



Annual Report 2020-2021

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2020 Membership Business Meeting

May 12, 2020

The 2020 Membership Business meeting was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, May 12, 2020. Debbie Kaye, LWVPDX President, introduced herself and thanked everyone for attending. She reviewed the many League accomplishments during the year and described League members as Democracy Heroes as the League continues to work hard to champion causes and issues important to members and their communities.

Debbie called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. She introduced two non-voting guests in attendance: Becky Gladstone, LWVOR President and Alice Bartlet who serves as the LWVOR 2nd Vice Chair and Action Chair. Alice was also serving as the Parliamentarian and Zoom coach for the Portland League's Business Meeting.

Zoom Meeting Instruction: Alice explained how the discussion and voting would take place during the meeting. Members were to click the "Raise Hand" button at the bottom of the participant list to indicate their wish to make a comment or ask a question. The same process would be used to register their votes. Any motions made were to be typed into the "Chat" box for all participants to see.

Delegate Count: Debbie Kaye reported that 38 members were required for a quorum. There were 62 participants in the meeting and 60 were Portland League members. She noted that 31 votes would constitute a simple majority. Robin Tokmakian moved to accept the delegate and quorum count. Adrienne Aiona 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 2020 Membership Business Meeting Rules as provided in the participant materials. Margaret Noel made the motion which was seconded by Maud Naroll. Debbie Kaye called for a vote on the motion and the Meeting Rules were adopted with no discussion.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda: Debbie Kaye asked for a motion to adopt the Agenda of the Business Meeting as provided in the participant materials. Maud Naroll made the motion which was seconded by Chris Cobey. Debbie Kaye called for a vote on the motion and the Meeting Agenda was adopted with no discussion.

Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes of the 2019 Local Convention were provided in the participant materials. The minutes were reviewed by last year's Minutes Review Committee, Carol Cushman and Susan Gilbert. Debbie asked for any corrections to the minutes and hearing none, declared the minutes approved as written.

2020-2021 Program:

LWVPDX Positions: Nancy Donovan, Civic Education Chair, directed members to the current

LWVPDX positions that were sent to participants by either email or mail, including the new City Government position adopted in January 2020. Debbie Kaye explained the position review process which included the results of the January Winter Program Planning Party, attended by 50 members and the results of five Units, attended by 54 members who met to discuss the LWVUS and LWVPDX positions.

Nancy Donovan moved to retain all current LWVPDX positions, including the new position on City Government. Maud Naroll seconded the motion. The ensuing discussion included a question from Olivia Smith about the position in the School Funding section of the Education position, specifically #4 dealing with allowing private fundraising. Debbie Aiona and Anne Davidson provided an explanation of the position which came out of a large school budget shortfall. Fran Dyke suggested that the Education Interest Group led by Nancy Donovan could provide a further explanation at the September member meeting. Debbie Kaye called for a vote on the motion and the motion passed.

LWVPDX study on Police Accountability: Debbie Kaye introduced Barbara Ross who presented the study proposal which was in the material provided to participants. After the presentation, Nancy Donovan moved to approve the new study on Police Accountability as described in the material sent to members in the mail and by email. No second was needed because the study was recommended by the LWVPDX Board. A discussion followed beginning with a question from Pamela Clark about the wording in the Scope of the study and whether the vote was to approve phase one of the study or phase one and two. As a result of the discussion, Adrienne Aiona provided the following motion to clarify that approval of the study would be for phase one only. Adrienne moved that the following be deleted from the scope of the study proposal: *"This would be phase one of the study. If the team decides to, we might go into phase two, which would focus on recruitment, screening/selection, and hiring of new police officers. That phase of the study could determine whether we are making genuine progress in shaping our police force to more accurately reflect the communities it serves"*. Pamela Clark seconded the motion. Debbie Kaye asked for a raised hand vote on the amendment. She declared the amendment approved with no objections. Debbie Kaye then called for a vote to approve the new study on Police Accountability as amended. The motion passed.

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021: Debbie Kaye introduced Adrienne Aiona, Budget Chair, who provided a presentation on the new budget. Adrienne thanked the Budget Committee members Eileen Chase, Anne Davidson, Peter Englander and Margaret Noel. Adrienne noted that the budget was completed in January before the coronavirus crisis and that the budget is a plan that can be adjusted by the Board as needed. She also explained that members may discuss, debate and amend the budget for the Regular Fund at the current meeting. The Education Fund budget is provided for review and comment only because it is related to the Regular Fund budget but is adopted by the Education Fund Trustees at their next meeting. Adrienne reviewed the Revenue and Expenses of the budgets and then moved to approve the Regular Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, as presented. No second is required. There was an extensive discussion with questions from several members and clarifications from Adrienne and Budget Committee members. Susan Gilbert provided clarification on the PMP process. Adrienne also explained the status of membership dues: the

\$1 dollar increase in dues every year was approved for 5 years in 2016. This is the 5th year. With thanks to Adrienne and the Budget Committee, Debbie Kaye called for a vote on the motion. The motion to approve the Regular Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 passed.

Nominating Slate: Debbie Kaye explained that the last official task of the evening was to vote on the Nominating Slate. Before beginning the discussion on the election of new members to the Board, Debbie highlighted some of the accomplishments of those leaving it: Peter Englander, Treasurer; Carol Cushman, At-Large and assisting with Action and Kim Mason, Justice Interest Group and Volunteer Coordinator. She thanked them for all the time and effort they invested as Board Members in the League's mission, vision and values. She extended a sincere thanks to all three for their perseverance and high level of insight to help the League move forward. Carol Cushman has been nominated this year for a position on the Nominating Committee and will be continuing with her activities in support of Action.

Debbie Kaye thanked the Nominating Committee, Doreen Binder, Chair; Carol Cushman; Judy Froemke and Mary McWilliams. She noted that meeting participants should have received the revised Nominating Committee Report, adding the name of Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey to be elected as a Board member-at-large to complete Kim Mason's term because Kim has resigned due to time constraints. She called on Doreen Binder to present the slate and make the motion to approve the Slate. Assuming the motion from the Nominating Committee and with no second required, Debbie Kaye called for the vote and the motion to accept the Nominating Committee Report passed. The Board was elected.

Debbie Kaye further explained that the Board can appoint additional directors and encouraged anyone interested in Board service to contact Doreen Binder.

Fundraising: Debbie Kaye, donning a hat with her husband Ted Kaye, outlined her "Passing the Hat" campaign. She pointed out that League members had just passed a budget that included member contributions and she provided the options for donating to the Portland League. She also announced that two Board members had generously started the campaign with a commitment of \$600.00. Donations can be made by sending a check to the League's PO Box or using the donate buttons on the League website, lvvpdx.org, for either the Education Fund or the Advocacy/Regular Fund. She asked for donations by the middle of June if possible and voiced her thanks for everyone's support.

Follow-up Convention Meeting: Nancy Donovan reported on the plans to hold the rest, non-business half of the Local Convention on the second Tuesday in September 2020. Original thoughts were to be able to meet in person, socialize, listen to a speaker, enjoy a meal and recognize Life members and volunteers. Portland Police Chief Resch had agreed to be the featured speaker before all plans were changed. Nancy asked everyone to put September 8 on their calendars and she will keep them updated on developments with the meeting.

Nancy also reported that a Convention Handbook with the results of this business meeting and all annual reports will be sent out electronically to League members. She asked for members to

let her know if they will need a printed copy.

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

Finally, Debbie Kaye offered special thanks to the committee who worked to prepare this virtual meeting: Nancy Donovan, Margaret Noel, Marion McNamara, Ted Kaye and Alice Bartelt.

With her thanks to those attending the Business Meeting and with the hope to see everyone in September, Debbie Kaye adjourned the meeting at 7:00.

President's Report

Debbie Kaye, President

Position Description

The official role of the president is to preside at all meetings of the organization and the Board of Directors. In the absence of the treasurer or assistant treasurer, the president signs or endorses checks, drafts and notes, and is an ex-officio member of all committees except for the nominating committee. The president has the usual powers of supervision and management as agreed by the Board of Directors, assigned in the bylaws or approved by adopted policies and procedures, including but not limited to approval of all public statements made by the League, acting as spokesperson for the League at various events and providing oversight for the office manager. However, electing a Vice President for Administration in 2019 moved the primary oversight of the office manager from the president to that vice president very effectively.

In addition, I regard the president's role as one of communication and coordination supporting collaboration. Our League's many members engage in many different activities. An important part of this role is helping them connect with each other for effective and efficient action. Another aspect is cheerleading! We do great work for our community; acknowledging that is also important.

Highlights of the Year

Our terrific board of directors and executive committee continued their effective work without any administrative support since our office manager had resigned in February and we decided not to hire because of the COVID pandemic. In her role as VP Administration, Marion McNamara managed the office, handling many of the office manager tasks such as data entry, preparing deposits, reconciling financial records, and much more. Her dedication kept us on track. Board members also took on many tasks previously supported by office staff.

Throughout the year I participated in monthly meetings with League leaders throughout Oregon. I also attended webinars offered by LWVUS and the Nonprofit Association of Oregon as well as one with Braver Angels.

Debbie Aiona and others on the Action team prepared letters and testimony on several issues that I signed and delivered. That included speaking by Zoom about transparency to a subset of the Charter Review Commission during the Heat Dome event in June.

US District Court Judge Ann Aiken convened a group of attorneys and a few nonprofit leaders in early March to plan for a broad program titled "Turning Rights into Reality". I was invited to participate representing the League and brought in Becky Gladstone with LWVOR. It was a very large group that met initially in the Judge's Portland chambers with others joining by conference call. Judge Aiken envisioned bringing national level speakers to Portland to address various democracy issues. My biggest contribution was a connection to Peter Miller at the Brennan Center. Due to COVID, the group's work was suspended in early April, reconvened by Zoom in June, and I haven't heard anything about it since then.

May: We held our annual membership business meeting on Zoom with around 60 attendees. Due to good planning and support, it was very successful, and we conducted our business effectively and efficiently.

Summer:

We realized that we would need to move the office. Marion and I visited a couple of buildings and then I learned that City Club of Portland had extra space. By August, we had joined them on the ground floor of the Pittock Block. We did not use the office very much due to COVID.

Having been invited to march as a special entry in the (canceled) Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade to celebrate the Centennial of the 19th Amendment and the League's founding, instead we joined the virtual Grand Petite Parade with a 20-second video featuring many League members faces interspersed with images of yellow roses and a voice over.

LWVUS convention was held virtually due to COVID. Ten Portland members attended as delegates and observers.

Eileen Chase had to step down from Voter Service chair due to work demands. Chris Cobey stepped into that role.

I gave a talk to the Washington County Public Affairs Forum on League history and voter suppression.

Fall: I gave LWV history and ballot measure presentations to the Women's Impact Network of Starbucks for the Northwest and to Catlin Gabel School students, faculty and alumni. I also gave a Zoom interview to the Elizabeth Jones Gallery while artists painted my portrait! It was displayed in 2021 along with others including Governor Kate Brown! I was interviewed by Jefferson Smith and his father with X-Ray radio. We produced excellent voter service materials on multiple platforms to support Multnomah County voters in the general election.

We provided a full range of voter education services for the 2020 General Election.

Spring, 2021

We began paying close attention to the Charter Review Commission.

After 9 months of intensive research and interviews, the Police Accountability study was published, and a position derived by our usual consensus process. Advocacy commenced immediately, with the Justice Interest Group members following different elements of the position.

Several members attended the LWVOR convention held over a week by Zoom in May.

Our annual business meeting was held in mid-May in the conference room at the office with a cruise ship theme that was a lot of fun to plan and execute. The fundraising game developed by Linda Mantel had lots of participation and was very successful.

