

# League of Women Voters of Portland

## 2023 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2023

The 2023 Annual Membership Meeting was held on May 24, 2023 at the Laurelhurst Club in Portland, Oregon. Debbie Kaye, LWVPDX President, welcomed everyone to the meeting to celebrate the accomplishments of the year and to ignite success for the new League leadership. She outlined several of last year's accomplishments, including providing full election coverage for both the November general election and the recent special district elections, offering stimulating community election programs, engaging dozens of League members in the city government transition process, continuing to monitor the Portland Police Bureau and closely following housing and public education issues. Debbie then read a piece from the *Portland Mercury* publication "Say Nice Things about Portland" written by Candice Avalos which expressed deep appreciation for the unique role that the League has in Portland.

### **Introductions and Recognitions:**

Debbie welcomed

Alice Bartelt, the League of Women Voters of Oregon's newly elected president who would be serving as Parliamentarian for the current meeting. Debbie was also looking forward to Becky Gladstone, immediate past LWVOR President, attending the meeting as well.

Debbie acknowledged the Portland League's past presidents: Co-chairs Fran Dyke and Doreen Binder, Margaret Noel, Jane Cease, Kris Hudson, Cheri Unger, Debbie Aiona, Jan Wolf, Carol Cushman, Betsy Pratt and Mary McWilliams. She also expressed her appreciation to the LWVPDX Board of Directors and Off-Board leaders for their dedication, leadership and sense of obligation to "making democracy work".

Debbie thanked the people who planned the evening's meeting: Alice Bartelt, Judy Froemke, Nancy Donovan, Linda Mantel, Marion McNamara, Margaret Noel, Amber Nobe and Nikki Jardin. She extended her thanks to Cornell Farms which provided a generous discount on the table flowers.

Debbie identified Portland League Life members who have been members of the League for 50 years. New Life members include Judy Davis, Margot Fetz, Barbara Lawson, Paulette Meyer, Kay Moran and Cheri Unger. Cheri was in attendance and rose to accept her certificate. Debbie also provided a message from Life Member Elaine Cogan who was unable to attend the meeting. Debbie then invited everyone who had joined the League since the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting to stand and be recognized.

Debbie asked for a moment of silence to remember and appreciate the Portland League members who have passed away since May of last year: Laura L. Good, Ann Hyde, Linda McDowell, Kathy

Moyd, Jeanne Steed and former members: Mary Cammann, Beth Johnson, Art Wilson, and Dr. Edith Parrish.

Debbie explained that each year, the League Board chooses a volunteer or two whose work for the League has been extraordinary. This year's chosen Volunteers of the Year were Janice Thompson and Ann Dudley who both came forward to receive their certificates. Ann Dudley's certificate read: *For her dedication to the League's success, demonstrated by her leadership of the Speakers Bureau for several years and most recently by her focused management of the 2022 and 2023 Nominating Committee's recruiting of new Board and Off-Board leaders.* Janice's certificate read: *For her commitment to good government and to League principles through her deep focus on the City Charter Amendments, leading the League's efforts to pass the ballot measure and then organizing dozens of members in subcommittees parallel to the city commissions.*

Debbie announced the theme for this year, Let's \*Make Sparks\*, and introduced Linda Mantel, Development Chair, to introduce the fundraising activities for the evening and more. Linda had distributed copies of a new brochure and she encouraged members to use it with their family and friends. She thanked her Development Committee and Amber Nobe and Nikki Jardin for their help in developing the brochure. Linda also explained the fundraising activities for the evening which will allow members to practice using ranked voting. She thanked members of the League Board for providing a \$2000.00 match to start the evening's fundraising effort.

**Debbie Kaye called the business portion of the Annual Membership Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.** She noted that everyone attending the meeting had received an Annual Meeting Workbook that contains detailed information for the proposed bylaw amendments, slate of nominees, and budget and program recommendations.

Minutes: Debbie introduced Anne Davidson, Portland League Secretary, who would be taking the minutes for the meeting. This year's Minutes Review Committee members are Carol Cushman and Kris Hudson. Debbie reminded members to state their names as they make and second motions. All motions made by members were to be written on the index cards placed on each table and given to Anne at the end of the meeting.

