

League of Women Voters of Portland
2022 Annual Membership Meeting
May 18, 2022

The 2022 Annual Membership Meeting was held on May 18, 2022 at the Laurelhurst Club in Portland, Oregon. Debbie Kaye, LWVPDX President introduced herself and thanked everyone for attending. She recognized the personal challenges and difficulties experienced by everyone this last year due to COVID. She expressed how proud she was of the hard-working, focused and accomplished Board of Directors that she has had the privilege of working with throughout the year. She also announced the theme for the year, "Rain or shine, we've got you covered" and outlined a few of the many plans for the upcoming year, including looking at the city charter review process, continuing to monitor the Portland Police Bureau, looking at housing and education and planning for the General Election, all with the goal of Making Democracy Work.

Debbie called the meeting to order at 5:50 pm. She noted that the printed materials provided do not include committee reports, differing from convention workbooks prepared in the past. The Portland League has decided to move to a fiscal year annual report which will be compiled in late July and made available at that time.

Introductions: Debbie introduced Alice Bartelt, the League of Women Voters 2nd Vice Chair and Action Chair, who was serving as Parliamentarian for the meeting. Debbie also introduced Office Manager Nikki Jardin, who she described as a multi-talented and collaborative employee who is not only very capable and resourceful, but fun to work with. Debbie also invited everyone to come and visit the Portland League's new office, located at 620 SW 5th Avenue on the 10th floor.

Debbie also introduced Ted Kaye as the member responsible for verifying the votes for the evening. Debbie also thanked Carol Cushman and Susan Gilbert who had volunteered to be on the Minutes Review Committee again this year.

Member Recognition and Remembrance:

New Members: Debbie invited everyone who joined the Portland League since the May 2019 Annual Membership Meeting to stand and be recognized.

Life Members: Debbie noted that the Portland League has twenty-two 50-year Lifetime members. She read the names of the 50-year Lifetime members in attendance at the meeting. She then presented flowers to Linda Mather, the newest Life Member, thanking her for her 50 years of participation and service to the League of Women Voters in New Jersey and Portland.

Remembrance: Debbie asked for a moment to remember the five League members who had passed away since May of last year: Dorothy Baker, Jean Cherni, Bob Noble, Barbara Ross and Sunny Schurr.

Quorum Count: Based on the membership count on January 1, 2022, 42 members must be present for a quorum. Nikki Jardin announced that there were 61 members in attendance and the quorum count was met. Nikki also noted that 31 votes would constitute a simple majority and that a two-thirds majority of members present, or 42 members, would be required for votes on Bylaw amendments. Debbie Kaye asked for a motion to approve the quorum. Mary McWilliams rose to move that the quorum count be approved. Nadyne Rosin seconded the motion. Debbie Kaye called for a vote and the motion passed.

Adoption of Meeting Rules: Debbie Kaye asked for a motion to adopt the Proposed Rules as provided in the meeting packets. When making a motion, she called members' attention to the need to state their name and the motion and write both on the motion sheet on each table. These sheets are given to Anne Davidson, League Secretary. Members seconding a motion should also raise their hand and state their name. Marion McNamara rose to move that the Meeting Rules be adopted as presented in the meeting materials. Carolyn Buppert seconded the motion. Debbie Kaye called for a vote and the motion passed.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda: Debbie Kaye asked for a motion to propose changes to the Agenda as provided in the meeting packets or to adopt it as written. Chris Cobey rose to move that the Meeting Agenda be adopted as provided. Nadyne Rosin seconded the motion. Debbie Kaye called for the vote on the motion and the Meeting Agenda was adopted with no discussion.

Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes of the 2021 Annual Business Meeting were provided in the meeting packets. The minutes were reviewed and approved by the 2021 Minute Review Committee, Anne Davidson, Carol Cushman and Susan Gilbert. Debbie Kaye thanked the committee for their careful review. She asked for any corrections to the minutes and hearing none, declared the minutes approved as written.

Development: Linda Mantel, Development Chair rose to describe the fundraising activities of the evening. She announced a stretch goal of \$10,000 for the evening which is typically the major fundraising event of the year. She explained that these gifts support both the Education Fund and the Regular Fund: the Education Fund carried out the extensive suite of services for the Primary Election and will for the General Election and provides for Civic Education programming; the Regular Fund supports the League's action and advocacy efforts, member services and provides funds for the office space. Donations to the Education Fund are tax-deductible; donations to the Regular Fund are not. Linda asked participants to denote which fund they would like their donations to support. Linda described the fundraising activities which would be taking place throughout the evening, including an auction of three plates donated by Barbara Ross and a one week timeshare on June Lake in California offered by Dorthea Petersen.