The Financial Procedures committee met to begin to organize and streamline how we do our accounting and processes related to it.

We learned that the City Club was leaving the Pittock Block offices earlier than expected, so we would have to move again in August. I consulted a commercial real estate friend and walked around downtown looking at sites.

This was a challenging year due to COVID and our League's **boundless** ambitions. We maintained our high standards, undeterred by the COVID pandemic and lacking office support. I am immensely proud of our work and of the people who performed it with great energy, effectiveness, and good spirits. My thanks to each member of the Board and all the volunteers.

Action Committee

Debbie Aiona, Chair
Carol Cushman, Action support

Job Description

The Action Committee supports the policies defined in the League's Position Statements so that the League is not only a League of knowledge but also of action. The Action Committee meetings provide a monthly forum for the most current information related to an issue and allow members the opportunity to explore in depth issues of importance to the League and the community and to develop recommendations to the board. These meetings also provide an opportunity to discuss issues with local experts in an informal setting.

Action Committee Volunteers

Affordable Housing:	Mary McWilliams, Debbie Aiona
Air Quality:	Mary McWilliams
Campaign Finance:	Carol Cushman, James Ofsink
Charter Review Commission:	Audrey Zunkel-de Coursey
Civic Engagement/ Neighborhood Associations:	Carol Cushman, Brian Harvey, Don MacGillivray, Libby Deal
Fossil Fuel Infrastructure/ Climate Change:	Julie Chapman, Kathy Moyd, Robin Tokmakian
Joint Terrorism Task Force:	Debbie Aiona
Portland Planning:	Barbara Byrd, Debbie Aiona
Portland Police Bureau/ Police Oversight:	Carol Cushman, Kim Mason, Debbie Aiona, Carol Landsman, James Ofsink, Barbara Ross
Portland Harbor Superfund Site:	Marion McNamara, Debbie Aiona
Portland Utility Board:	Carol Cushman
Universal Pre-Kindergarten:	Fran Dyke, Tom Dyke, Debbie Aiona
Action Committee Oversight and Support:	Debbie Kaye, Margaret Noel, Nancy Donovan, Marion McNamara

Portland League members serving on the LWVOR Action Committee: Julie Chapman, Anne Nesse, Nancy Donovan, Debbie Aiona, Barbara Ross, Philip Thor, Norman Turrill, Chris Cobey, Robin Tokmakian, Kathy Moyd

Legislative Interviews: Beth Burczak, coordinator

Chris Cobey, Margaret Noel, Carol Cushman, Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey, Kathy Casto, Janet Youel, Mary McWilliams, Barbara Ross, Jan Wolf, Joseph Hoffman, Norman Turrill, Barbara Dudley, Trish Garner, Libby Deal, Linda Mantel, Kris Hudson, Barbara Stallions, Carol Landsman
Portland City Council Interviews: Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey, coordinator
Barbara Ross, Carol Cushman, Doreen Binder, Debbie Kaye, Debbie Aiona

Action Committee Meetings

September 2020: Topic: Portland Economic Opportunity Analysis
Guest: Portland Audubon Society Conservation Director Bob Sallinger

October 2020: Topic: Portland Economic Opportunities Analysis
Guests: Steve Kountz, Senior Economic Planner, Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS)
Tom Armstrong, Supervising Planner, BPS

November 2020: Topic: Wildfires in the 21st Century -- Taking it to the Streets
Guest: Professor John Bailey, Oregon State University Forest Engineering, Resources and Management

January 2021: Topic: U.S. Department of Justice Settlement Agreement with the City of Portland and the Portland Police Bureau
Guest: U.S. DOJ Assistant U.S. Attorney Jared Hager

February 2021: Topic: Portland's Open and Accountable Elections
Guest: Deputy Director Daniel Lewkow, Open and Accountable Elections

March 2021: Topic: Portland Harbor Superfund Site Clean Up
Guests: Caleb Shaffer, U.S. EPA Portland Harbor Team Lead, Richard Francis, Remedial Project Manager, Laura Knudsen, Community Involvement Coordinator

April 2021: Topic: TriMet: Current Challenges and Future Plans
Guests: JC Vannatta, Public Affairs Executive Director
Tom Markgraf, Public Affairs Director

Action Taken 2020 – 2021

May 2020

- Submit comments to the EPA on the Portland Harbor Superfund Site Community Involvement Plan.

- Urge the Citizen Review Committee to discuss the significantly reduced Independent Police Review's annual report and consider assigning the topic to a workgroup for further discussion.
- Endorse Metro Ballot Measure 26-210: funds for homeless services and supportive housing.

June 2020

- Endorse Universal Preschool NOW initiative petition signature drive, a proposal to fund free universal Pre-K for all Multnomah County three- and four-year olds through a tax on high earners.

July 2020

- Op-ed authored by LWV Portland and Portland Copwatch published in The Oregonian addressing ways to improve Portland's existing police oversight system.
- Ongoing participation through written comments and meetings in the process to develop Commissioner Hardesty's proposal to replace the existing police oversight system.
- Submit letter to Multnomah County Commission in support of Universal Preschool NOW proposal for universal Pre-K.
- Testify at Portland City Council hearing in support of a charter amendment for police oversight board.
- Meeting with County Commissioner Jayapal to discuss universal Pre-K proposal.

August 2020

- Meeting with Commissioner Hardesty to discuss police oversight board charter amendment.
- Meeting with Rachael Bowen from library bond measure campaign to gather information and consider a recommendation to the board on the measure. LWV Portland endorsed the measure.
- Email to IPR Director Caldwell and Auditor Hull Caballero urging resumption of Citizen Review Committee recruitment process.

September 2020

- Submit Voter Pamphlet statements in favor of police oversight charter amendment and universal Pre-K measure. Submit endorsements for Voters Pamphlet for parks local option levy and Portland Public Schools bond measure.
- Sign on to a group letter to city council urging disengagement with FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and more robust annual public reporting. Urge Mayor Wheeler to allow the public to offer oral testimony on the report.
- Meeting with OIR Group consultants to discuss the most recent report on police shootings and in-custody deaths.
- Submit letter to City Council regarding OIR Group report on shootings and deaths in custody. Raise concerns about the mayor's prohibition on oral testimony on reports presented to city council.

October 2020

- Serve on PUB selection committee for new committee members.

December 2020

- Speak to the AAUW committee about police oversight in Portland.
- Submit letter to city council regarding Portland Police Bureau's non-compliance with DOJ Settlement Agreement's requirements for its annual report.

January 2021

- Sign on to advocacy groups' Joint Terrorism Task Force Peoples Report.
- Submit a letter to the city council on the JTTF annual report. Reinforce League support for disengaging with the task force.

February 2021

- In conjunction with Portland Copwatch, email Mayor Wheeler's staff member information on past practices by former mayors who allowed oral testimony on reports presented to city council.

March 2021

- Meeting with staff members from Commissioner Hardesty and Commissioner Mapps' offices to discuss police oversight.

April 2021

- Email Commissioner Mapps' financial policy advisor to discuss concerns regarding exclusion of public testimony on city council decisions.
- Meeting with Commissioner Mapps and Commissioner Ryan to discuss issues of general interest to them and the League.
- Sign on to a group letter to Metro Council urging a more thorough clean up of Willamette Cove, one of the contaminated sites in the Portland Harbor Superfund Site.
- Meeting with Commissioner Hardesty and staff to discuss police oversight and public participation at city council meetings.

May 2021

- Joined other democracy advocates in signing onto a letter to the Portland Charter Review Commission asking them to consider looking into the following issues: structure of city government, alternative voting methods, and independent elections and campaign finance oversight.

June 2021

- Sign on to a letter to Sen. Peter Courtney along with other organizations including LWVOR in support of a publicly funded small donor matching system for legislative candidates.

- Along with Portland Copwatch, responded to a request from Commissioner Hardesty's policy director to submit suggestions for the scope of work city council will adopt for the temporary commission assigned to design the new police oversight board.
- Testify at Charter Review Commission meeting in support of adding transparency to the charter and creating a Transparency Advocate and Commission situated in the City Auditor's office.

Communications

Margaret Noel, Chair

Team Members

The Communications Committee works together to provide information from the Portland League to our members and to the public. We do this through various media, including our newsletter (the Voter), print or emailed mailings to members, press releases, paid publicity, social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)), our website (lwvpdx.org) and [YouTube videos](#).

The Communications Chair coordinates the team's work and reviews almost all communications to members and the public. The key to our success is the support of the leaders who help with each aspect of communications. For 2020-21, our key committee members and volunteers were:

- Margaret Noel, Communications Chair, Website Editor and Publicity Coordinator
- Amber Nobe, Voter Newsletter Editor
- Carolyn Buppert, Twitter Editor
- Joshua Buck and Katie LeRoux, Facebook editors
- Elizabeth Davis, Instagram Editor, photographer
- Ruth Kratochvil, Press Release distributor
- Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey, Video and graphics creator
- Marion McNamara, printed membership mailings
- Mary McWilliams, online email list updates
- Amy Beltaine, technical advice

We also depended on the expertise of MetroEast Community Media to edit the videos of our civic education and voter service events, post them on our YouTube channel, and replay them on Comcast and Frontier Public Access Television. Funding from the Carol & Velma Saling Foundation, the Wyss Foundation, and Vernier Software and Technology paid for the video recordings and publicity for our civic education and voter services.

Suggestions for Next Year

We need to involve more volunteers in communications and outreach activities. In particular, we should organize subcommittees to work on each aspect of communications. We also need to improve outreach to diverse and underserved populations. Because we depend on eye-catching

graphics, photos, and videos to draw attention to our web and social media posts, we need to recruit more artists, photographers, and videographers.

Newsletter

Amber Nobe, Editor

Position Description

The newsletter editor is responsible for planning, gathering, and editing the contents for 10 digital editions of the newsletter, which is emailed to subscribers each month from September through May and in July.

- The editor attends board meetings and works with the president and communications chair to keep aware of information that should be sent to members about League news, such as recent or upcoming events, needs, action, or projects.
- The editor then asks League leaders to write articles about these activities. With the help of other League leaders, the editor also recruits volunteers to write reports on past events and other topics of interest and to photograph events. An assignment list is sent to all writers with advance notice of the deadline.
- The editor also writes a number of newsletter items herself and compiles the contents, volunteer, and calendar summaries and pens the editor's note.
- The editor reviews all articles after they are submitted. Submissions are edited for grammar, spelling, content accuracy, length, style consistency, and accompanying graphics. Occasionally volunteers are recruited to help with this task. The editor also distributes articles to other board members for review and input as needed.
- The editor plans the order of the articles and formats the newsletter in MailChimp, adding headlines, graphics, captions, and hyperlinks. When the League has staff, the editor may also send the newsletter content to the office manager for formatting.
- A test copy is given a final proofread by the editor and other board members, including the president and communications chair. Once updated, the final newsletter is scheduled to be emailed in MailChimp. A second copy of the same issue is re-sent the following day to subscribers who have not yet opened the original email, in an effort to reach more readers.
- After the newsletter is emailed, the editor compiles a list of the important and/or interesting items and shares it with the discussion units coordinator, who then distributes it to the unit leaders. This is an effort to ensure members are reading the newsletter and receiving the key information shared.
- Also after the newsletter is emailed to subscribers, the League office manager then prints and mails hard copies to the small number of members without email access. The

office manager is also responsible for updating the mailing list with new members or others who have expressed interest in receiving the newsletter.

- Several days after the newsletter is sent, the editor reviews the email performance statistics in MailChimp to see how many subscribers opened the email and what links they clicked. This helps the editor gauge the success of email communications. These statistics are reported to the board.
- Twice a year, the editor works with the communications chair and membership chair to review the mailing list and determine if anyone should be removed.

