LWVOR Convention Minutes
May 18 & 19, 2019
Ashland Springs Hotel
Hosted by LWV of Rogue Valley

Business Session 1— May 18, 2019

Norman Turrill called to order Business Session I at 9 a.m. After the flag salute, Norman acknowledged our awareness that we are meeting on the ancestral lands of the Shasta and Tlkoma Indians.

Greetings:  Norman then introduced John Stromberg, Mayor of Ashland, who commented on the importance of humor when working on difficult projects, such as budgeting for the city. He said honesty and objectivity in public discourse are critical to democracy. Citizens should learn how their government works and become aware of our interdependence; it takes everyone working together with kindness and a sense of togetherness.

Introductions:  Norman introduced the Board of Directors and other state LWV leaders and recognized the local arrangements committee members.

Roll Call of Local Leagues:  Delegations in attendance from the local Leagues were recognized.

Committee Appointments:  Norman made the following appointments:
  - Secretary—Sally Hollemon
  - Parliamentarian—Alice Bartelt
  - Credentials Committee—Barbara Klein
  - Minutes review—Toni Lampkin, Kathleen Hersh, and Sally Hollemon (ex officio)
  - Elections Committee—Vanya Sloan, Kate Culbertson, Kathleen Hersh
  - Resolutions Review Committee—Alice Bartelt, chair, Rick Bennet, and Paula Krane
  - Timekeeper—Amanda Crittenden

Credentials:  Barbara Klein reported:
  - 36 delegates and 9 LWVOR directors are present for a voting strength of 45.
  - There is a total of 57 League members in attendance, representing 13 local Leagues.
  - 22 delegates and 6 Leagues represent a quorum.  A quorum is present.
  - 23 delegates constitute a majority.
  - 31 delegates constitute a 2/3 majority.

Convention Rules:  Lucie LaBonte moved adoption of the convention rules; no second required; the rules were adopted.

Order of Business:  The Order of Business was amended to put the Committee Appointments before the Credentials Report.  Paula Krane moved to adopt the Order of Business as amended; no second required; the Order of Business was approved.

Minutes of Council 2018:  Sally Hollemon said the minutes of the 2018 Council were reviewed after that meeting.  There were no questions.
President's Report: Norman reviewed the accomplishments of LWVOR during his four years as president. Highlights were:

*Administration*—The state League was converted to a 501(c)(3) organization and helped several local Leagues do the same. The League made more use of electronics, such as holding board meetings electronically and purchasing new computer equipment. Staff was expanded from one to three and their wages raised so they could afford to buy health insurance.

*Voter Service*—VOTE411 was expanded to include all offices in the state. Spanish Voters Guides were expanded and some were used in Spanish literacy classes. Contact information was put online for 7100 elected officials in the state, and there are efforts to get the State to continue the project.

*Development*—We applied for and received substantial grants and also received some bequests, so we now have several hundred thousand dollars invested.

*Membership*—We added three state units and gained many new members, the latter helped by the 2016 presidential election.

*Action*—The committee was expanded to over 20 members. The *Legislative Report* comes out every week during the session. The League has formal and informal members on several state task forces. A successful Redistricting educational campaign was completed.

*Final words*: When we get new members, find out what they want to do (not what we want them to do). Be visible in our communities and don’t be afraid to be a bit controversial, which attracts attention. Continue making democracy work in Oregon.

Treasurer's Report: Ruth Kistler said our League is in good financial condition. Our net worth has increased since last year. Our restricted funds have decreased, which gives us more money to spend as we want. An Investment Committee was formed to invest funds at higher interest rates than on a savings account; we can access those funds whenever we need to. However, we can use only the income from the Annabel Kitzhaber Fund.

Budget Proposal: Rick Bennett moved adoption of the 2019-2020 proposed budget; no second needed. The proposed budget is a conservative under-estimate of the income that may come in and an over-estimate of the expenses for the next year. He emphasized that a budget is a plan that can be changed when needed. The committee is uncertain of the effects of the new federal tax law; contributions and grants may be less next year than would have been expected under the prior law. The committee is moving to a new donor software system to integrate contributions with other financial information.

Budget Class 623—100th Anniversary—$30,000—is large because it includes the celebratory luncheon in March 2020 as well as $3400 for half the cost of a professionally produced video to be used for a variety of purposes at the state and local levels as well as a total of $5000 to assist local Leagues with outreach.

