

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON
STATE CONVENTION
May 20-22, 2011
The Shilo Inn Suites
RICHLAND, WASHINGTON
MINUTES

Friday May 20, 2011: President Linnea Hirst called the convention and plenary session to order at 1:01 P.M.

- I. President Hirst welcomed delegates, observers and visitors, including our LWVUS Liaison Norman Turrill and Marcia Merrins, LWVUS board member and thanked the LWV Benton-Franklin County Convention Committee, introducing Judy Golberg – Convention Committee Chair. She welcomed Marilyn Perkins, President LWV Benton Franklin Counties and John Fox, Mayor of Richland, who both made welcoming remarks.
- II. Nancy Pearson, LWV Tacoma-Pierce County was appointed Parliamentarian and Ann Murphy, LWV Spokane Area, and Kathy Sakahara, LWV Seattle, were introduced as official 'scribes' – motions and resolutions were recorded by Ann and Kathy and projected onto a large screen for all to see more easily.
- III. The credentials committee made their report: 16 local leagues present; 55 delegates including 9 state board members. A quorum was declared.
- IV. The Reading Committee for 2011 Convention Minutes was appointed: Michelle Valentine, LWV Snohomish County, Ann Jarrell, LWV San Juan and Sue Summers, LWV Tacoma-Pierce County.
- V. The Resolutions Committee was appointed: Ann Murphy, LWV Spokane Area, chair; Jayne Freudenberger, LWV Bellingham Whatcom County, and Kathy Sakahara, LWV Seattle. The deadline for resolutions was announced to be noon on Saturday May 21.
- VI. **MSP** Pam Behring, State Board, to adopt the standing rules of the convention.
- VII. Parliamentarian Pearson explained the parliamentary procedures as defined in the convention workbook.
- VIII. **MSP** Judy Ostrow, State Board, to adopt the convention agenda as amended to include a statement by LWVUS board member Marcia Merrins at the end of the plenary session on Friday.
- IX. Myra Howrey, LWVWA Secretary presented the Roll Call of Leagues. Sixteen local leagues were represented. Each spoke for a brief time on success stories from the past two years.
- X. Current Program: Susan Eidenschink, State Board, presented the current program for re-adoption. **MS** Susan Eidenschink. "I move that the LWVWA Convention of 2011 re-adopt the current positions."
- XI. Recommended New Program: "LWVWA Board of Directors recommends a one year update of a portion of the 1977 Energy Position EN-6, which says in part: '...The use of alternative energy systems such as on-site solar heating and recovery of energy from wastes should be actively encouraged.'" The background, title, scope and focus for this recommended update was printed on page of 24 of the convention workbook. **MS** Susan Eidenschink. "I move that the LWVWA Convention 2011 adopt the proposed update on our 1977 Energy Position, EN-6." There were then questions for clarification only.
- XII. Conservation Study: Susan Eidenschink, State Board, stated that the Conservation Study was almost ready for distribution to local leagues. Distribution should take place during the summer of 2011.
- XIII. Notice of intent to propose not-recommended program. Kay Ingram, LWV Bellingham Whatcom County announced the intention of proposing the consideration of the not recommended program item entitled: Concurrence with the LWV Seattle Privatization Position.
- XIV. Nominating Committee Report: Judy Ostrow, for the Nominating Committee
 - a. Judy Ostrow, State Board, announced the slate of officers and directors for 2011-2013:
Co-President – Linnea Hirst – LWV Seattle
Co-President - Kim Abel - LWV Kitsap
VP – Pat Dickason - LWV Thurston County
Secretary – Brenda Hirschi - LWV Mason County
Treasurer – Gail Hiestand – LWV Kitsap County
Directors: Pam Behring – LWV Spokane Area; Sarah Crosby - LWV San Juan, Myra Howrey, LWV Kitsap County; Karen Kiessling - LWV Pullman, Judy Ostrow – LWV Seattle; Kathy Sakahara, LWV Seattle; Penney Van Vleet – LWV Clallam County,
Nominating Committee: Susan Eidenschink - LWV Tacoma-Pierce County
- XV. Bylaws Committee Report
 - a. Kim Abel, LWVWA Bylaws Committee, presented the proposed By-laws changes as printed on page 15 of the convention workbook. Kim also announced a change made to Article 3 of the Bylaws which was required by LWVUS. Life members are no longer stated to be 'honorary'. Questions for

clarification followed.

- XVI. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Gail Hiestand, LWWA Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report as of April 30, 2011. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed in detail. Income and expenses are on track with a healthy reserve balance. Most of the increased health in the finances of LWWA is due to increased support from the Education Fund.
- XVII. Budget Report
 - a. Gail Hiestand, LWWA Treasurer, reviewed the 2011-2013 budget for delegates. The budget is projected to be 8% less than 2009-2011.
- XVIII. Remarks by Marcia Merrins, LWWUS Board Member: Marcia made a statement for the LWWUS clarifying ads run by the LWWUS in Massachusetts and Missouri, which had caused concern by state and local leagues, because of the impression of partisanship and the lack of transparency in funding.
- XIX. Plenary session was adjourned at 2:45 PM. Workshops on various topics, such as League Basics, Lobbying, Program Planning, Voter Service, Coalitions, Writing Ballot Issue Positions, League Discussion Lists, Websites and Social Media, and Civil Discourse in Partisan Times were held.
- XX. Dinner speaker was Marcia Merrins. Local League awards were presented. 1. Citizen Award: Mason County LWV County Budget Study Committee for "engaging your community in dialogue around an issue of local concern." 2. Voter Award: Sue Lean, Thurston County League member for "enhancing voter participation." 3. Diversity Award: LWV of Tacoma-Pierce County for their three simultaneous candidate forums on Aging and Disability Issues, put on at three different locations in Pierce County, with first-time use of real-time captioning and American Sign Language interpreters.

Saturday May 21, 2011: President Linnea Hirst called the plenary session to order at 8:30 A.M.

- I. Credentials report: 56 delegates being present, and 16 local leagues in attendance, a quorum was declared.
- II. Presentation of recommended bylaws - Kim Abel, State Board
 - 1. Kim Abel described the bylaws changes, which had to do with 'meetings via email'. An RCW regarding non-profits made it imperative that we develop a bylaw defining such meetings. The LWWA Education Fund has already adopted this bylaw change. Bylaws changes were printed on page 15 of the convention workbook. Kim Abel stated that section 5.3 mimics the language of the applicable RCW but still needed clarification. She stated her intention of contacting the Secretary of State to get clarification of the language used in the applicable RCW or to get the law changed to make the language clearer.
 - 2. Two delegates, Michelle Valentine, LWV Snohomish County, and Clydia Cuykendall, LWV Thurston County, asked if our bylaws were in compliance with Sarbanes/Oxley. The answer was no. It was stated that perhaps LWWUS needed to be in compliance with Sarbanes/Oxley first, then followed by state and local leagues.
- III. Motion to consider not-recommended study item: **MSP** Kay Ingram, LWV Bellingham Whatcom County: "I move consideration of the not-recommended program item on page 25 of the workbook entitled 'Concurrence with LWV of Seattle Privatization position.'"
- IV. Following were speakers Mike Schwenk, VP, Batelle on "Science and Public Policy: Why They are Inseparable" and Kathy Hibbard, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory on "Climate Change and Humans: What is our Future?"
- V. At lunch, the Dorothy Roberts Award was presented to Elizabeth Davis, LWV Whidbey Island for her long service to both her local leagues and the state board. Jill Conrad, Tribal Affairs Program Manager, Department of Energy spoke on "Future of the Columbia River".
- VI. The next plenary session began at 1:30 pm. Credentials report: 44 delegates being present, and 16 local leagues in attendance, a quorum was declared.
- VII. Budget Discussion - Gail Hiestand, State Treasurer
 - 1. Gail Hiestand presented the proposed budget as amended. PMP would not be raised for the first year of the next biennium, but the state board was requesting permission to increase the PMP by \$1 in the second year of the biennium should it be deemed necessary. The proposed expense portion of the budget for 2011-2013 is 8% less than the current expense budget. PMPs are down because of decreased membership, revenues not as much because LWWA Education Fund is increasing its support; expenses are down to reflect actual experience and to match the expected revenues.
- VIII. Plenary session was adjourned at 2pm. Workshop on 'The League, Non-Partisanship and Elections in a New Era' was presented by Marcia Merrins, LWWUS Board of Directors. After that, workshops on various topics, such as Membership, Education Fund, Publicity, Fundraising and Moderator Training were held.

- IX. Dinner involved the Good In Government award presentations to: 1. Denise Rosenblum and Jacqueline Ives, two teachers in the Richland School District, who implemented the We The People Program and have run it for the past eight years. 2. Zona Lenhart, Franklin County Auditor. Following the GIG award presentations was a *We The People* presentation by students of Denise Rosenblum and Jacqueline Ives. After that, Lura Powell, Chair of the Washington State Redistricting Commission spoke on "Washington State Redistricting". The raffle of local league special items followed, raising \$1,083 for the state league.

Sunday May 22, 2011: President Linnea Hirst called the plenary session to order at 8:38 A.M.

- I. Credentials report: 60 delegates and 16 local leagues being present, a quorum was declared.
- II. Adopt Program:
- a. **MSP** Susan Eidenschink, State Board: The motion on the floor is "that the LWWWA Convention of 2011 re-adopt the current positions." Current program was adopted.
 - b. **MSP** Susan Eidenschink, State Board: The motion on the floor is "that the LWWWA Convention of 2011 adopt the proposed update on our 1977 Energy Position, EN-6." Recommended program was adopted.
 - c. Adopt Non-recommended program: **MS** Kay Ingram, LWV Bellingham Whatcom County "to adopt concurrence with LWV Seattle Privatization position that was voted for consideration yesterday."
 - d. **MSP** Amendment to main motion - Terri Baker, LWV Tacoma-Pierce County (Discussion ensued as to whether this amendment constituted a substantive change to the position. Linnea Hirst, LWWWA President ruled that it was not a substantive change).; **MSF** Amendment to main motion - Allison Feher, LWV Seattle, **MSP** Amendment to main motion - Joanna Cullen, LWV Seattle. Changes were incorporated into final motion which was passed by the convention. Below is the position adopted by concurrence:

Privatization

Core services, functions and assets critical to the well-being of the people, should remain with government and not be transferred to the private sector.

The following criteria should be the basis for decisions regarding whether government services, functions and assets should be transferred to the private for-profit sector:

Criteria: Does the proposed transfer

1. serve the public interest today as well as for future generations;
2. align with public health and safety concerns;
3. assure quality of life for residents in the region;
4. ensure adequate government control and oversight including performance audits;
5. include provisions for transparency, public involvement and competitive bidding; and
6. protect individuals from abuse.

Public agencies are required to make a documented finding of adequate return on investment for the public for any government contribution of funds or assets to the private sector. Periodic performance audits should be required and made public regarding whether stated public benefits were met.

Government employees and elected officials after leaving government service should be prohibited for two years from working for any private company for which they had oversight responsibilities or authority over awarding contracts.

- III. Adopt Bylaws: **MS** Kim Abel, State Board, to adopt the revision to the Bylaws as proposed on page 15 of the convention workbook.
- a. **MSP** Ann Murphy, LWV Spokane Area, to amend the proposed Bylaws, section 3.2 as follows:
Consent to Electronic Communications. Each Board Member shall at the start of his/her term provide consent to receive notifications and transmissions electronically and shall advise the president and other members of any e-mail address change. If a board member's e-mail..... (rest of the paragraph remains the same). **MSP** Kim Abel to approve the Bylaws as amended.
- IV. Adopt Budget: **MSP** Gail Hiestand, LWWWA Treasurer, "to adopt the proposed budget for 2011-2013 as printed on pages 16 & 17 of the convention workbook with the addition of permission to increase the per member payment by \$1 in the second year if the state board deems it necessary."
- V. Nominating Committee Report: Judy Ostrow, State Board for the Nominating Committee, **MSP** election

of the officers and directors as printed on page 11 of the Convention Workbook. Kathy Sakahara, LWV Seattle, **MSP** election of Susan Eidenschink to the 2011- 2013 Nominating Committee.

After a short break, the session was called back to order at 9:39am.

VI. Resolutions

1. The Resolutions Committee report was presented by Ann Murphy, LWV Spokane Area Chair. Other committee members were Jayne Freudenberger, LWV Bellingham Whatcom County and Kathy Sakahara, LWV Seattle. There were two resolutions to be presented to the convention delegates. **MSP** Joanne Camp, LWV Seattle, to reverse the order of the resolutions.
2. Resolution 1: **MSP** Toni Potter, LWV Seattle.

Whereas, Our democracy is in peril. The Citizen's United decision of the US Supreme Court said that corporations have the same rights as natural persons to free speech, including political speech. This allows corporate entities to spend unlimited amounts to influence election outcome and lawmaking.

Whereas, The LWV of US has made it clear that the League's position is to change this.

Therefore be it resolved the President of the LWV of WA appoint a committee to gather supplemental material particularly as it applies to WA state to send to all local Leagues along with suggestions about how to disseminate this information beyond League members to the general public.

3. Resolution 2: **MS** Catherine Ahl, LWV Kitsap County

WHEREAS, ARTICLE II, SECTION 1 OF THE LWV BYLAWS STATES: "The purposes of the LWV are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues," and

WHEREAS, ARTICLE II, SECTION 2 OF THE LWV BYLAWS STATES: "The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate," and state and local leagues use this to establish our credibility in sponsoring candidate forums; and

WHEREAS, The LWV has long championed Campaign Finance Reform and deplored the recent Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court, and yet LWVUS did not promptly divulge the true source of over a million dollars in funding to pay for these ads, thus opening up the League to criticism; and

WHEREAS, the League of Women Voters has always been known as a grassroots organization, and yet LWVUS did not consult with local Leagues in Missouri and Massachusetts before running the ads so that local spokespersons would be aware and ready to respond to questions; and

WHEREAS, delegates to the 2010 national LWV convention did not vote to change or repeal Article II, Section 1 or 2 of the Bylaws, nor change the long-standing tradition of the League of Women Voters to take action on our positions not personalities, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON AS FOLLOWS: We request that the LWVUS adhere to the high principles of our 91-year history, to continue to be strong and visible in advocating for our positions, but to refrain from running negative public ads targeting individuals.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LWVWA requests an apology from the national board for authorizing these negative ads, and further, that an investigation be conducted to determine the timeline of events, the key players, actions taken, as well as lessons learned, and to produce a procedure to ensure that advertisements such as this will not in the future be sponsored under the name of League of Women Voters.
Submitted by delegates from Kitsap, King County South, Pullman, Seattle and many other local leagues

Point of order about discussing ad we haven't seen

Point of order re: viewing ad now using computer access

MSF Kati _____, LWV Seattle, Amendment: something about holding elected officials accountable.

MSP Ellen Barton, LWV Seattle, Amendment: remove phrase in bullet 5 "or repeal Article II, Section 1 or 2 of the Bylaws, nor"

MS Terri Baker, LWV Tacoma-Pierce County, Amendment: remove entire final paragraph requesting apology from national board

MSF Amendment to amendment: strike only the phrase about the apology so the investigation request remains
MSP Original amendment to remove entire paragraph
MSP Kim Abel, State Board, Amendment to remove 4th paragraph regarding LWVUS not consulting with Leagues in Missouri and Massachusetts
MS Elaine Smith, LWV Yakima, Amendment to remove "but to refrain from running negative public ads targeting individuals" in 6th paragraph.
MS Mary Ehlers, LWV King County South withdrawn Amendment to Amendment
MSF vote on above Amendment by Elaine Smith
MSP to close debate
MSP return to main motion, following division. (30-25).

Final Resolution as passed by delegates:

WHEREAS, ARTICLE II, SECTION 1 OF THE LWV BYLAWS STATES: "The purposes of the LWV are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues," and

WHEREAS, ARTICLE II, SECTION 2 OF THE LWV BYLAWS STATES: "The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate," and state and local leagues use this to establish our credibility in sponsoring candidate forums; and

WHEREAS, The LWV has long championed Campaign Finance Reform and deplored the recent Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court, and yet LWVUS did not promptly divulge the true source of over a million dollars in funding to pay for these ads, thus opening up the League to criticism; and

WHEREAS, delegates to the 2010 national LWV convention did not change the long-standing tradition of the League of Women Voters to take action on our positions not personalities, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WASHINGTON AS FOLLOWS: We request that the LWVUS adhere to the high principles of our 91-year history, to continue to be strong and visible in advocating for our positions, but to refrain from running negative public ads targeting individuals.

Submitted by delegates from Kitsap, King County South, Pullman, Seattle and other local leagues

VII. Direction to the Board

1. Toni Potter, LWV Seattle. Please consider combining office rental costs with Seattle league when the state league office lease expires in 2013.
2. Catherine Ahl, LWV Kitsap County:

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VIII. Invitation to Council 2010 and Convention 2011

- a. A delegation from LWV Pullman invited delegates to attend State Council in Pullman in 2012.
- b. Several local leagues are discussing the possibility of hosting State Convention 2013.

VI. Acknowledgements, Final Announcements and Concluding Remarks:

- a. President Linnea Hirst made concluding remarks, including many thanks to LWV Benton Franklin Counties for hosting a very successful convention. Final Announcements were made.

Convention 2011 adjourned at 11:45 AM.