



The Anchorage VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE
PO Box 101345
ANCHORAGE, AK 99510-1345
907-274-8477

CAROL DICKASON, PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL! I hope your holiday season was a happy one, one without much disruption due to our strange weather! I was out of state for our big 50th anniversary celebration; I understand it was a fun, but "chilly" time.

Holiday Function: Thanks to *Barbara Norrell* for once again hosting our annual holiday function. This year we collected items (including a ping pong table) and gift cards for the residents of McCauley Manor (girls) and Charlie Elder House (boys), two facilities which provide a home for young people for whom living in their own homes is not an option. Benita Stepp (Mrs. "B"), parent coach at Charlie Elder House, spoke to us about these two programs.

Program Planning: We are heading into the time for your local League program planning, which will be done differently this year. Over the past years, we've come to realize that the old traditional manner of selecting our local League program simply doesn't work. So we are going to try something new: a computer survey which Board members **Heather Ireland and Diane Mathisen** are designing. Materials will be sent to you in February, with a return deadline of March 1. (Hard copies will be sent to those for whom we do not have

email addresses.) Do not hesitate, however, to send us your suggestions and comments for program separately if you are unable to address them through the survey. Your input is very important and we hope you'll take the short time necessary to let the Board know where you want your League to go this coming year.

National Popular Vote Compact Study: On March 26 we'll hold a general meeting to come to consensus on the National Popular Vote Compact Study, which was adopted at Convention in June 2008, to consider the advisability of using the National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact among the states as a method for electing the U.S. President. Materials will be sent to you in early March. In the meantime, should you care to learn more about this issue, there is quite a bit of information on the web at www.lwv.org/NPV. If you would like to work on this short-time project, please contact Wilda Hudson at 272-0366 or wildahudson@acsalaska.net.

Annual Meeting: Mark your calendar! On April 28, we'll hold our Annual Meeting at which we'll select our local program, adopt a budget for the coming year, elect officers and take care of any other necessary business. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact me at 278-6343 or

caroldickason@gci.net. Plan to join us at the Annual Meeting. We'll also hear from the Youth Vote '08 student leaders.

Youth Vote '08: The final report is attached (as a separate document). Once again we had a successful Youth Vote under project director Tiffany Ryan's guidance, some very enthusiastic student leaders and considerable support from the Anchorage School District. There were new challenges with races not being decided for weeks after the election and other uncertainties. Financially we met our goal with a major contribution from Kaladi Brothers Coffee; we are very grateful to each and every one of you who contributed to this exciting project.

Martin Luther King Day - 50 bikes/50 kids: Thanks to **Diane Mathisen, Shirley Pittz, Barbara Norrell** and **Gene Dickason** for their volunteer efforts in putting together one of the bikes given to a young lady from Government Hill. This program is a partnership of the Anchorage Parks Foundation and the Muni's Parks & Recreation Department to give disadvantaged youth their first bicycle.

COMING TO YOUR LEAGUE – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **February 15-March 1:** Program Planning computer survey
- **February 14:** LWV of the US's 89th birthday! Try to see "Iron-Jawed Angels" which portrays the struggle for women's suffrage. (After viewing this movie, I wondered if I would have had the strength and commitment to do what these brave women did!)
- **March 26:** National Popular Vote Compact Study consensus @ BP Energy Center – 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- **April 3-5** – LWV of Alaska Convention in Fairbanks
- **April 28** – LWV of Anchorage's Annual Meeting @ BP Energy Center – 6:00-8:30 p.m.

LWVUS STUDY: NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT

At the LWVUS Convention this past June, delegates adopted a fast-track study of the National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact among the states as a method for selecting the U.S. President. The current League position supports abolishment of the Electoral College and the direct popular vote method for electing the president, which would require a constitutional amendment that has proved difficult to achieve. (See Impact on Issues at www.lwv.org.)

Under the NPV Compact (see www.lwv.org/NPV) all of the electoral votes of each member state would go to the presidential candidate receiving the most popular vote in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. This interstate compact would not go into effect until enough states have joined to guarantee the 270 electoral votes required to elect a president.

This plan was originally proposed following the controversial 200 presidential elections. To date, it has been adopted in four states: Maryland, New Jersey, Illinois and Hawaii. Legislation has passed one of more chambers in another 9 states.

As information from the study committee becomes available, we will pass it on to our members. A meeting is planned for March 26 to discuss the issue and possibly reach a consensus among our members. The deadline for submitting consensus forms will be May 1, 2009.

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Contact us at 907-274-8477
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