V, Section 2. The President(s), added authorization for the President(s) to use the Portland League’s credit card. Proposed changes in Article V, Section 5. The Treasurer, added the ability of the Board to appoint someone to assume the duties of the Treasurer if they are unable to perform them. The last proposed changes were in Article IX, Section 5. Endowment Fund Committee. These changes allow the Committee to oversee the management of other

major investment funds and allow someone other than the Committee Chair to make the annual report to the membership.

After these explanations, Margaret moved *the adoption of the six amendments to the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Portland, Oregon*. No second was required.

Debbie Kaye asked for questions or further discussion. A question about limits on the Presidents' ability to use the League's credit card was asked. Margaret answered that the card had a total limit of \$5000.00 and that there was no limit on charges by the President. The reason for the flexibility was that the credit card was frequently used to purchase ads publicizing League election resources from advertisers such as Willamette Week, the Gresham Outlook, the Portland Tribune and X-Ray FM. These ads must be paid when they are placed.

Debbie asked for additional questions or discussion and, hearing none, asked that the voting poll be launched and that members vote on the motion. The motion passed.

Nominating Committee Report: Debbie Kaye introduced Doreen Binder, Nominating Committee Chair to present the recommended elected officers, directors and committee chairs for 2021-2022. The report had been provided in advance to participants of the Annual Business Meeting. Debbie reported that most of the current Board members had agreed to continue in their roles. She thanked Don Brenneis who had to leave the Board for health reasons for his service to the League. She also thanked Adrienne Aiona for her 2 years of serving as Budget Chair and Doreen Binder for her work as Nominating Committee chair.

Doreen thanked her Committee Members, Carol Cushman, Judy Froemke, Mary McWilliams and Chris Cobey. Doreen presented the Committee report and Debbie Kaye asked for any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Debbie asked for a motion.

Doreen Binder moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland accept the Nominating Committee's slate of nominees and continuing Board members and leaders for the May 2021-May 2022 fiscal year. The slate, as presented, will be considered as an attachment to the minutes of this Annual Business Meeting*. No second was required.

Debbie asked for additional questions or discussion and, hearing none, asked that the voting poll be launched and that members vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Debbie reminded members that this was the elected slate and the Board may appoint additional Board members. She asked that anyone interested in learning more about the League or becoming a Board member to contact her.

Guidance to the Board: Debbie Kaye declared her confidence that the Portland League will meet its goals of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy in the coming year. At 101 years strong, the League remains as vibrant and relevant as at its founding in 1920. To remain strong, she voiced her need for member ideas and guidance and asked that suggestions be

emailed to her at President@LWVPDX.org. Carol Cushman asked that the latest Endowment Committee report be included in the materials provided to participants in Annual business Meetings.

Membership/Lifetime Members: Debbie Kaye expressed how grateful she was to the members who have volunteered their energy, time, skills and wisdom this year. She thanked Mary McWilliams, Membership Chair who welcomes each new member and provided the great news of 345 current members.

Debbie recognized Ruth Kratochvil and Joella Werlin as 50-year Life Members and asked for a round of applause to congratulate them.

Volunteers of the Year: Debbie Kaye recognized the two Board nominated Volunteers of the Year, Barbara Ross and Corinne Paulson and read from their certificates:

Barbara Ross was recognized “for her focused, extraordinary leadership of the Police Accountability study and report this past year, her many years of work with the Portland and Oregon Leagues lobbying effectively-and always politely-on the action portfolios, and for teaching so many League members of the skills of lobbying with her encouraging and persuasive style”.

Corinne Paulson was recognized “for her decades of dedicated League leadership as: President 1987-89, board member leading advocacy in city planning and housing, Voters’ guide Chair, moderator for candidate and ballot measure forms, Endowment Chair and Discussion Unit 7 leader for many years”.

Closing Remarks: Debbie Kaye closed the meeting by thanking the Committee members who helped prepare for this meeting: Chris Cobey, Nancy Donovan, Linda Mantel, Marion McNamara and Margaret Noel. She also thanked Rob Kaye for his technical assistance and Alice Bartelt, the evening’s Parliamentarian.

With her appreciation to all who attended the League of Women Voters of Portland’s Annual Business Meeting, Debbie Kaye adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.