2022-2023 Program: Judy Froemke, Units Chair & Program Planning Co-Chair presented the proposed 2022-23 program as approved by the Portland League Board of Directors. The recommendations included:

1. Retain all current LWVPDX positions.
2. Update the position on Neighborhood Associations by replacing the words “the Office of Neighborhood Involvement” with “the Office of Community and Civic Life” because this is the correct title given by the city in 2018.
3. No study is recommended.

Judy described the program planning process which involved 53 League members participating in seven Discussion Groups. There were a total of 137 attendees at the Discussion Group meetings; most members attended two or more discussions.

Judy moved that the proposed program for 2022-2023 be approved as presented. No second is required. Robin Tokmakian rose to propose a friendly amendment to replace the wording, “the Office of Community and Civic Life” to “the office responsible for Neighborhood Associations” in #2 of the original motion. Mary Ann Schwab seconded the friendly amendment. The discussion included emphasizing the importance of neighborhood associations and having a more general name in the position to be able to incorporate future changes in city policy.

Debbie Kaye called for a vote on the friendly amendment and the amendment passed. Judy Froemke accepted the friendly amendment and moved that the proposed program for 2022-2023 be approved as amended. Debbie Kaye called for a vote and the amended motion passed.

Judy Froemke also reviewed the LWVPDX positions that were recommended for restudy or updates, but not recommended by the Portland League Board of Directors. These included, as provided and described in the meeting packet:

- Teenage Girls at Risk
- School Funding
- Neighborhood Associations
- Metropolitan Transportation
- Planning
- Economic Development

Debbie Kaye asked if there were any motions to approve a study on one or more of these non-recommended suggestions. Hearing none, Judy announced that they would remain as non-recommended studies or updates until next year. Fran Dyke rose to remind members that these topics could be taken up by an interest group or be included in a Civic Education program.

2022-2023 Proposed Budget: Adrienne Aiona, Treasurer, directed members to the revenue budget, expenses budget and full notes and explanations in the meeting packet. The budget was prepared by the Budget Committee and approved by the Portland League’s Board of Directors. She summarized key points of the proposal which include new Voter Service line items, a note on PMP and the fact that dues are no longer deductible due to a change to allocating the revenue from the dues to the Regular Fund. Details of these items are also outlined in the meeting packet. She announced that a dues increase was not included in the

budget due in part because LWVUS did not raise the per-member payment required of local Leagues this year.

Adrienne moved that the proposed 2022-2023 budget as presented, be approved. No second was required. Debbie Kaye asked for any discussion and Kris Hudson rose to ask about a previous requirement that Portland dues increase by \$1.00 per year. Debbie Kaye explained that the annual \$1.00 increase for dues was approved in 2016 for only 5 years. Adrienne pointed out that the Portland League has sufficient resources this year without an increase in dues. Kris, concerned about future years, made a motion to amend the 2022-2023 budget to include a \$1.00 increase in dues each year in perpetuity. Her motion to amend was seconded by Jane Gigler. Debbie Kaye called for a vote to amend the budget with the motion from Kris. The motion to amend did not pass.

Discussion on the original motion continued with a question from Betsy Pratt about the increase in the budget for publicity and how to measure effectiveness. Adrienne pointed out that a portion of that increase was due to placing Voters' Guide publicity in the separate line item. Margaret described the additional publicity that is planned for next year and the tracking measures she has put in motion.

Adrienne pointed out that the most current financial statements were available on each table.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Debbie Kaye called for a vote on the motion to approve the 2022-2023 budget as proposed. The motion passed.

Recommended Bylaws Amendments: Margaret Noel, Communications Chair reviewed the proposed changes to the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Portland. There were seven amendments and approval requires a two-thirds vote for approval. Each of the amendments are in the meeting packet with changes underlined. The first amendment added abbreviations LWVPDX and LWVOR to LWVUS in Article I, Name. The second amendment changed the name of the annual business meeting from "Local Convention" to "Annual Membership meeting". The change in Article VI changes the date of the membership count for determining a quorum at an Annual Membership Meeting. The changes in Article VII and Article VIII are clarifying changes that reflect current practices. The same is true of the changes in Article IX for the budget committee with the addition that the Board is strongly encouraged to appoint at least one off-board member to the Budget Committee. The last proposed amendment provides direction and clarification to the role of the Endowment Fund Committee. It includes changing the investment objective of the Endowment Fund to retain and, when possible, increase the value of the fund, replacing the term "purchasing power" with "value".