Review of the Year's Activities

Because the newsletter had already transitioned to being a digital-only publication during the prior League year, we were set up for success during the pandemic. Without an office manager or other League staff, the newsletter editor and other board members spent significant time on the newsletter and other email communications. However, this was a safe and efficient way to reach our members when in-person activities (including office work) were not an option. Now, after two years of being a digital-only publication, we will revert to the original newsletter name, The Voter, and drop the "e" that used to differentiate between certain issues that were sent by email vs. those that were printed.

The editor is constantly evolving the format of the newsletter in an effort to improve readability and aesthetics and bring our LWVPDX newsletter in-line with the branding standards put forward by the LWVUS. The overall format was updated prior to the 2020-21 League year and again prior to the 2021-22 year. New features were added, including a newsletter reader raffle and a roundup of volunteer activities; these were both suggestions from other board members.

Readership

In addition to all LWVPDX members, the newsletter is sent to a few nonmembers, including members of other Leagues, donors, and potential members if they request it. As of July 2021, there are 368 recipients on our newsletter mailing list; of those, 248 of them are members. On average, 41% of the recipients open the newsletter, which is slightly below the average for a nonprofit organization.

The editor continually looks for ways to ensure members are receiving the important information shared in the newsletter. Twice a year, she works with the membership chair and other board members to review the mailing list. Subscribers who are no longer members and who do not regularly open the newsletter are evaluated and may be removed; this keeps our mailing list targeted to those who are interested. (Note, all current members will automatically receive the newsletter unless they specifically opt out.) The editor uses suggestions from board members and readers, as well as email communications best practices, to evaluate and improve the newsletter content, distribution, and awareness.

Volunteers

Thank you to the following volunteers who contributed to the newsletter this past year as writers, photographers, editors, and distributors:

Adrienne Aiona	Chris Cobey	Rob Kaye	Katie Pool
Debbie Aiona	Donna L. Cohen	Claudia Keith	Barbara Ross
Doreen Binder	Carol Cushman	Linda Mantel	Allison Rowe
Nancy Boudreau	Elizabeth Davis	Marion	Colleen
Carolyn Buppert	Nancy Donovan	McNamara	Shoemaker
Beth Burczak	Judy Froemke	Mary McWilliams	Audrey
Joanna Cain	Debbie Kaye	Amber Nobe	Zunkel-deCoursey
Kathy Casto	Ted Kaye	Margaret Noel	

Suggestions for Next Year

- Find ways to improve digital literacy among League members so they are getting the most out of our email communications.
- Prepare a style guide for consistent newsletter editing and formatting, building on the styles set up in MailChimp.
- Create a calendar of important dates, events, and holidays to highlight in the newsletter, such as Women's History Month and Black History Month.
- Consider ways to use the newsletter to advance the League's DEI goals.
- Work regularly with a team of newsletter volunteers to write articles about League events and programs and to take photographs of League activities.
- Continue to improve coordination with the communications committee, timing newsletter articles with press releases, website posts, and social media posts.

Publicity

Margaret Noel, Communications Chair and Interim Publicity Chair

Position Description

The Publicity Chair oversees both free and paid publicity to inform members and the public about League events, services, and activities. (S)he may also work with other League leaders to identify opportunities for free publicity through media interviews or letters to the editor. Press releases about League news are sent to our contacts in the media, other nonprofit organizations, and key individuals. In cooperation with the Newsletter editor, social media editors and other League leaders, the Publicity Chair helps inform members about League news and non-League events through emailed membership messages and occasional USPS mailings of printed materials. For elections and special occasions, the Publicity Chair arranges for paid publicity with print, online and radio advertising.

Review of the Year's Activities

Informing members:

- *Membership messages:* In between issues of the Voter newsletter, we sent messages to all our members with emails through “Membership Messages.” From May 15, 2020 through June 30, 2021, we sent a total of 34 membership messages. Most membership messages alerted members to upcoming events or to available publications and elections information. But we also used these messages to send Zoom links for our live online Civic Education panel discussions and to ask for members’ help with some League needs and action priorities. Depending on the topic, these emails were opened by as few as 112 or as many as 174 members, but usually by 50-60% of the recipients. Some members also followed us through social media.
- *Video of 2020-21 Accomplishments:* Board member Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey created a 1-minute video about the Portland League to be shown at the LWVOR 2021 Convention. We also posted it on the LWVPDX website and linked to it from our Facebook account.

Informing the public: We used a variety of free and paid publicity options to reach out to the public with information about our educational resources and advocacy priorities.

- *Free or low-cost publicity* included press releases, printed election-information flyers, social media posts, and website posts (See the Website annual report). In addition, we explained our advocacy priorities with occasional letters to the editor (See the Action annual report).
 - o *Press Releases:* During the year, we sent out a total of nine press releases to our media contacts (newspapers, radio, and television), and to partner organizations. Depending on the subject, our press volunteer Ruth Kratochvil emailed these press releases to 16 to 26 media contacts, LWVOR, four nearby local Leagues, and 18 to 34 other partner organizations. The list of our contacts is available by request; email communications@lwvpdx.org.
 - o *Flyers:* For the 2020 General Election, Mary McWilliams and Katie Pool distributed 700 flyers with information printed in English and Spanish about voter registration and LWV resources to organizations serving eligible voters who are underrepresented in the electorate.
 - o *Social Media:* We have three social media accounts: Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. The LWVPDX [Twitter](#) account is managed by Carolyn Buppert. (Please see Carolyn’s Twitter Annual Report.) During the Fall of 2020, Joshua Buck managed our [Facebook](#) account. Mary McWilliams and Margaret Noel posted on Facebook when Joshua could not and during the winter of 2021. In April, Katie LeRoux took over our Facebook account and has become very adept at finding appropriate information for Facebook from our newsletter, website, Carolyn’s tweets, and other Leagues’ Facebook posts. We have 1,106 followers on Facebook. In December, Elizabeth Davis set up our new [Instagram](#) account, which now has 117 followers.
- Paid Publicity:
 - o For the August Special Election for City Council, we paid a total of \$1,352.84 for ads about Vote411.org and the Special Election page on lwvpdx.org. We bought nineteen 15-second radio ads on KBOO radio; we also ran two Google Word-Search Ads.

- o During October and November through Election Day, we were running election information ads on Google Ads, X-RAY-FM, and with Pamplin Media, Gresham Outlook, Portland Tribune and The Skanner news e-blasts. We paid a total of \$4,908.54 for these ads, which we believe contributed to our success in drawing more than 60,000 voters to our website and Vote411.org.
- o In January 2021, we placed an ad in Martin Luther King Jr. 2021 print and online editions of The Portland Observer. The. 5.95" x 6.81" one-third page ad highlighted our advocacy efforts and cost \$700. (A copy is shown at the end of this report.)
- o In April and May, we ran ads for the School Board Election in print and online editions of Willamette Week, and the online Gresham Outlook and Portland Tribune. We also had radio ads on X-Ray-FM and online Google Ads. The total cost was \$2,520. During this time, more than 8,000 voters visited either Vote411.org or lwvpdx.org. (See a copy of the Willamette Week ad at the end of this report. It was a large 2-column, full length of the page ad in their April 28 election endorsements print edition.)

Volunteers: Joshua Buck, Carolyn Buppert, Elizabeth Davis, Ted Kaye, Katie LeRoux, Marion McNamara, Mary McWilliams, Amber Nobe, Margaret Noel, Katie Pool, Audrey Zunkel-DeCoursey

Suggestions for Next Year

We need to organize one or more communications subcommittee(s) focused on publicity and social media. Although social media volunteers often share content, this is done informally by simply copying posts from one platform to another. More volunteers with skills in media communications, photography, videography and graphics could help make our social media, website posts and paid advertisements livelier and more interesting. Although the pandemic prevented us from creating shorter “highlights videos” of our civic education panel discussions during 2020-21, we should consider making them again next year.

"The time is always right to do what is right."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



In celebrating the birth of a great civil rights hero, let us all find the courage, inspiration and determination to stand for what is right.

The LWV stands for and works for:

voting rights • equal opportunity for all • police accountability • justice
healthcare for all • effective government • a healthy environment
early childhood education • affordable housing • the right to speak out

**THANK YOU FOR VOTING, BEING INFORMED, AND
WORKING TOGETHER FOR BETTER COMMUNITIES.**

lwvpdx.org/vote lwvpdx.org/learn lwvpdx.org/advocate



Find nonpartisan voting information
for the May 18 Special Election at
lwvpdx.org

Portland Public Schools
School Board Candidate Forum
(Video to be online by April 30)

ONLINE NOW

Recordings of 18 Candidate Interviews
for our Video Voters' Guide

PLUS

Candidates' written answers to questions and
Ballot Measure Explanations



Find information
customized for
your ballot at
www.vote411.org

VOTE 411



Remember that your ballot is due back
to the Elections Office or an official dropbox
by 8 pm on Tuesday, May 18!

**An informed voter
is a powerful voter.
Please vote.**

Twitter @LWVPortland

Carolyn Buppert

Position Description

The Twitter Coordinator keeps informed of League events, advocacy issues, accomplishments, positions, studies, partnerships, and other activities to share with the organization's followers. (S)he also posts relevant online articles about issues being addressed by the LWVOR, LWVUS, or other local Leagues, especially those affecting voting rights and other priority issues for the League.

Review of the Year's Activities

Our Twitter account now has 1,501 followers, an increase of 33 over last year.

Since June of 2020, LWVPDX volunteers have tweeted every day, resulting in more than 83,200 impressions.

Examples of tweets with the highest number of impressions:

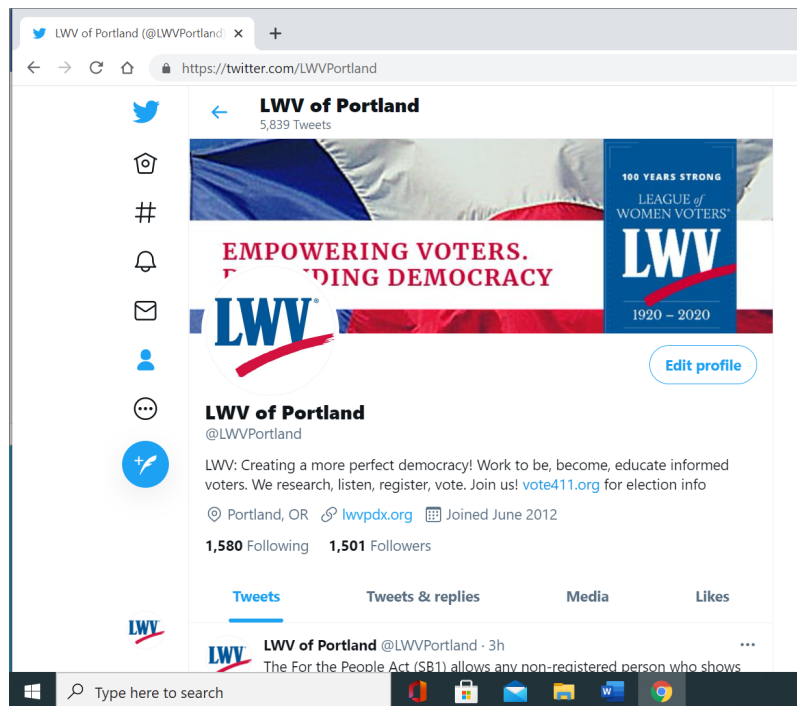
November 7, 2020: Lessons learned from the 2020 election and thank you to the election workers. 2 tweets yielded 2015 impressions.

August 19, 2020: Commemoration of passing of the 19th amendment. 2 tweets yielded 1166 impressions.

June 16, 2021: Quote from Norman Turrill on redistricting yielded 1126 impressions.

June 8, 2020: Advocating for police reforms yielded 1199 impressions.

Screen shots of the most active tweets for the year are below.



Twitter Analytics account overview | (1) LWV of Portland on Twitter: " | Tweet Activity analytics for LWV of Portland

Analytics Home Tweets More

Tweets Top Tweets Tweets and replies Promoted Impressions Engagements Engagement rate

Tweets	Impressions	Engagements	Engagement rate
LWV of Portland @LWVPortland · Nov 7 There will be many lessons learned from the 2020 elections, and we should celebrate our successes, including the expansion of voter access, record-breaking early voting, and the wide-scale use of absentee and mail-in voting options. lwpdx.org pic.twitter.com/mvqkJazs0 View Tweet activity	1,109	15	1.4%
LWV of Portland @LWVPortland · Nov 7 We commend the election workers and administrators who helped facilitate the 2020 elections and the post-Election Day counting of ballots under the most challenging of circumstances. lwp.org/newsroom/press-releases pic.twitter.com/dzLQscAhQ View Tweet activity	1,471	14	1.0%
LWV of Portland @LWVPortland · Nov 7 When Andrea Redeau walks down the street with her father, people go into their houses and lock the doors. Thoughts race through her mind: Is it racism? Or did the people just need to go inside right then? More about how microaggressions affect people. opb.org/article/2020/11/07/andrea-redeau-walks-down-the-street-with-her-father/ View Tweet activity	185	13	7.0%

Twitter Analytics account overview | (1) LWV of Portland on Twitter: " | Tweet Activity analytics for LWV of Portland

Analytics Home Tweets More

Tweets Top Tweets Tweets and replies Promoted Impressions Engagements Engagement rate

Tweets	Impressions	Engagements	Engagement rate
LWV of Portland @LWVPortland · Aug 18 Celebrating 100th anniversary of passage of 19th Amendment today in Portland, OR with sidewalk chalking in SW Park blocks. By LWV/PDX Vice President & friends pic.twitter.com/lnMd0mqbN1 View Tweet activity	838	34	4.1%
LWV of Portland @LWVPortland · Aug 18 On this day 100 years ago the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, when Tennessee became the last of the required 36 states to approve it. That was the culmination of almost a century of struggle for women to gain the right to vote in the US. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nineteenth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution pic.twitter.com/NtyivQHSz View Tweet activity	470	11	2.3%

You've reached the end of Tweets for the selected date range. Change date selection to view more.




https://ads.twitter.com/login?ref=gl-an-br-anly&redirect_to_payments=true

Twitter Analytics account overview

https://analytics.twitter.com/user/lwvportland/tweets

Analytics Home Tweets More ▾

LWV of Portland

Tweet	Retweets	Replies	Engagement Rate
 LWV of Portland @LWVPortland · 11 Jun 2020 Oregon voters "understand the importance of the redistricting process and the threat of gerrymandering," said Norman Turrill, chief petitioner of the redistricting initiative, "and if we can get this on the ballot, we think it will pass handily." opb.org/news/article/o... View Tweet activity	1,622	40	2.5%
 LWV of Portland @LWVPortland · 10 Jun 2020 Do you think all Multnomah Co. 3- and 4-year olds deserve full-year, high-quality, culturally responsive preschool? The first step to making it happen is to read, download, sign, and send an individual petition to get this initiative on the county ballot. upnow2020.org View Tweet activity	369	7	1.9%
 LWV of Portland @LWVPortland · 9 Jun 2020 OR's Constitution requires the legislature to reapportion state legislative districts every 10 years. Initiative 57 asks for a ballot measure to repeal the current process, and creates an independent 12-member commission to draw voting districts. peoplenotpoliticiansoregon.com/sign-the-petit... View Tweet activity	228	3	1.3%

twitter.com/LWVPortland

Type here to search




Twitter Analytics account overview

https://analytics.twitter.com/user/lwvportland/tweets

Analytics Home Tweets More ▾

LWV of Portland

Sign up for Twitter Ads

Tweet	Retweets	Replies	Engagement Rate
 LWV of Portland @LWVPortland · 8 Jun 2020 LWV has joined over 400 organizations in urging US Congress to implement needed policing reforms to swiftly rectify the legacy of white supremacy and anti-black racism that has led to police violence against Black people across our country. lwv.org/league-joins-p... View Tweet activity	1,199	26	2.2%
 LWV of Portland @LWVPortland · 7 Jun 2020 LWV is one of 9 main supporters of a citizen initiative, "People Not Politicians" to change the redistricting process in Oregon. To get this on the Nov 2020 ballot, we need more than 150,000 signatures by July 2. Petition and info for Initiative 57 at peoplenotpoliticiansoregon.com/sign-the-petit... View Tweet activity	362	17	4.7%
 LWV of Portland @LWVPortland · 6 Jun 2020 "When protesting in solidarity with the Black community, good allies follow the lead of impacted people and use their privilege to help support impacted people's goals and protect those who are vulnerable." lwv.org/league-managem... View Tweet activity	220	14	6.4%

Type here to search

61°F Cloudy 9:53 AM 6/14/2021

Website

Margaret Noel, Website Editor

Position Description

The Website Editor is responsible for gathering, editing, and posting content on the League of Women Voters of Portland website. As needed, the website editor also alerts social media volunteers about important information that should be posted to social media. As noted in the Suggestions for Next Year at the end of this report, these are duties that might be shared among several website editors.

Review of the Year's Activities

During the 2020-21 year, we posted information on the website about LWVPDX activities, online events, advocacy, and voter services. The webpages about our contact information, board member profiles, joining the League, donating, public testimony, member and public Zoom events, and voter services were updated as needed. We also regularly updated the sidebar, which has links to information about donating and joining, our social media pages, the Voter newsletter, and upcoming events.

Traffic to our website increased in 2020-21. From May 15, 2020 through June 30, 2021, the lwvpdx.org website had 50,446 visitors and 99,430 page views. (This was a substantial increase over the numbers from June 1, 2019 through May 15, 2020, when the website had 13,652 visitors and 30,166 pageviews.) As in previous years, times around elections attracted more visitors to our website. There were three elections in 2020-21. In the time when voters had their ballots for the August 11, 2020 Special Election, there were 2,007 active users on our website and 4,007 pageviews. For the November 2020 General Election, from October 10 through Election Day November 3 (when we were advertising LWV election resources), more than 32,000 active users visited the lwvpdx.org website, viewing lwvpdx.org webpages 60,538 times. For the May 2021 School Board Election, there were 5,748 visitors and 10,520 pageviews.

Volunteers

Key volunteers who created special photos, videos and graphics that have enhanced our website posts were Debbie and Ted Kaye, Elizabeth Davis, Amber Nobe, and Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey.

The Civic Education videos were produced by MetroEast from events organized by Civic Education Chair Nancy Donovan.

The Voter Service videos and information were produced through the work of Voter Service Chair Chris Cobey, Voters' Guide editors Kathy Casto and Linda Fields, and Video Voters' Guide Chair Hailey McLaughlin. Most LWVPDX testimony was written by Debbie Aiona. Linda

Mantel wrote materials for the Donate pages; Mary McWilliams sent materials and suggestions for the Join Us pages; Judy Froemke helped with the Discussion Units page.

Other information on the website was originally in reports and newsletter articles written or provided by these and other members of the Board of Directors and LWVPDX Committees. The volunteers who wrote or edited the original reports or assisted in the events are recognized in the Action, Civic Education, Development, Discussion Units, Membership, Newsletter, and Voter Service sections of the full 2020-21 LWV of Portland Annual Report. In addition, some of the content on lwvpdx.org came from the LWVUS and LWVOR websites or the websites of speakers at LWVPDX events.

Suggestions for Next Year

Continue to work on making the website as attractive and easy to use as possible. Consider having a simpler look for the website as it appears to the public, with links to sections that focus on information that is useful primarily for LWVPDX members and leaders. For the 2021-22 League year, we have a line item in the LWVPDX budget to pay for professional help. We also plan to form a volunteer committee to advise us on updating the website. We also could get input from students, new members, and website professionals about how to improve the website and make it attractive for more diverse audiences. Finally, it will be important to involve and train more members as website editors, who can help with posting information on the website.

Development Committee

Linda Mantel, Development Chair

Job Description

The Development Committee's task is to raise funds to support the mission of the League through direct mail solicitations, applications for grants from foundations and other organizations, corporate requests, and fundraising activities. An important aspect of the Committee's work is nurturing donor and member relations and seeking new sources of revenue.

Committee

Linda Mantel, Chair; Debbie Kaye, Chris Cobey, Margaret Noel; with much assistance from Amber Nobe, Marion McNamara, Mary McWilliams, and many others.

Fundraising Activities

The year 2020-2021 was difficult for fundraising because of our inability to get together in person for events, meetings, or visits with donors. Since we had no staff, all of the gift entry and acknowledgements of gifts were done by Board volunteers, primarily Marion McNamara, Debbie

Kaye, and Linda Mantel. We spent quite a bit of time learning how Little Green Light, our constituent management system, functions and how it can help us keep track of our gifts.

Individual giving:

Thanks to Margaret Noel and our Communications team, we enhanced the giving opportunities on our website, and we now enable one-time gifts, membership renewals, gift memberships, recurrent (monthly) giving, and gifts in honor or recognition to be donated directly through PayPal, or to be mailed as a check. Gifts to both the tax-deductible Education Fund and the non-tax-deductible Action and Advocacy Fund can be made through the website.

We participated for the first time in Giving Tuesday, an online appeal program for non-profits, the first Tuesday in December. Success in this program depends heavily upon advance planning on social media, which we were not able to carry out as well as we should. We received gifts from 13 donors between November 25 and December 15. However, we agreed that we would try it again next year and plan a focused campaign on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter starting in the fall.

We made only two direct-mail solicitations of funds from members, one with our Membership Drive starting in July, and the other with our Holiday card at the end of December. We also did a select non-member solicitation in October of 153 friends and over several months had a positive response of 25%. Each monthly eVoter newsletter had a solicitation in the Development column. We proposed a challenge in July 2020 of 50 contributors between mid-July and August 26, the 100th anniversary of the Certification date of the 19th amendment, and we did receive those contributions just in time.

The major fund-raising component of our Annual Business meeting, entitled Cruise on the Member-ship of Opportunity, featured a Spin the Wheel of Opportunity for pledges. We asked our 14 board members to set a match of \$2500, which they did, and 29 participants more than met the match, for a total of \$7880 in gifts and pledges.

Grants and other foundation gifts:

We applied for a grant from the Carol and Velma Saling Foundation to support Voter Service and outreach, and received \$20,000 in July 2020. We also received a matching gift of \$1,000 from the Texas Instruments Foundation for Art and Carol Wilson's gift, and a gift of \$100 from the JW Hands Foundation, in memory of Judy and Walter Handelman. We had several meetings with Judith Wyss, of the Wyss Foundation; we did not receive a gift from them this fiscal year but we expect we will be back on their list in fall 2021.

Miscellaneous gifts:

Bliss-Sequoia Insurance, \$250 from the NAO raffle (won by Debbie Kaye)

Receipts from fundraising efforts July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

Regular Fund

Member donations	89 gifts	\$7,849	
Nonmember donations	24 gifts		\$2,213
Total Regular Fund			\$ 10,062

Education Fund

Member donations 135	\$17,150
Nonmember donations 47	\$2,206
Outstanding pledges	\$1,575
Kroger/Fred Meyer	\$136

Total Education Fund, Individual Giving **\$21,067**

Foundations 3 gifts

JW Hands Foundation	\$100
Velma and Carol Saling Foundation	\$20,000
Texas Instruments Foundation	\$1,000

Total Foundations **\$21,100**

Total Education Fund **\$42,167**

Special Education Fund, invested**Sara Frewing Fund 14 gifts**

Member donations 9 gifts	\$540
Nonmember donations 5 gifts	\$345

Total Sara Frewing Fund **\$ 885**

TOTAL ALL GIFTS **\$53,114**

Total individual giving, less Foundations **\$32,014**
Budgeted individual giving, 2020-21 **\$22,000**

Tribute gifts

Lyn Trainer, in honor of Debbie Kaye
Janet Wolf, in honor of Beth Burczak

Ann Cowger, in memory of Elizabeth Stockwell
Carol Cushman, in memory of Mildred Taxer
Christine Farrington, in memory of Leanne McCall
Kris Hudson, in memory of Mildred Taxer
Linda Mantel, in memory of Louise Beaudreau
Linda Mantel, in memory of Dorothy E. Bliss
Linda Mantel, in memory of Sylvia Habas

Gift memberships

Sharon Blaine, for Tara Blaine
Linda Mantel, for Lois Milare
Linda Mantel, for Jean Hamilton

Linda Mantel, for Lillian Mantel
Alice Smith, for Liz Smith Currie
Lisa Vaughn, for Callan Soraghan
Audrey Zunkel-DeCoursey, for Mary Gorsline

Other activities

Members of the committee attended a number of Webinars, including functions of LGL, donor acknowledgement and cultivation, best practices for development programs, etc. We have many ideas for moving forward once we can meet as a group and plan our program for next year.

Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

League of Women Voters of Portland

PROPOSED BUDGET WORKSHEET 2021-2022

EXPENSES (p. 1 of 2)	2021-22 Proposed Budget			Actuals through 12/20 (both funds)	Percent of Total Budget	2019-20 Actuals		
	Regular Fund	Education Fund	Budget Total			Regular Fund	Education Fund	Total
A. General Office Expenditures								
1 Rent & Utilities	\$6,600	\$5,400	\$12,000	\$6,496	52%	\$6,017	\$4,923	\$10,940
2 Office Expense/Supplies	\$660	\$540	\$1,200	\$15	1%	\$763	\$625	\$1,388
3 Software licenses, Communications (Phone), Website	\$1,349	\$1,104	\$2,453	\$811	41%	\$630	\$515	\$1,145
4 Postage and PO Box	\$605	\$495	\$1,100	\$658	66%	\$596	\$487	\$1,083
5 Salaries (Gross)	\$11,000	\$9,000	\$20,000	\$0	0%	\$7,032	\$5,753	\$12,786
6 Payroll Burden	\$990	\$810	\$1,800	\$0	0%	\$612	\$501	\$1,112
7 Bookkeeper Services	\$248	\$203	\$450	\$198	10%	\$226	\$190	\$416
8 Discretionary Fund/ Other Expenditures	\$1,100	\$900	\$2,000	\$0	0%	\$162	\$133	\$295
9 Government Fees and Taxes	\$173	\$142	\$315	\$50	16%	\$125	\$90	\$215
10 Audit/Review of Books (1/2T)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	\$0
11 Insurance	\$550	\$450	\$1,000	\$884	88%	\$473	\$397	\$870
12 Bank/ Payment fees/ Credit Card Fees	\$220	\$180	\$400	\$349	87%	\$391	\$31	\$422
13 Equipment and computer support, maintenance and repair	\$1,210	\$990	\$2,200	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	\$0
14 Equipment Purchase	\$110	\$90	\$200	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	\$0
SUBTOTAL General Office	\$24,815	\$20,303	\$45,118	\$9,462	19%	\$17,026	\$13,644	\$30,670
B. Administration								
1 President's Fund	\$165	\$135	\$300	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	\$0
2 Board Expense	\$165	\$135	\$300	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	\$0
3 Development Comm. Expenses								
a. Direct Mail/ solicitation expenses	\$303	\$248	\$550	\$0	0%	\$305	\$249	\$554
b. Administration	\$220	\$180	\$400	\$0	0%	\$0	\$0	\$0
SUBTOTAL Administration	\$853	\$698	\$1,550	\$0	0%	\$305	\$249	\$554
C. Membership/ units								
1 PMP LWVUS	\$4,296	\$4,296	\$8,592	\$1,776	25%	\$3,552	\$3,552	\$7,104
2 PMP LWVOR		\$8,189	\$8,189	\$3,347	50%	\$0		\$0
3 Membership Committee	\$1,200		\$1,200	\$242	22%	\$645		\$645
4 Voter	\$250		\$250	\$55	18%	\$240		\$240
5 Member Education/ Units	\$400		\$400		0%	\$148		\$148
6 Events: Local Convention, annual luncheon, etc.	\$4,000		\$4,000		0%	\$7,428		\$7,428
SUBTOTAL membership/units	\$10,146	\$12,485	\$22,631	\$5,420	28%	\$12,013	\$3,552	\$15,565

4/7/21

21-22 LWVPDX Budget Proposed.xlsx

EXPENSES (p. 2 of 2)	Regular Fund	Education Fund	Budget Total	Actuals as of 12/20	Percent	Regular Fund	Education Fund	Total
D. Voters Service/Citizen Education								
1 Voters' Guide Exp. and Promotions		\$25,000	\$25,000	\$14,953	\$1		\$17,505	\$17,505
2 Voters Service		\$5,500	\$5,500	\$775	185%		\$315	\$315
3 Study/Publication		\$0	\$0	\$0	0%		\$1,225	\$1,225
4 Educational Events		\$500	\$500	\$0	0%			\$0
5 Outreach/Publicity		\$800	\$800	\$1,353	16%	\$194	\$1,236	\$1,429
6 Civic Ed. Meeting Expenses		\$1,800	\$1,800	\$615	34%		\$807	\$807
SUBTOTAL Voters Service/Citizen Education	\$0	\$33,600	\$33,600	\$17,695	56%	\$194	\$21,087	\$21,280
E. Travel and Training Expenses								
1 National Convention	\$1,300		\$1,300	\$0		\$675	\$0	\$675
2 State Council/Convention	\$500		\$500	\$0			\$0	\$0
3 Workshops (registration & expenses)	\$1,250	\$1,400	\$2,650	\$0			\$0	\$0
SUBTOTAL Travel & Training Exp.	\$3,050	\$1,400	\$4,450	\$0	0%	\$675	\$0	\$675
F. Position Support								
1 Action Committee	\$1,350		\$1,350	\$800	59%	\$0		\$0
SUBTOTAL Position Support	\$1,350	\$0	\$1,350	\$800	59%	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL FY EXPENSES	\$40,213	\$68,486	\$108,699	\$33,377	31%	\$30,212	\$38,532	\$68,744
G. Funds Retained for FY 22-23								
1 Grant Funds		\$20,000	\$20,000					
SUBTOTAL Funds retained for next FY	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000					
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$40,213	\$88,486	\$128,699	\$34,972	27%	\$31,726	\$39,768	\$71,494

REVENUE	2021-22 Proposed Budget			Actuals through 12/20 (both funds)	Percent of Total Budget	2019-20 Actuals		
	Regular Fund	Education Fund	Budget Total			Regular Fund	Education Fund	Total
1 Member Dues	\$10,805	\$10,805	\$21,610	\$20,216	113.4%	\$9,173	\$9,173	\$18,346
2 Development:								
a. Cash Contributions -Members	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$20,000	\$11,625	64.6%	\$7,485	\$10,210	\$17,695
b. Cash Contributions -Non-members	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$3,183	79.6%	\$350	\$250	\$600
c. Corporate Contributions		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$34	0.6%	\$35	\$78	\$114
d. Foundations/Grants		\$35,000	\$35,000	\$100	0.5%		\$32,633	\$32,633
e. Other Fundraisers	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$175	4.4%	\$365	\$64,049	\$64,414
3 Interest	\$5	\$5	\$10	\$8	75.6%	\$7	\$16	\$23
4 Events: Local Convention, annual luncheon, etc.	\$4,000		\$4,000		0.0%	\$6,800		\$6,800
Total Budgeted Revenue	\$24,810	\$65,810	\$90,620	\$35,342	47.9%	\$24,215	\$116,410	\$140,625
Reserves and Other Funds								
1 Endowment Fund Distribution	\$9,300		\$9,300	\$4,490	48.8%	\$8,760		\$8,760
2 Funds Carried Forward		\$28,779	\$28,779					\$0
3 Sara Frewing Distribution			\$0					\$0
4 Noble/Lemley Distribution			\$0					
5 Education Fund Reserves/Repay Reg Fund loan	\$6,103	-\$6,103	\$0			\$8,000		\$8,000
Total Reserve, Etc. Funds	\$15,403	\$22,676	\$38,079	\$4,490	9.2%	\$16,760		\$16,760
TOTAL REVENUE	\$40,213	\$88,486	\$128,699	\$39,832	32.5%	\$40,975	\$116,410	\$157,385
1 Funds Retained for next FY		\$20,000	\$20,000					
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$40,213	\$88,486	\$128,699	\$33,377	30.7%	\$30,212	\$38,532	\$68,744
NET GAIN (LOSS)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,455		\$10,763	\$77,878	\$88,641

Discussion Units

Judy Froemke, Coordinator of Discussion Units

There are seven Discussion Units within the Portland League of Women Voters. These small groups usually meet once a month during September, October, November, February, March and sometimes April. Members and guests discuss issues reflecting and/or expanding upon the topic of each public Civic Education program and Election Forum held in the month of the Discussion Unit meetings. When a new study by LWVOR and LWVPDX is completed, consensus or concurrence questions are discussed. During January 2021, the Discussion Units met to discuss program planning for the next year. (See Discussion Units' Review)

Responsibilities of the Discussion Unit Coordinator

- Schedule a meeting in August of the seven DU Leaders to discuss their suggestions for programs and to give feedback re the Unit Coordinator's function.
- Keep statistics on attendance at DU meetings from an Attendance Sheet provided by the DU Leaders. This information is not only interesting but also gives an idea on the vibrancy and effectiveness of the Units.
- Attend various Discussion Unit meetings. During this year using Zoom, the DU Coordinator attended most of the meetings to lend pro temp leadership, to assist with technology, to welcome new members and to ascertain the cohesiveness of the new or reorganized DU 1, 3 and 7.
- Provide a script to DU Leaders with suggestions for their meeting agendas. This sometimes includes an introductory question relevant to the topic of the month for each person attending to answer as a way to get better acquainted. This applies primarily to the DUs with a sizable attendance, with new members and/or guests attending. The script encourages Leaders to announce LWVPDX activities, supplement or emphasize information in the eVOTER newsletter and provide attendees with additional information from LWVOR. Use of the Script is optional.
- Seek the assistance of the Civic Education Chair and other League leaders to help assemble resource material and discussion questions on the topic of the month for DU leaders' potential use.
- Provide the eVOTER Editor the date, time, place of next month's DU meetings prior to eVOTER deadline.
- Provide LWVPDX Board with DUs' responses to consensus questions.
- Attend LWVPDX Board meetings and act as a conduit between the Discussion Units and Board.
- Write Discussion Unit reports for the monthly board meetings and annual convention.

Responsibilities of Discussion Unit Leaders During Pandemic

- Inform or remind their DU members early each month of their DU meeting date and location and the discussion topic. Send out any resource materials to DU members. (During the time between April 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, all Discussion Unit meetings were held on Zoom. The League's Zoom account was used by the DU Leaders for linkage to the meetings.)
- Arrange for the discussion leader, if necessary, for each meeting, and preside at the DU meetings.
- Send the Zoom link for the monthly meeting.
- Use the script (optional) for the meeting agenda.
- Summarize the DU's discussion on the Attendance Sheet and list the names of those who attended.
- Mail the Attendance Sheet and any notes of the discussion to the Unit Coordinator right after the DU meeting in self addressed/stamped envelopes provided.

Results of the Membership Survey Re: Discussion Units

With permission of the Board, in August 2020 a survey of LWVPDX members was developed by Coleen Shoemaker, Mary McWilliams, Barbara Stalions and Judy Froemke, with technical assistance by Margaret Noel, to ascertain interest in participating in Discussion Units. Specifically, we were interested in recruiting new members for DU participation and involving working members in an evening meeting (DU 1). The survey was sent electronically to all 287 members. 70 people responded.

Through personal contact by the DU Coordinator and others, several new members began participating in Discussion Units.

Several members indicated interest in participating in an ongoing evening meeting (DU 1) on Zoom during the pandemic and in-person post pandemic. Several who responded thusly were entrenched already in other daytime DUs and, as it turned out, they continued with their former DUs. This, we feel, is the result of the Survey's lack of clarity. Others who responded had been participating in DU 1 meetings for years and indicated they no longer drove at night. They are now in search of other daytime Discussion Unit options. Attendance has been low and spotty of those who indicated they wanted an evening meeting now on Zoom with return to in-person gatherings post-pandemic. New member Alice Linker volunteered in November to be the leader of this Discussion Unit but a month later felt she must resign. This DU does not have a leader. Several other members indicated they wanted to be part of an ongoing online evening meeting during and post-pandemic. Participants include members who either live a distance from Portland or work days and who are not particularly interested in the social gatherings of the other Discussion Units. Thus, Discussion Unit 3 was established and is well attended. The leadership was ably assumed by Olivia Smith in February 2021.

Review of Discussion Unit Topics, April 2020 to June 2021

April 2020: DU 1 met on Zoom to discuss the LWVPDX Cybersecurity and Privacy study. Under the able leadership of Colleen Shoemaker, six members attended, plus Sheila McGinnis and

Mary Sinclair who edited the study, and Nancy Donovan and Judy Froemke as observers. This Discussion Unit decided to disband due to low attendance.

DU 6 met with 14 attending. They decided to wait to discuss the Cybersecurity and Privacy study. Instead, discussion led by DU Leader, Christine Moore, was about LWVUS support for a national vote by mail, dissemination of Multnomah County election Director Tim Scott's Civic Education talk on March 10th re the security of vote by mail, the progress on the police accountability study and involvement in the Independent Redistricting petition drive.

May 2020: Discussion Unit 4 met on Zoom in two breakout rooms to discuss the consensus questions re the Cybersecurity and Privacy study led by Betsy Pratt and Marnie Lonsdale.

Summer of 2020: There were no DU meetings. Instead, because of the request from Vincenza Scarpaci of DU 2, the DU Coordinator suggested that individuals gather on Zoom if interested in learning about racism, the history of white supremacy, and the resources we have locally for learning from others (BIPOC, Latinos, disadvantaged, indigenous and immigrant families). Resource materials were sent to individuals who expressed an interest, and a small group from several DUs met on Zoom.

September 2020: Except for those Discussion Units mentioned above, all other DUs discussed the consensus questions regarding the LWVOR Cybersecurity and Privacy study; discussions were led by Ann Dudley, Marnie Lonsdale and Normal Turrill. Total DU membership attendance this month was 52.

October 2020: Discussion of the eight local and four state ballot measures were led by Beth Burczak, Kathy Casto, Rita Fawcett and Normam Turrill. Twelve new LWVPDX members attended Discussion Units this month. Total attendance this month was 51.

November 2020: Two topics, election results debriefing and the future of American Healthcare were discussed; discussions were led by Joanna Cain, Kathy Casto, Audrey Kunkel-deCoursey, Linda Mantel and Anne Pechovnik. Total attendance was 57.

January 2021: All seven Discussion Units, each assigned to a specific topic, met for Program Planning. 65 League members participated in this event. Because most attended several of the Discussion Unit meets, reflecting interest in a variety of topics, total attendance was 115 members. (See Program Planning in a separate article.)

February 2021: Discussion of the results of the January Program Planning recommendations and affirmation of the recommendations, and discussion re Housing Problems, Shelter Options, Homelessness and Affordable Housing; discussions were led by Doreen Binder, Donna Cohen and Judy Froemke and Christine Moore. Total attendance this month was 57.

March 2021: Climate emergency and environmental justice; discussions were led by Julie Chapman, Kathy Moyd and Robin Tokmakian. Total attendance this month was 56.

April 2021: Discussion of the Police Accountability study and the consensus questions regarding this study. Discussions were led by Lynn Baker, Carolyn Buppert, Nancy Donovan, Fran Dyke, Mary McWilliams and Audrey Kunkel-deCoursey. Leader of the study, Barbara Ross, attended as consultant at every Discussion Unit. Cathy Casto and Linda Fields, co-chairs of the printed Voters Guide, individually gave explanations on the use of the VOTE 411 system. Total attendance was 68.

Review of Individual DU Meeting Times and Participation, April 2020 to June 2021

Discussion Unit 1 met on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 on Zoom. By consensus of those who attended, the fourth Wednesday of the month was the preferred evening, not Monday as was previously the case for DU 1. On average, 3.5 members attended each month. At the September 2020 and the April 2021 meetings, only one member attended though others came as discussion leaders and participants who missed their regular DU meetings that month, and the DU Coordinator as pro temp leader and Zoom host. In October 2020 and February 2021, 6-7 attended meetings. Jean Trygstad will assume leadership in September 2021.

Discussion Unit 2 met on the fourth Monday of the month at 10 am on Zoom. Paulette Meyer and Mary McWilliams co-led this group for years. Barbara Byrd will assume leadership in September 2021. On average, 9 members attended each month.

Discussion Unit 3, a new DU this year, met on the fourth Monday of the month at 7 pm. This group will continue online post-pandemic. Olivia Smith is the leader. On average, 6 members attended each month.

Discussion Unit 4 met on the third Thursday of the month at 1 pm on Zoom. Lynn Baker is the leader. On average, 16 members attended each month.

Discussion Unit 5 did not meet during the pandemic. Leader Linda Mather expects to resume post pandemic. This DU met on the third Saturday of the month at Terwilliger Plaza and on average, 7 members attended in the year prior to the pandemic.

Discussion Unit 6 met on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am on Zoom. Christine Moore was the leader. Carolyn Buppert will assume leadership in September 2021. On average, 14 members attended each month.

Discussion Unit 7 met on the third Monday of the month at 1 pm. Pamela Clark was the leader during the 2021 DU meetings. Tia Wulff will assume leadership in September 2021. On average, 5 members attended each month.

Goals for 2021-2022

- Mastery of Little Green Light
- Enlarge participation in Discussion Groups

- Develop a method of electronic receipt of monthly attendance information and monthly notes from discussions.

Thank you to all the Discussion Unit Leaders for the volunteer time you spend and to Donna Cohen, Nancy Donovan, Linda Fields, Debbie Kaye, Mary McWilliams, Margaret Noel and Norman Turrill for brain-storming, advice and support. It is much appreciated.

Program Planning

Judy Froemke, Coordinator of Discussion Units/Program Planning Committee

Program Planning Committee

Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey
Margaret Noel
Nancy Donovan
Judy Froemke

During January 2021, 65 League members participated in seven Discussion Unit meetings to help plan programming for the 2021-2022 League year. Total attendance at these seven discussions was 115. (Most people attended multiple Discussion Unit meetings.)

Discussion Unit 1, led by Nancy Donovan and Barbara Ross, discussed justice, Portland police and gun safety.

Discussion Unit 2, led by Julie Chapman and Marnie Lonsdale, discussed air, water, superfund, climate change.

Discussion Unit 3, led by Brian Harvey and Kim Mason, discussed neighborhood associations and diversity/equity/inclusion.

Discussion Unit 4, led by Doreen Binder and Donna Cohen, discussed homelessness, affordable housing and community residential facilities.

Discussion Unit 5, led by Carol Cushman and Linda Mather, discussed forest management, land use, urban growth and transportation.

Discussion Unit 6, led by Marsha Gulick and Betsy Pratt, discussed state governance, economic development, fiscal policy and taxes.

Discussion Unit 7, led by Kathy Casto and Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey, discussed children's issues, child care, education and teenage girls at risk.

Each discussion group made recommendations to retain, drop, update, restudy, or refer for action the League positions on a wide range of topics.

LWVPDX Program Planning Process



Flowchart of the 2021 Program Planning Process.

Recommendations

There was no recommendation for a full study of any LWVOR position this year. However, there was a suggestion for a possible informational update on the election methods position and a slight wording change in the redistricting position. There was also a recommendation for an interest group to explore the issues of homelessness, affordable housing and the effects of evictions in regard to the LWVPDX positions.

The following topics were recommended for future Civic Education programs:

- Gun safety/police accountability
- Climate change
- Water resources on the Columbia River
- Election methods/laws
- Forestry: urban/rural, timber resources vs recreational vs environmental issue

Additionally, participants expressed an interest in forming interest groups on these topics:

- Homelessness (to plan for a possible study or update)
- Air quality
- The potential role of nuclear energy in the transition to fossil-free energy

- Looking at opportunities to listen and learn about diversity, equity and inclusion
- How to attract neighborhoods' more diverse members to become represented
- How to address rider and driver safety with the rising number of alternative vehicles (electric bikes, scooters...)
- Election law reform
- Forestry issues: hot spots, tree codes, environmental justice
- Joining the Education Interest Group

A summary of the discussions and the recommendations from each of the seven discussion groups are available at units@lwvpdx.org upon request.

For more detailed information, go to lwvpdx.org, Events, Program Planning 2021.

As part of their February 2021 meetings, Discussion Units met to review the program planning recommendations and after some discussion, these recommendations were affirmed by all Discussion Units and sent to the Board.

Endowment Fund

Philip Thor, Chair

Members: Philip Thor, Chair, Anne Davidson, Elizabeth Joseph, Corinne Paulson, Fran Dyke and Don Brennis, ex-officio Portland League Treasurer.

Position Description

Report quarterly to the Portland League board regarding activities concerning Regular Fund investments and a collection of investments specifically designated to support Civic Education and/or Voter Service activities. These latter “education funds” include the Sara Frewing Fund, the Ethel Noble bequest and the Darleane Lemley bequest.

The committee meets quarterly to monitor investment performances, adjust portfolio holdings or make new investments, and determine Regular Fund Budget contributions (from the Endowment fund portfolio only). Within the past few years, the committee has adopted an interest to invest in socially responsible funds, otherwise known as ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) funds, as evidenced in the last few new investments.

History of the Endowment Fund

The Portland League of Women Voters Endowment Fund was established in 1987 upon receipt of a gift from the estate of Mary Damskow in the amount of \$90,605.62. Additional gifts followed from League members:

- Jane Rasmussen \$1,000 in February 1989
- Elizabeth Ducey \$1,000 in December 1991
- Pearl Gervurtz \$1,000 in December 1991
- Joanna Vanderwall \$9,253 in May 1993
- Marian Copeland \$2,000 in December 1994
- Darleane Lemley \$1,000 in October 2010

Portland League by-laws stipulate that the Endowment Fund total value should never fall below the original amount of the gifts, which is \$105,859. The Endowment Fund guidelines have been amended and ratified at Portland League conventions in 1994, 1995, 1997 and 2014. Contributions to the Endowment fund are not tax-deductible.

History of the Education Funds

The first of three funds/bequests under the Education Funds category was established to promote voter service projects in honor of Sara Frewing, Portland League President 1991-1993. This is known as the Sara Frewing Fund and its original gift totaled \$10,000. The monies are invested into Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund Admiral Shares, and Vanguard Prime Money Market Fund. During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, a Charles Schwab custodial account was established for education activities, and these assets were transferred into this new account. Unlike the Endowment Fund, these monies are “restricted” and may only be used for League voter service activities. Contributions to this fund and the other education funds are tax-deductible.

The second education fund was funded through a bequest from Ethel Noble, also to promote voter education activities and the initial amount was \$27,477, received in October 2013. In this same month, an investment of \$23,000 was made into the Vanguard Wellington Mutual Fund. The remaining money was put into a money market fund. Like Sara Frewing, both of these investments were transferred into the new Charles Schwab account during 2019-2020.

The third education fund came from a bequest from the estate of Darleane Lemley in January 2020 and valued at \$64,000. The Endowment Committee moved the entire amount into the Education Fund money market at Charles Schwab in June 2020 and used the money to purchase four mutual funds (one Bond fund and three Equity-type funds). Two of the funds were purchased prior to end of the previous fiscal year (i.e., in 2019-2020) and the other two funds were purchased during Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Review of the year’s activities

The committee met quarterly and reported to the board quarterly. Through the custodial accounts with Charles Schwab, the committee was able to easily explore continued investing in socially responsible funds and to adjust portfolio holdings. The withdrawal of the quarterly budget contributions and tracking of investment performance has been greatly simplified and

improved by having the Schwab accounts. Prior to the start of the fiscal year 2020-2021, the committee agreed on a contribution of \$9,200 to the Portland League Regular Fund budget, which equaled \$2,300 per quarter. In January, a slightly higher budget contribution for fiscal year 2021-2022 was determined. The amount of \$9,300 (or \$2,325 per quarter) will be provided during the next fiscal year. This amount was passed on to the budget committee.

The Endowment Fund total value on July 1, 2020, was \$182,438 and grew well in each quarter, as the economy recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic and businesses started opening up. By June 30, 2021, the value stood at \$234,911. This represents a one-year gain of \$52,473 or 29 percent. All funds went higher in value, except for TIAA-CREF Core Impact Bond Fund (TSBRX).

The Sara Frewing Fund total on July 1, 2020, was \$27,319 and stalled its growth to end the year at a level similar to the start of the fiscal year. By June 30, 2021, the value stood at \$27,225, or a loss of \$94. The anemic return (slight loss) reflects that most of Sara Frewing is invested in a bond fund which performs generally opposite to equity-type investments, i.e., when equities rise, bonds drop, and vice versa.

The Ethel Noble Bequest total on July 1, 2020 was \$38,509 and enjoyed good appreciation, like other equity investments. By June 30, 2021, the value had grown to \$48,539. This represents a one-year gain of \$10,030 or 26 percent.

The Darleane Lemley Bequest total on July 1, 2020 was \$64,000, with about \$32,265 having already been invested in a bond fund and in the first of 3 equity-type funds. A portion of the remaining uninvested amount of \$31,735 was invested during the year into PAX U.S. Sustainable Economy Investor Class (PXWGX) and Green Century Equity Fund Individual Class (GCEQX). Only one half of the originally planned investment in Green Century was completed, due to the concern that fund values were possibly at their peak. Unfortunately, this did not turn out to be the case and Green Century continued to enjoy appreciation for the remainder of the year. By June 30, 2021, the total value of the bequest had grown to \$74,731. This represents a one-year gain of \$10,731 or 17 percent. As with the Endowment Fund, the three equity-type funds appreciated nicely and the bond fund increased only slightly.

Interest Groups

Housing Interest Group

Donna Cohen, Chair and Judy Froemke, notetaker

Arising from the January 2021 Program Planning discussions and the February 2021 Civic Education program, From Houseless to Housing, several League members expressed an interest in learning more about housing problems. Donna Cohen agreed to be the Chair.

During February and March, Donna initiated several email streams eliciting ideas for focus, informing the group of bills pending in the Oregon House and Senate related to housing, and sending links to relevant housing information.

Four issues in particular were identified by members for exploration:

- Evictions
- Alternatives to houselessness
- Senior housing
- The city and metro housing bonds

The first meeting for the Housing Interest Group was on Zoom on April 12, 2021. During this initial meeting, people brainstormed about ways to become informed about housing matters. There were members attending Metro and City Council meetings. Some shared relevant articles about alternative housing. Some suggested local experts to speak at future meetings. Recognizing the complexity and diversity of issues, people were encouraged to focus individually on one of the four housing issues identified.

The second meeting of the Housing Interest Group was on Zoom on May 17, 2021. It was announced that the Board had approved the proposal to form a Housing Interest Group at their April 22, 2021 meeting. It was suggested that Debbie Aiona, Action Chair, be invited to come to explain the importance of having board approval prior to sending an email or letter as a representative of the League.

Donna reported on the status of the relevant housing bills. Gwen volunteered to find a speaker from Bridge Meadows for our next meeting. Kathy volunteered to write an article for the July VOTER re the Housing Interest Group. Marsha reported on Homer Williams' plans to build small housing pods. Donna showed slides of Emerald Village, an alternative housing community in Eugene. We also saw slides about the national housing situation from a webinar from the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

The third meeting of the Housing Interest Group was on Zoom on June 21, 2021. Donna introduced the speakers, which Gwen had invited from Bridge Meadows, Dr. Dorinda Schubert and Lindsay Magnuson. Bridge Meadows is an inter-generational concept that provides

affordable housing for seniors and comfortable housing for families with foster children on a shared campus. The seniors give their time with the children (help with homework, teach sewing, gardening, fishing...). Considerable supportive, therapeutic services are provided. There are well established Bridge Meadows campuses in North Portland and in Beaverton, and a third one is expected to open this year in Redmond, OR. More than 1.5 million dollars was provided by foundations, generous benefactors and from grants for low income families.

Anne Davidson, Debbie Aiona, Barbara Dudley, Kathy Casto, Marsha Gulick individually shared information on housing meetings attended, housing programs watched, Federal tax credits, Portland's tax credits for low income housing extended to 100 years. Debbie Aiona spoke about the difference between writing letters and emails to elected officials as an individual, not as a League member, and writing as a representative of the League which requires prior board approval.

The fourth meeting of the Housing Interest Group on July 19, 2021 was attended by 18 League members, two guests and three speakers on Zoom. The Program Manager for Kenton's Woman's Village, Amada Perrault, and for the St John's Village, Tara Benavents, spoke about the development of community support for these projects, the vetting of the individuals who reside in these tiny homes which provide transitional housing and the variety of casework services for the residents including counseling, mentoring new residents by established residents, education/job/housing searches. A third transitional village is located in Southeast Portland. Sheila Mason, an electrical engineer at Intel, and a volunteer representative of the Portland Homeless Family Solutions, spoke to the group about the homeless experience. She works to educate the public and to lend her considerable support for those working to find homes for homeless people.

For our next meeting, we hope to have a speaker who can tell us more about the city's plan for its six "safe rest villages."

Justice Interest Group

Nancy Donovan, Civic Ed and Barabra Ross, Chair



Portland Police Bureau:
Oversight and Accountability

League of Women Voters of Portland Education Fund



April 2021

Portland Police Bureau: Oversight and Accountability Study

The LWVPDX Board voted to conduct a study of the Portland Police Bureau oversight and accountability on May 12, 2020. League member Barbara Ross served as chair of an all-volunteer 22-member study committee, which began its work shortly before the death of George Floyd. Committee members reviewed 55 source documents and interviewed 22 key stakeholders, including police leadership, city council members, state legislators and community advocates. The valuable contributions of the researchers, writers, reviewers and editors were commendable. Within a year, the team published its study report in April 2021.

Civic Education Program on Police Oversight and Accountability

The Justice Interest Group helped organize a civic education program based on the study. On April 13, three expert panelists spoke about issues and progress made in the newly published study: Carol Johnson, JD, MA, and civil rights activist; Shawn Campbell, Chair of the PPB Training Advisory Committee; and Representative Janelle Bynum, a leader and driving force behind police related bills passed by the Oregon Legislature. James Ofsink, Chair of the Justice Interest Group served as moderator. 74 participants watched the virtual program.

Seven Units Discuss Consensus Questions

Consensus questions were developed by League study members and non-study members. The consensus questions and study then went to the LWVPDX membership for review. After reading the study and listening to the issues discussed by the panel of experts, League members attended group meetings via Zoom in April. Attending the unit meetings (or completing an online survey) were 57 individual members, whose input was used to form consensus on each of the questions. With this work completed, a board-appointed committee developed a new advocacy position on police oversight and accountability. The position/advocacy statement as amended was approved by the Board of Directors on June 24, 2021.

After adopting the new position statements, the League is using them to support or oppose proposed ballot measures and government policies. League representatives can provide testimony at hearings on civic matters, write letters, meet with elected officials, write opinion pieces and other public statements, and partner with other advocacy groups with similar positions on the issues.

Justice Interest Group Re-Focuses on Police and Criminal Justice Reform

Thirteen members of the police accountability study committee agreed to participate in the newly organized Justice Interest Group, whose purpose is to observe what is happening related to police and criminal justice reform and advocate for change, with Board approval, when advocacy may make a difference. Although League interest groups are formed primarily for in-depth learning about issues, the Justice Interest Group was approved at a meeting of the Board of Directors on June 24, to do focused advocacy, and to coordinate with Action Chair Debbie Aiona, under Action Committee guidelines. The following activities are planned by the Interest Group:

- Monitor the implementation of the police reform bills enacted by the recent state legislative session.
- Keep track of what other community groups are proposing, and look for opportunities to collaborate if their ideas are consistent with League positions. On other issues, the group will take the lead in proposing needed changes.
- Continue to advocate with Portland City Commissioners and others about two issues. The first is a concern about the Mayor's current policy of prohibiting testimony at council meetings on reports being submitted. These reports may have important matters for the commissioners' and the public's attention. The second is the issue of changing the standard of review used by the Independent Police Review's Citizen Review Committee from "reasonable person" to "a preponderance of the evidence." This is a change the League and other experts have advocated for since 2008. This change would help make the Citizen Review Committee more effective and independent in deciding on appeals that come before them.
- Follow negotiations between the city and the Portland Police Association to develop a new union contract. Group members also are tracking the status of the Department of Justice Settlement Agreement with the City of Portland, which went into effect in December 2012. The agreement specified detailed actions related to police accountability.

Overall, the focus will be to research and identify issues where advocacy could help bring about positive results in police reform or broader issues in our criminal justice system. The interest group will work with the Action Chair and LWVPDX Board to take action based on our recently adopted local position on the Portland Police Bureau oversight and accountability or using state or national positions on criminal justice reform.

Volunteers

Justice Interest Group Study Committee: Chair Barbara Ross, Debbie Aiona, Christine Andersen, Doreen Binder, Amy Jo Butler, Emily Candler Rake, Nancy Donovan, Fran Dyke,

Trish Garner, Linda Harris, Kathe Hart, Jen Jacobs, Carol Johnson, Ruth Kratchovil, Carol Landsman, Kim Mason, Becca McCrory, Sylvia McGill, Marion McNamara, James Ofsink, Audrey Zunkle-deCoursey

Members finalizing study: Chair Barbara Ross, Nancy Donovan, Kim Mason, Becca McCrory, James Ofsink, Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey

External Fact Checkers: Dan Handelman, Copwatch; Candace Avalos, Citizen Review Committee; Jon Nystrom; Kenneth Jones, Independent Police Review

Reviewers: Debbie Aiona, Nancy Donovan, Debbie Kaye, Kim Mason, Becca McCrory, Margaret Noel, Barbara Ross, Audrey Zunkle-deCoursey

Editorial Team: Chair Carolyn Buppert, Beth Burczak, Linda Mantel, Debbie Runciman, Judy Walton

Consensus Questions Committee: Debbie Aiona, Chris Cobey, Nancy Donovan, Judy Froemke, Anne Davidson, Debbie Kaye, Kim Mason, Frances Moore, Margaret Noel, James Ofsink, Barbara Ross

Position Statement Committee: Debbie Aiona, Pamela Clark, Nancy Donovan, Debbie Kaye, Kim Mason, Becca McCrory, James Ofsink, Margaret Noel Barbara Ross

Current Justice Interest Group Members: Chair James Ofsink, Debbie Aiona, Doreen Binder, Amy Jo Butler, Nancy Donovan, Trish Garner, Judy Grizwold, Kathe Hart, Carol Landsman, Kim Mason, Becca McCrory, Marion McNamara, Barbara Ross, Audrey Zunkle-deCoursey

Membership

Mary McWilliams, Membership Chair

Membership Committee Chair Responsibilities

In a non-pandemic year, I would be working with the office manager at our League office regarding membership. For this report year, there was no office manager and all Leaders were working from home on their League responsibilities. But, because everyone was staying home, no one was socializing, traveling, going out to dinner, adding League duties helped provide more purpose to my day, an opportunity to work more closely with my League colleagues, and learn new skills from them and others.

Responsibilities included: membership renewal print USPS mailing packets; adding information to Little Green Light (LGL) from returned membership forms--print or online (Marion does the initial LGL data entry and I follow up with volunteer interests and other pertinent information); a

welcome contact of new members by phone if possible and if not by email; checking MailChimp most months to make sure our members were receiving our emails to their “in” box; adding members to the LWV Roster; online e-mailing of New Member Packets; Annual print Membership Directory; orientation for new members; monthly newsletter column for the eVoter (now The Voter); monthly report for the board meetings; volunteer searches for League Leaders; making sure new LIFE members are recognized; and serving on the Nominating Committee. Basically, a daily responsibility for the complete fiscal year to keep up with everything membership related and keeping good notes on LGL and on my personal computer.

Membership

Membership was at 288 in July 2020 and at 348 July 2021. I would say that there was more conversion to online over print information to our members. The exceptions being the annual renewal July 2020 membership USPS mailing (with option to renew with the print forms or online) and the February 2021 USPS mailing of the print purple covered “2021 Members & Leaders Directory.” Discussed in several monthly board reports was having the Directory be password protected to members on our website, where it can be updated regularly (instead of twice a year with print and USPS mailed information). It didn’t happen this year but may next year.

Annual Renewal Membership

May, June, July 2020: After the May 2020 local convention, it was time to prepare for the July 1 2020-June 30, 2021 membership renewal USPS mailing and I worked with Marion McNamara, VP for Administration, for all the office supplies such as envelopes, needed to be printed for the mailing, and with the board on review of the renewal form, volunteer interest form, and updates of the yellow covered and print “2020 Directory Members & Leaders,” USPS mailing labels and more. Margaret Noel, Communications, took all this information and prepared online forms for our website under JOIN US. The mailing went out first class, because I added notes to renewals for Households (two members in a household), memberships we subsidize, students, and LIFE members. These notes meant that we didn’t have the required number of 200 for a bulk mail, so all was sent first class. Normally a group of members would work around a big table to prepare the mailing (putting on labels, enclosing the printed sheets, sealing the envelopes), but Covid-19 kept that from happening. Wearing masks at Marion’s condo, she helped me with assembling most of the materials, and then I took it home to finish and put in the mail.

New Member Welcome Information

Ongoing and daily for the year: processing NEW members individually though Welcome Email/Phone Call, later sending by USPS Member Directory, and later sending orientation video by email).

August through November 2020: As this November 2020 was a Presidential election, our membership grew suddenly in these months. These are also the months that email renewal reminders and phone calls are made to 2019-20 members who had not renewed yet (Debbie Kaye, Janet Youel, and I did the follow-ups).

New Member Orientation

December 2020: All new members received an email invitation to participate in a Zoom orientation on December 8th from 4-5 pm. Presenters were President Debbie Kaye, and these chairs: Action Debbie Aiona, Voter Service Chris Cobey, Civic Education Nancy Donovan, Communication Margaret Noel, and I moderated. There was time for Q&A. The orientation presentations were recorded. I emailed all current year new members who had not been able to attend the Zoom orientation with the link and password to the 40-minute recording. As new members joined during the year, the orientation video was one of the items I sent them by email. For a first attempt at a video orientation, it was a success. As all new members are invited to orientation, but few do attend, either by Zoom or in person, having an orientation video on our website and to send to new members is a good tool (only 11 new members attended the online Zoom orientation of the 80 invited). Our goal for the next year is to have one in-person orientation and to use MetroEast Community Media services to produce a professional YouTube video that can be put on our website and emailed to new members not able to come to an in-person one.

LWV US Roster Update, LWV Portland “2020 Members & Leaders Directory, Nominating Committee

January 2021: January is the month that our membership is updated in the LWV Roster in preparation for their January 31, 2021 Per Member Payment deadline.

January, February are also the months to begin working on the print version of the “2021 Members & Leaders Directory.” The purple covered Directory was USPS mailed to our members in early February with the help of Debbie Kaye, Ted Kaye (Microsoft Publisher is on his computer), and Marion McNamara.

The Nominating Committee meets regularly from January through most of March to reach out to members for the board and other elected positions and I met with them as an elected member on this committee.

May Local Convention and LIFE Members

March, April, May 2021: Invitation from membership chair by email to NEW members, to attend annual convention on Zoom (this is in addition to other Leaders sending Member Messages and eVoter invitations and reminders to ALL members). Ascertain new LIFE members. There were two this year: Ruth Kratochvil and Joella Werlin.

Then the membership process begins for a new year.

Recommendations

- On our website, a Password Protected “Members Only” site for continually updating member contact information from LGL.
- Purchase Microsoft Publisher for the office computer, if there is to be a print “2022 Members & Leaders Directory.”

- Consideration for raising dues or not – based on budget necessity for 2021-23. If the budget doesn't require dues being raised, then we shouldn't do it. We will have to eventually, but I say wait until it is necessary so we can tell our members why.
- Continue to encourage Leaders to learn basic LGL skills for information for their Leadership area.
- Orientation video by MetroEast Community Media and an in-person orientation.

Voter Service

Chris Cobey, Chair

May 2020 brought a very active primary election (18 candidates for Mayor; more than 140 candidates on the ballot for all offices) for local, regional, state and national offices. And this election was two months after the city of Portland, the state of Oregon, the United States, and the world, began their pandemic shutdown.

For Voter Service, the 2020 shutdown meant no traditional in-person candidate or ballot measure forums. Filling this void in part were our traditional Video Voters Guides, with more than five dozen individual interviews were solicited, produced between April 10 and 17, and posted on YouTube through the LWVPDX site. The VVGs received thousands of views. Leading this effort was Emily Toops, assisted by Elizabeth Davis, Debbie Kaye, Hailey McLaughlin, Margaret Noel, Colleen Shoemaker, and Chris Cobey, and MetroEast Community Media.

VOTE411.org, managed by the indefatigable and experienced Peggy Bengry, solicited, compiled, and posted statements from and information about participating candidates of the close to 130 candidates standing for election in the Portland area.

The print Voters' Guides were produced as usual, but with libraries closed and other normal distribution locations restricted, the number of copies distributed (3,600) was not as large as was distributed in previous comparable elections. Helping select the questions, and overseeing a sometimes harrowing production schedule, were Linda Fields and Kathy Casto. Those assisting in research, production, and distribution by hand and mail included Debbie Aiona, Peggy Bengry, Eileen Chase, Chris Cobey, Carol Cushman, Marge Easley, Libby Deal, Gina Hogue, Susan Jessie, Debbie Kaye, Marion McNamara, Margaret Noel, Bill and Barbara Stalions, and Mary McWilliams.

As Oregon has been described by some as having the best voter registrations and elections in the country, the traditional League Voter Registration function was not as busy in this time period as it was in decades past. Outreach efforts led by Katie Pool were made to inform people that they could check their voter registration status online, of the necessity to re-register

if they had moved, and the ease of doing so online. LWVPDX was a partner in National Voter Registration Day on September 22.

In July 2020, Debbie Kaye moderated a virtual Voter Forum with the two runoff candidates for Portland City Commissioner Position Two.

Similar League teams assembled for the November 2020 general election on behalf of the LWVPDX's Voter Service.

- The Voters' Guide team, again led by Linda Fields and Kathy Casto, assembled a team of researchers, writers, and editors, to produce the carefully neutral and factual descriptions on the many ballot measures on the ballot. Linda and Kathy were assisted by Debbie Aiona, Peggy Bengry, Chris Cobey, Carol Cushman, Libby Deal, Bridget Donegan, Marge Easley, Gina Hogue, Susan Jessie, Debbie Kaye, Ted Kaye, Marion McNamara, Amber Nobe, Margaret Noel, Erica Rubin, Brenda Smith, Jessica Sweeney, Mary McWilliams, and Audrey Zunkel-deCoursey on the listed functions, plus internet and print flyers. Sixty-five hundred Voters' Guides were distributed in English; 1,000 in Spanish.
- Emily Toops coordinated the Video Voters Guides for eight offices. Conducting the online interviews of the candidates were Elizabeth Davis, Debbie Kaye, Hailey McLaughlin, Margaret Noel, and Colleen Shoemaker.
- The Speakers' Bureau, helmed by Beth Burczak, provided virtual speakers for more than a dozen groups requesting presentations on voting and ballot measures, including Debbie Kaye.
- The runoff candidates for each of four offices appeared with their competitor in virtual Voter Forums. Moderators for each of these Forums were Debbie Kaye, Linda Mather (doing two Forums), and Chris Cobey. Four ballot propositions were presented in October in a virtual Voter Forum format, with Linda Mather once again moderating two of the Forums, and Kathy Casto and Chris Cobey, one each.
- Voter Registration's Katie Pool was able to distribute 600 English and Spanish voter information flyers to low-registration areas in eastern Multnomah County, speaking with people on how to register online, and distributing "Ask Me How To Register To Vote" stickers. Erica Rubin and Marion McNamara coordinated with Meals on Wheels to distribute 2,500 voter registration forms and print Voters' Guides to the house-bound.

Following the election, Voter Service worked with LWVPDX's Civic Education to produce "Election Decompression," a November 17 Zoomed panel discussion on the election results.

The Directory of Elected Officials was updated under the direction of Mary McWilliams in early 2021 with the results of the November 2020 election.

With a bit of a breather following the November 2020 general election, the League Voter Service teams were back at it for the quieter May 2021 special elections, with fewer candidates in races for school boards and special districts.

- Hailey McLaughlin managed the solicitation and production of the 18 Video Voter Guides for the election, including performing interviews, and was assisted by Elizabeth Davis, Debbie Kaye, and Margaret Noel.
- Linda Mather moderated a virtual Voter Forum for candidates for the Portland School Board, for which Debbie Kaye provided the introduction and the conclusion.
- Kathy Casto and Linda Fields again teamed up to produce possible questions for the VOTE411.org, headed up by Peggy Bengry. Kathy and Linda developed a short explanation of VOTE411.org that was shared with the discussion units, with Judy Froemke's assistance. LWVPDX decided to forego a print Voters' Guide, because of the much lower anticipated turnout, and the much smaller districts for almost all the local candidates.

Looking forward to the second half of 2021, and the first half of 2022, Voter Service is aware of the following potential activities and goals:

- Better incorporation of volunteers into Voter Service activities
- Assessing the need for and distribution of print Voter Guides
- Remain aware of issues in the decennial redistricting of cities, and school and special districts
- A possible Portland mayoral recall
- Finding opportunities to partner with other civic groups on Voter Service functions
- Partnering on National Voter Registration Day
- Expanding the "Voter Registration" function to "Voter Registration and Civic Engagement," as the process of voter registration in Oregon has become increasingly automatic