Quorum: Debbie introduced Nikki Jardin, League Office Manager, who would provide the numbers for the quorum count. The quorum for this year's meeting is based on 15% of the 270 members on January 31, 2023, or 41 members. Nikki announced that there were 62 members in attendance. Most of the votes for the evening only require a simple majority or 32 votes. Votes on amendments to the Bylaws require a two-thirds majority or 42 members. Debbie Kaye asked for a motion to approve the quorum. James Ofsink moved that the quorum count be approved. Nadyne Rosin seconded the motion. Debbie Kaye called for a vote and the motion passed with a hand vote.

Adoption of Meeting Rules: Debbie Kaye asked for a motion to adopt the Proposed Rules as provided in the meeting workbook. Nancy Donovan moved that the Meeting Rules be adopted as presented in the meeting materials. Marsha Gulick seconded the motion. Debbie Kaye called for a vote and the motion passed with a hand vote.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda: Debbie Kaye asked for a motion to approve the Meeting Agenda as provided on page 1 of the meeting workbook. Norman Turrill moved that the Meeting Agenda be adopted as provided. Cheri Unger seconded the motion. Debbie Kaye called for the vote on the motion and the Meeting Agenda was adopted.

Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes of the 2022 Annual Membership Meeting were provided in the meeting workbook. The minutes were reviewed by the 2022 Minute Review Committee, Carol Cushman and Susan Gilbert. Debbie Kaye thanked them for their careful review. She asked for any corrections to the minutes and hearing none, declared the minutes approved as written.

Proposed Bylaws and Endowment Fund Guidelines Amendments: Debbie Kaye introduced Margaret Noel who discussed five amendments, each of which require a two-thirds vote for approval. The proposed amendments are in the meeting workbook along with a summary of the reasons for each amendment. Margaret explained that she will present the motions for the amendments and answer any questions. As the amendments were approved by the Board, no second is required. Voting will take place after the break.

For the first amendment, Margaret moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland amend Article IV, Section 4, part B to delete the requirement for a member of the communications team to be part of the Executive Committee.*

For the second amendment, Margaret moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland amend Article VIII, Section 2 to add the words "or concurrence" at the end of the first sentence, so that they can advocate using LWVUS, LWVOR and LWVDPX positions adopted after study or concurrence.* She noted that the Portland League can already advocate using the Oregon and US League positions that were adopted by concurrence.

For the third amendment, Margaret moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland amend Article VIII, Section 3 by adding a new Section C to define the process for adopting or amending a Portland position by concurrence and adding the two-thirds majority to approve concurrence to the previous Part C, which becomes Part D.* She explained that the wording of the new Section C is copied from the wording in the LWVUS and the LWVOR Bylaws and would require the Portland League to follow exactly the same process for adopting a position by concurrence that is used by those two Leagues.

For the fourth amendment, Margaret moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland amend Article IX, Section 5, third paragraph as proposed by Phil Thor, Endowment Committee Chair and outlined*

*on page 14 of the Annual Membership Meeting Workbook to clearly establish that the primary objective of the Committee is to increase the value of the fund, that the Endowment Fund Committee will do whatever is necessary to maintain a fund value of at least the original donated amount, and that the Committee's secondary objective is sustaining or increasing the fund's purchasing power.*

For the fifth amendment, because the Endowment Fund Guidelines must quote the Endowment section of the Bylaws, Margaret moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland amend the Endowment Fund Guidelines with the amended language in the Bylaws.*

Margaret asked for any questions on these five proposed amendments. For the first proposed amendment, Debbie Aiona questioned removing the word "and" in part B of Article IV, Section 4. Margaret agreed that the word "and" should not have been struck.

2023-2024 Proposed Program: Debbie Kaye introduced Judy Froemke who began her presentation by defining the word "program" as it is used in this context and outlining the process by which the recommendations were made to be presented to the LWVPDX Board for consideration. This process included 61 League members attending seven Program Planning discussion groups. There are three recommendations for which Judy proposed motions for changes.