Margaret then moved the adoption of the seven amendments to the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Portland, as presented. As the amendments were approved by the Board, no second was required. As there were no questions or comments, Debbie Kaye called for a vote on the motion and the motion passed.

Margaret next directed members to look at the revisions to the Endowment Fund Guidelines as provided in the meeting packet. She explained that any amendments to the Endowment Fund included in the Bylaw changes would be incorporated in the Guidelines. In addition, a statement is proposed to be added to the section on Distribution which would allow the Treasurer, with Board consent, to decline a portion of the annual distribution if other funds are available.

Margaret moved to adopt the amendments to the Endowment Fund Guidelines. Again, no second is required. During the call for discussion, Ted Kaye rose with a concern about the change in the objective of the Endowment Fund Committee to retain or increase the value of the fund, replacing the wording from "purchasing power" to "value". The term "purchasing power" would indicate that the amount of the fund would vary over time due to factors such as inflation and deflation. He was interested in proposing a motion to change the wording back to "purchasing power" but noted that the previous change had been approved in the Bylaws vote and that the Bylaws and the Guidelines would then not be in agreement. Jane Gigler rose to recommend that the concern be sent to the Endowment Committee for review and consideration and to bring a recommendation to next year's Annual Membership Meeting on the use of "purchasing power" vs "value". With that recommendation, Ted withdrew his proposed motion. Hearing no further discussion, Debbie Kaye called for a vote on Margaret's motion to adopt the amendments to the Endowment Fund Guidelines and the motion passed.

Nominating Committee Report: Debbie Kaye introduced Ann Dudley, Nominating Committee Chair, to present the recommended elected officers, directors and committee chairs for 2022-2023. Debbie reminded members that the full nomination slate was presented in the March eVoter but there is one change: Betsy Pratt is nominated as Budget Chair to complete the final year of a two-year term. Ann presented the following slate of candidates who will, with the exception of the Budget Chair, begin serving two-year terms immediately following this meeting.

Elected Officers:

1st VP Administration, Marion Mcnamara

3rd VP Program Chair, Judy Froemke

Elected Directors: Action Chair, Debbie Aiona

Development Chair, Linda Mantel

Community Education Programs, Nancy Donovan

Elected Committees

Endowment Committee Treasurer, Anne Davidson

Nominating Committee members, Trish Garner and Rita Fawcett and Alt-member, Barbara Stalions

Budget Chair, Betsy Pratt

Ann noted that the Nominating Committee also proposed a change to the Civic Education and Programs Portfolios. As reflected in the positions listed, the responsibilities for program

planning, studies and member education would be separated from the responsibility for community education programs.

Debbie Kaye called for any nominations from the floor.

Hearing none, Ann Dudley moved that the League of Women Voters of Portland accept the slate presented by the Nominating Committee. The total slate will be considered as an attachment to the minutes of this Annual Membership Meeting. No second was required. Debbie Kaye called for a vote and the motion passed.

Ann thanked all who participated in the nominating process: Chris Cobey, Carol Cushman, Judy Froemke, Mary McWilliams and Janet Youel

Volunteers:

Debbie Kaye acknowledged the two Volunteers of the Year, Elizabeth Joseph and Kathy Casto. Neither was able to join the meeting but they both expressed their gratitude for the honor and Debbie thanked them, on behalf of the Board, for all their contributions to the League.

Debbie Kaye expressed her gratitude to all members who have volunteered their energy, time, skills and wisdom this past year. She recognized that the League is strongest when members are involved and new members are willing to join. Mary McWilliams reported that the League of Women Voters of Portland currently has 281 members. Debbie conveyed her confidence that with all this wonderful participation, the League will continue to meet the goals of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy in the coming year.

Debbie announced that the League will be marching in the Rose Festival Parade on June 11 and she invited everyone to come along. She encouraged members, friends and families to sign up as soon as possible to be able to complete all the registration materials in time.

Guidance to the Board: Debbie Kaye announced that the final business for the evening was to invite participants to provide guidance to the Board. She asked members to email their ideas to her at President@lwvpdx.org.

Finally, Debbie thanked the people who helped to prepare for this meeting: Alice Bartelt, Chris Cobey, Nancy Donovan, Linda Mantel, Marion McNamara, Margaret Noel, Amber Nobe and Nikki Jardin.

She adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.