Comment about PMP: Lucie LaBonte said that local League dues mostly go to state and national PMP leaving little for a small local League to use for its projects; she suggested reducing PMP by $5. Rick said that his local League has converted to 503(c)(3), which they hope will help bring in more contributions. Norman added that a motion to reduce PMP may be made at tomorrow's business meeting.

Proposed Program: In the absence of Karan Kuntz, Alice Bartelt presented the proposed program. Alice moved adoption of the proposed program as stated in the Workbook on Pages 22-23; no second is required.

*Cybersecurity and Privacy Today* would be a one-year study. Rick Bennett said that issues related to privacy and cybersecurity are growing exponentially. We have no positions on this topic to
use in advocating on these issues, except related to reproductive health. The University of Oregon has a Center on Cyber Security that the committee can use in this study. Mary Sinclair and Rick will develop a scope and then look for who would be best to work on the study committee. Becky Gladstone added that election security is a big issue. There are many people interested in working on the study, not all of whom are League members. Norman said the position statement will be written so it can be taken to the 2020 LWVUS Convention for a national concurrence.

*Pesticides and other biocides in Oregon* would be a two-year study. There is insufficient regulation of pesticides and their uses in Oregon. Amelia Nestler said the study committee includes at least three volunteers. The committee will develop a scope.

**Bylaws:** Alice Bartelt moved to amend Article 5, Section 4, by adding “and manner of” after “place.”

The sentence will then read: “Members of the LWVOR Board shall be notified of the time, place and manner of special meetings…”

The purpose is to clarify that some meetings are conducted electronically.

Alice moved to amend Article VII, Section 2a, to reword to “Local Leagues shall annually assume financial responsibility for the work of the LWVOR as a whole.”

Lucie LaBonte explained that means that local Leagues may make changes to the LWVOR budget and approve the budget at convention.

Alice moved to amend Article 10, Section 1, to strike “as a minimum” from the second sentence to make the number of members of the Nominating Committee correct.

The purpose is to clarify that the Nominating Committee consists of a minimum of five members with two coming from the LWVOR Board, so no more than three people may be elected to that committee to remain within the total five members.

**Nominations:** Diana Bodtker pointed out that the report of the Nominating Committee has one vacancy (secretary) as the person who had originally agreed to serve in that position withdrew.

Becky Gladstone nominated Kate Culbertson (Ashland) and Amelia Nestler (Washington County) to share the office of Secretary; seconded.

**Action Committee:** Alice Bartelt gave an overview of what has happened at the Legislature, including passage of the bill to fund education. Claudia Keith, Climate Change Coordinator, discussed several bills. Shirley Weathers said Jordan Cove is a regulatory issue; there are a couple of state regulations and some local land-use regulations that could stop the project. Marge Easley reported the National Popular Vote (NPV) has passed the Senate and is expected to pass the House. Barbara Klein is following the national progress of NPV, and if all the states currently with NPV before their legislatures approve it, the total could be in the range of 220 electoral votes. Marge Easley said one gun bill will pass to remove guns from domestic abusers and the safe-storage bill is still alive; the other gun-safety bills were cut in a back-room agreement to get a quorum to pass the education funding bill. Becky Gladstone said a bill to honor the work of Kappy Eaton passed. A bill to require initiatives to include a funding source looks promising. Becky made a pitch for people to help on the Action Committee in the areas of their interest.

Norman said the Governor has decided that campaign finance bills should be passed. One is to change the constitution to allow contribution limits. Other bills are statutory to set dollar limits on contributions, etc.; see the Legislative Report for details.

The first business session ended at 11:45 a.m.
After lunch: Past Presidents and Board Members of 2008-2009 were honored. Michelle Maher, Ph.D, U.S.Census Bureau Partnership Specialist, spoke about the importance of everyone participating in the 2020 Census. She pointed out that census information is private for 72 years before it is made available for genealogy research.

Peter Buckley, former Oregon House representative from Jackson County, talked about his years as co-chair of the Ways & Means Committee during and after the Recession of 2008. Oregon has had a structural deficit for decades; PERS is part of that. But the Oregon legislature is starting to look upstream, such as by funding early childhood education. The legislature is also beginning to base decisions on science, such as considering brain development in young people to increase funding for educational projects at the Oregon Youth Authority.

Afternoon Workshops: Two whole-group workshops were held.