The first motion is a proposal for updating the language in the LWVPDX position, School Funding. Judy Froemke moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland update the LWVPDX position, School Funding, #3 to reflect cultural and equity considerations by replacing the current wording with "Using a combination of federal, state and local funds to provide equitable educational opportunities that recognize and support students with differences in abilities whether these are intellectual, physical or emotional".*

For the second recommendation, Judy Froemke moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland retain all current LWVPDX positions, as updated.*

For the third recommendation, Judy Froemke moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland adopt by concurrence, the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) position, Housing and Homelessness.* She explained that the wording of the proposed concurrence is the same as the wording in the LWVC position, except that references to state and California have been deleted or replaced by words that refer to Portland or residents of Multnomah County. She went on to explain that adopting or amending a Portland League position by concurrence would allow the League to use a carefully studied position of another League to advocate on local issues. It is a way to adopt a position when there is not enough time or volunteers to conduct a full study. She noted that members of the Housing Interest Group, led by Donna Cohen, conducted a nationwide search of state and local League positions on housing to identify the one most applicable to the needs of the Portland League.

Again, Debbie Kaye reminded the members that the motions do not require a second as they come from board recommendations and that votes on these motions will take place after the break.

Budget: Debbie Kaye introduced Betsy Pratt, Budget Chair to present the 2023-2024 proposed budget. Betsy thanked her Budget Committee for their work on the budgets: Elizabeth Domike, Adrienne Aiona, Chris Cobey, Linda Mantel and Margaret Noel. Betsy explained that tonight, League members can discuss, debate and amend the budget for the Regular Fund. The Education Fund budget is provided for review and comment only, because it is related to the Regular Fund budget. The Education Fund budget will be adopted by the Education Fund Trustees at their next meeting.

After a discussion of the aspirational nature of the budget, Betsy outlined the highlights of the proposed budget. She then moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland approve the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget for the Regular Fund.*

IP-14: Norman Turrill rose to explain the signature sheets he had distributed for Initiative Petition 14 proposed by People Not Politicians to create an independent citizens' redistricting commission. He explained that if members use the sheets for signatures beyond their family, they need to have a copy of the full text of the Petition. Signature sheets can be mailed in to the address on the back of each sheet.

Financial Statements: Adrienne Aiona, LWVPDX Treasurer, had distributed Portland League year-to-date financial statements and provided highlights of the year. She noted that, at her recommendation, the Board had agreed to skip three draws from the Endowment Fund as they had sufficient funds in the bank to meet their commitments. She also thanked Mary Hepokoski for her many years as the Portland League bookkeeper. She asked the members to look at the statements and feel free to ask any questions.

Endowment Committee: Debbie Kaye referred League members to the Endowment Fund and Education Investments Preliminary Annual Report as prepared by Phil Thor, Endowment Committee Chair. The Report is found on pages 32-37 in the meeting workbook. The final report will be prepared and distributed after the final year-end results are available.

### **Voting on Bylaws, Program, Budget and Nominating Slate.**

Bylaws and Endowment Fund Guidelines: Margaret Noel and Debbie Kaye led the discussion and voting. Debbie reminded members that these amendments required a two-thirds vote of members present.

For the first amendment, Margaret had moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland amend Article IV, Section 4, part B to delete the requirement for a member of the communications team to be part of the Executive Committee.* Margaret had accepted Debbie Aiona's correction to retain the

word “and” in the Bylaw. There were no further questions. Debbie called for the vote and the motion passed as corrected with no abstentions

For the second amendment, Margaret had moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland amend Article VIII, Section 2 to add the words “or concurrence” at the end of the first sentence, so that they can advocate using LWVUS, LWVOR and LWVDPX positions adopted after study or concurrence.* Margaret answered a question from Pamela Clark explaining that Portland League members are also members of LWVOR and LWVUS and that the Portland League trusts that they have carefully followed the procedures and have done their research in using concurrence. Debbie called for the vote and the motion passed with two abstentions.

For the third amendment, Margaret had moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland amend Article VIII, Section 3 by adding a new Section C to define the process for adopting or amending a Portland position by concurrence and adding the two-thirds majority to approve concurrence to the previous Part C, which becomes Part D.* Hearing no questions, Debbie called for the vote and the motion passed.

For the fourth amendment, Margaret had moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland amend Article IX, Section 5, third paragraph as proposed by Phil Thor, Endowment Committee Chair and outlined on page 14 of the Annual Membership Meeting Workbook to clearly establish that the primary objective of the Committee is to increase the value of the fund, that the Endowment Fund Committee will do whatever is necessary to maintain a fund value of at least the original donated amount, and that the Committee’s secondary objective is sustaining or increasing the fund’s purchasing power.* Phil Thor responded to a question from Carol Cushman assuring her that the amendment does not require the Endowment Committee to adjust the original donated amount for inflation. Debbie called for the vote and the motion passed with 5 abstentions.