Local League Sharing & Ideas Exchange—Jackie Clary led the first workshop in which local League leaders told what had been successful in their Leagues this year, what had not been successful, and how the state League could be helpful to them.

Redistricting Action Workshop—Candalynn Johnson, LWVOR Redistricting Specialist, and Norman Turrill, LWVOR President, explained the project to change the Oregon Constitution’s requirement that the legislature redistrict after a census to a requirement that an independent commission draw the redistricting maps.

Evening: At the banquet Robin Nordli presented “Virgins to Villains: My Journey with Shakespeare’s Women” in which she depicted Margaret of Aquitaine, who appears in four of Shakespeare’s history plays.

Robin Wisdom and Paula Krane, wearing “Votes for Women” sashes, invited everyone to celebrate the League’s 100th anniversary at a luncheon in Salem on Saturday, March 7, 2020.

Mony Flores-Bauer of the LWVUS Nominating Committee urged League members to nominate themselves or someone else to the LWVUS Board. The LWVUS Nominating Committee is looking for candidates who are committed to the League’s mission and have experience in executive leadership, business, government, philanthropy or nonprofit work.

Dominick DellaSala of the Geos Institute in Ashland spoke on “It’s the Climate, and Its Changing: So What Can We Do About It?” He said that instead of “climate change” he now says “climate chaos,” which shows how serious the issue is because the climate is changing at an unprecedented rate and scale. A recent report says we have about 10 years left to stop the increase of CO₂ in the atmosphere. To do that we must leave mature trees in the forests, “harden” our homes and yards to prevent the spread of fire, pass a strong Clean Energy Jobs bill, work with various justice movements. Before the 2020 election we should ask candidates: Do you believe in climate change? What is your vision for a safe climate? How would you achieve that vision if elected?

Business Session 2—May 19, 2019

Norman Turrill called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m..

Credentials Report: Barbara Klein reported:

37 delegates and 9 LWVOR directors are present for a voting strength of 46.
53 League members are in attendance representing 13 local Leagues.
22 delegates and 6 Leagues represent a quorum. A quorum is present.
23 delegates constitute a majority.
31 delegates constitute a 2/3 majority.
39 delegates constitute a 3/5 majority.

The credentials report was approved.
Bylaws Changes: A 2/3 vote was required for approval.
   Article 5, Section 4, amend by adding “and manner of” after “place.” The motion carried.
   Article 7, Section 2A, reword to “Local Leagues shall annually assume financial responsibility for the work of the LWVOR as a whole.” The motion carried.
   Article 10, Section 1, strike “as a minimum” from the second sentence to make the number of members of the Nominating Committee correct.
   Amended motion: Libby Medley moved that the first two sentences read: “The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the LWVOR Board of Directors. The chair and two members who are not members of the LWVOR Board shall be elected by the convention and serve for a two-year term.” Seconded. The amended motion failed.

There was considerable debate on the meaning of the main motion, including whether the meaning is that the committee must consist of only five members, in which case the first sentence (The Nominating Committee shall consist of a minimum of five members…) should be changed.
   Amelia Nester moved that the issue be referred to the Bylaws Committee to bring a clarified Section 1 to the next Convention; seconded; the motion passed.

Program: The motion to adopt the two proposed studies passed. The two studies will be:
   ○ Cybersecurity and Privacy Today
   ○ Pesticides and other biocides in Oregon and their impact on workers, communities, and the environment

Budget: Rick Bennett moved to amend the budget on Page 26: Under Earned Revenue 5810 add a new line item “Special Event—100th Anniversary” with a proposed budget amount of $15,000; seconded; the motion passed.
   Lucie LaBonte moved to amend the budget: Lower the LWVOR PMP by $5; seconded.
Lucie explained that a lower PMP would give small local Leagues a cushion in case the national League raises its PMP at its convention next spring. She added that reducing dues in her local League by $5 could help attract a more diverse membership. Budget Chair Rick Bennett said a $5 reduction in PMP would reduce the LWVOR revenue by a little less than $5000 per year. In answer to a question it was stated that Local League dues are separate from PMP, so reducing PMP does not need to affect local dues. Amelia Nester suggested that how to attract a diverse membership is a larger issue than $5 in PMP and needs discussion. Rick Bennett suggested contributions to their local Leagues can help provide the additional funds needed above the amount of dues the local Leagues keep. Robin Wisdom suggested a local League could offer a dues category of half the regular dues and that additional fundraising can be done in local Leagues. A 3/5 vote is required to change the budget. The motion failed.
   A motion to close debate passed. The amended budget was approved.

Resolutions: The following are guidance to the state Board:
   LWVOR Climate Emergency Resolution—Be it resolved that we as delegates of Oregon local Leagues assembled at the 2019 LWVOR Convention call upon the LWVOR Board, Action Committee and local Leagues to advocate for consideration of “Climate Emergency Declarations” for the state and all county and local municipalities (governments).
   The resolution was adopted.
LWVOR Health Care Resolution—Be it resolved, as delegates assembled at the 2019 LWVOR Convention, we call upon the LWVOR Board to advocate strongly and to support legislation so that Oregon can explore and advance universal health care coverage options for all Oregonians.

The resolution was adopted.

Election of Officers and Directors: The following were elected for 2-year terms ending in 2021:

- President Becky Gladstone
- 1st Vice President Sally McKain
- Co-secretaries Kate Culbertson and Amelia Nestler
- Director Sheila McGinnis
- Director Kathleen Hersh
- Nominating Committee:
  - Norman Turrill, Chair
  - Jane Gigler
  - Sally Hollemon

They were presented to the convention for a group photo.

Remarks of Incoming President: Becky Gladstone thanked Norman for his service as president and praised his leadership. She presented him with a plaque from the LWVOR Board.

Becky said that teamwork will be the hallmark of the next year in the League. We want to motivate informed voters. To extend motor-voter, we need to push for filer-voter—register taxpayers as voters. The LWVOR Board will address the suggestions made at this convention. We need to count on each other for help, mentor new members, be tolerant of changes. We must take care of each other and ourselves, focus on our goals, and march forward.

Thank the Outgoing Board: Norman gave each of the current board members a jar of Oregon preserves.

Guidance to the Board:

Connie Page: In light of the recent passage in several states of extreme legislation restricting a woman’s right to abortion, I request that the LWVOR Board restate, reaffirm and publicize our position on reproductive rights in Oregon.

Janet Calvert: I encourage the Board to find a special way to deal with PMP for small local Leagues.

Marge Easley: In light of our goal for membership diversity, I ask the LWVOR Board to consider establishing a membership grant program, funded by a separate LWVOR donation category on our fundraising materials, to help local Leagues in their member recruitment efforts.

Margaret Noel: I request (1) Training in Development for all local Leagues, including how to write fundraising letters, how to approach/solicit funds from potential large donors and businesses and how to apply for grants. (2) A process whereby local Leagues can apply for a reduction on their state PMP amount for a limited amount of time.

Paula Krane: Re-evaluate what material is sent only electronically in order to ensure that more members receive the mailings. [The background on this is that some members have said they haven’t received the Legislative Report or other communications, although these were emailed to them.]

Paula Krane: I challenge the membership to participate in 100th Anniversary activities/parties at the local level, starting with a proclamation from your local government body, and to encourage League members, friends and families to come to the state 100th Anniversary Gala on March 7, 2020.
Linda Lynch: Thank you to the Action Team for your work at the state Capitol and for the weekly Legislative Report.

Marian McNamara: I thank the local convention hosts for all their work to make this a successful convention.

Marian McNamara: LWVOR Board (1) Please offer to all Leagues some basic tools that will help them avoid having to “reinvent the wheel” for all aspects of their League activities. Examples would be a basic web template that can be modified by individual Leagues; dissemination of a model “Chart of Accounts” for Leagues setting up Quickbooks using Google Suite; a guide to running candidate forums, annual meetings, etc. (2) Put more emphasis on using Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in all aspects of our programs and action.

Debbie Kaye: Consider making the Fall Workshop a little longer to provide trainings.

Jenny Carloni: In light of our Climate Emergency Resolution and in keeping with the LWV national position on carbon reduction and transitioning away from fossil fuels, I ask LWVOR to encourage all Oregon local Leagues to work in coalition with other groups to oppose the Jordan Cove and LNG pipeline projects.

Silent Auction Winners were announced.

Announcements:

Lincoln County LWV members Ruth and Jack Kistler invited League members to Council 2020 at the beach in Newport.

Norman adjourned the convention at 11:25 a.m.

Sally Hollemon,
Secretary