For the fifth amendment, Margaret had moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland amend the Endowment Fund Guidelines with the amended language in the Bylaws.* Hearing no questions, Debbie called for the vote and the motion passed with one abstention.

2023-2024 Program: Judy Froemke and Debbie Kaye led the discussion and voting. These proposals require a simple majority to pass.

For the first proposal, Judy Froemke had moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland update the LWVPDX position, School Funding #3 to reflect cultural and equity considerations by replacing the current wording with “Using a combination of federal, state and local funds to provide equitable educational opportunities that recognize and support students with differences in abilities whether these are intellectual, physical or emotional”.* Debbie called for the vote and the motion passed.

For the second proposal, Judy Froemke had moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland retain all current LWVPDX positions, as updated*. Debbie Kaye called for the vote and the motion passed.

For the third proposal, Judy Froemke had moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland adopt by concurrence, the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) position, Housing and Homelessness*. Debbie called for the vote and the motion passed.

Debbie Kaye noted that the Portland League Board had not recommended a study for next year. She asked if there was a motion to consider a non-recommended item. There were none.

Budget: Betsy Pratt and Debbie Kaye led the discussion and voting. Betsy had moved that *the League of Women Voters of Portland approve the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget for the Regular Fund*. Betsy responded to a question from Melanie Billings-Yun about the membership amounts. Melanie then pointed out a posting error in the Revenue section of the budget where the \$8000 Events amount in the Regular Fund was not carried over to the Total Budget. Betsy acknowledged the error and Melanie was willing to consider the correction to be a friendly amendment to the proposal. Debbie called for the vote on the Regular Fund Budget as amended and the motion passed with one abstention.

Nominating Slate: Debbie Kaye introduced Ann Dudley, Nominating Committee Chair who reviewed the nominations for the upcoming year. The LWVPDX Nominating Committee Report could be found on page 39 of the meeting workbook.

Ann asked the members if there were any nominations from the floor for the positions of President, 1st Vice President for Administration, 2nd Vice President for Voter Service or Secretary. She heard none and declared the nominations for each of those positions closed. Ann noted that the Board could appoint up to 7 members to one-year terms and she asked anyone interested in joining the Board to contact her. She also thanked the nominees for their willingness to serve and the continuing Board members for their commitment to the Portland League.

Ann Dudley moved to *approve the full nominating slate as presented for 2023-2024*. Debbie Kaye called for a vote and the motion passed. The slate was approved.

Closing Remarks: Debbie Kaye took a moment to thank everyone who served the League as officers, directors and volunteers. She felt it had been a wonderful experience working with all of these smart, skilled, collegial and kind people. She particularly wanted to thank Marion McNamara who had served as Vice President for Administration for the last 4 years, as they had worked very closely together. She also wanted to thank her husband, Ted Kaye, for his great support, doing many tasks behind the scenes that made her League work easier and more effective. Debbie went on to recognize the challenges and achievements during her rewarding time as President of the

Portland League. She also encouraged all members to ask questions about the organization and find the ways to participate that best suits them.

Debbie reminded all members that League members and friends would be marching in the Rose Festival Parade again this year on June 10. She welcomed everyone's participation.

Debbie Kaye then passed the gavel, keys and the celebration pompom to the newly-elected Portland League President, Carolyn Buppert.

Directions to the Board: Carolyn asked for any directions to the Board for the coming year. Any comments could also be sent to her by email. She brought up two issues. The first was whether the Portland League should continue to print a Voters Guide for each election. There were several comments about distribution problems and a comment from James Ofsink who encouraged the League to continue the Voters Guide at least for the 2024 elections where a number of changes would be taking place. Becky Gladstone also felt the Voters Guides were full of important information about the League in addition to voting information. Carolyn's second issue was about how to involve members in the decisions about supporting ballot measures. She asked if the members present were comfortable with the League Board making the decision about supporting or not supporting ballot measures. There were several comments including one from Carol Cushman who felt that decisions were made when the League was deeply immersed in a measure, and not lightly made. Wynne Furth thought advance notice to the membership when support for ballot measures was being considered would be appreciated.

Carolyn Buppert thanked everyone for attending this Annual Membership meeting and being involved in the League of Women Voters. She then adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm