

THE VOTER

A newsletter for **LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF IDAHO

LWVID
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Winter 2021

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From the President:

I hope this finds our members, their families, and friends healthy. And sincerest sympathy to those who have not only lost folks to COVID, but to those who have encountered hardships due to the pandemic. We hold hope in our New Year.

The year 2020 began with visions of gathering to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment and 100 years of the League of Women Voters. Before we got going too strong, a global pandemic resulted in challenges of how to orchestrate the plans that were made. Our "in-person" events turned into "virtual" ones. There were several events that occurred, but many that were canceled, too.

LWVID 2020 Council changed from what was going to be an exciting event hosted by The Greater Boise Area MAL Unit to an online meeting. The LWVID 2021 Convention will be an online event and specific information will be available soon.

One thing to note about Convention is the election of new board members. The positions which expire this spring are president, vice president, secretary, and a director. It will mark the end of a second term as your president. It is time for new blood. I hope when the nominating committee knocks at your door you will respond. As always with League, you are surrounded with informed, engaged individuals. But serving on the state board, you are meeting with those individuals from around the state. By having a member from each of our local Leagues on the board we can best have the communication we need to be successful. I urge all of you to consider serving on your state board.

Our 2020 Council was held a few months late because of the confusion of the pandemic. However, we did power through. Elected to the board were Elinor Chehey, GBA Mal Unit, as treasurer; and directors Jessica Mahuron, LWV KC, and Pam Ward, LWV P.

LWVID Board of Directors

Term: 2019-2021

Susan Ripley, President

Betsy McBride, Vice President

Jamar Brown, Secretary

Judy Edwards, Director

Term: 2020-2022

Elinor Chehey, Treasurer

Jessica Mahuron, Director

Pam Ward, Director

From the President: continued

There was a bylaw change to have a two-year budget voted on at Convention. Be sure and read the “Off the Record” report from Council. You will believe you were in attendance. See pages 13 -16.

The past year has been remarkably busy in many ways. Since everyone discovered the ease of online meeting, there have been many of them. I have been meeting with different LWVUS staff and members regularly. The new president, Dr. Deborah Turner, has been sending out her regular updates. If you are not receiving them, sign up for them at [LWVUS updates](#) by clicking the box that says, “Sign up for the League update”. I hope that most of you have been receiving the updates.

Also, LWVUS has been having many webinar opportunities. They are free and a great way to learn. Check the upcoming webinar and register at [Monthly webinar](#) The next webinar is Jan. 21 and the topic is: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

A huge undertaking by LWVID the past year has been the participation in Vote411.org. For the 2020 election. The League paid to include all U.S. Congress, state legislator, and county commissioner, sheriff, and prosecuting attorney candidates on the site. It was a lot of work, but I enjoyed the project. See the report on page 9 from Elinor Chehey.

In the weeks leading up to the election, LWVID was featured in radio, TV, and new service stories. This was good exposure for our League and an opportunity to promote VOTE411.org

Another task was the first year of our participation in People Powered Fair Maps. (See the report for redistricting on page 12.) The first year included the Census. LWVID had op-ed pieces published along with many letters to the editor supporting the Census.

A team of members of LWVID are working with LWVUS and other League members through-out the county on the topic of climate change.

If you are interested in working with any of our League efforts, (climate change, redistricting, 2022 Vote411 or any other areas) please contact me.

In December, LWVUS was invited to join Hecox v. Little, a lawsuit against the transgender bill passed by the Idaho Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Brad Little. The bill, also known as the Fairness in Women’s Sports Act, would not permit athletes to participate on a women’s team without first verifying that person’s “internal and external reproductive anatomy” if her sex is disputed.

“This is an egregious example of sex discrimination that has the potential to create unacceptable and possibly permanent harm and trauma for women and children who wish to participate in athletic programs,” said Dr. Deborah Turner, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States and a practicing gynecologist for more than 35 years. “Gender testing has long been used to attack Black and Brown female athletes, and this law follows that appalling practice, which will disproportionately target women and girls of color. The League is horrified and ashamed that in our country, this invasion of privacy known to have lasting negative mental and physical impacts on individuals could become the law.”

The law was challenged by Lindsay Hecox, a transgender cross-country athlete at Boise State University. The second plaintiff in the case is a 17-year-old cisgender athlete, unnamed in the lawsuit because she is a minor.

This case highlights the importance of protecting women, girls, and nonbinary individuals in sports and we implore the court to support the targeted athletes. The Idaho League’s

From the President: continued

membership is politically and ideologically diverse, but we are unified in understanding the importance of pushing back on this invasive rule that will have ramifications for years to come for those subject to it.

The League is dedicated to ensuring equal rights and equal opportunity for all. LWVID supports the LWVUS action. You can read the press release at <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/lwvus-joins-lawsuit-protect-transgender-women-sports>

The 2021 Legislative session begins Jan. 11. While I do not have an advocacy chair, we have members who are watching potential legislation. While you are watching the Legislature, please feel free to share with me any of your thoughts.

There is so much information in this newsletter I hope you will take the time to read it. For the small number of members our League has, the output is enormous.

Thank you to everyone for all your work. Without you, where would we be.

In League,
Susan Ripley
lwvid1944@gmail.com

Nominating Committee

Seeking a few good Leaguers

The LWVID has four board positions open for 2021-2023 biennium: president, vice president, secretary and one director. The LWVID Nominating Committee is tasked with finding and nominating the best Leaguers to fill those vital positions. And we are looking to you for help.

Board membership is a great opportunity for local members to become involved with League at the state level. The LWV Idaho Board is a dynamic, fun group of people doing stimulating work. The board meets three times a year and communicate as needed. They set the direction for the LWVID Program and support local Leagues. They work on voter services such as VOTE411, state candidate debates, and advocate for issues based on League positions.

As always, we look for and appreciate the energy and perspectives new people bring to the League's leadership. Recent boards have added a wealth of ideas and experience to the growth of the state organization.

We hope some of you, as local League members, have a strong desire to assume a leadership role on the state board. If you are ready for a new challenge, please contact one of us soon.

Position descriptions and the LWVID nonpartisan policy are available from local League leaders or from the Nominating Committee members.

Murf Raquet, Moscow (Chair), 208-882-2914, murf822@gmail.com

Maxine Miller, L-C Valley, maxinemilleraud@gmail.com

Judy Edwards, LWVID Board Member, Kootenai County, judyedwards1941@gmail.com

News from the Local Leagues



The LWVP had so much to report for the spring edition of The Voter 2020. 2019 had been an active, successful, exciting year. We hit the ground running in 2020 and held some amazing events - until the lights went out. There we were, like everyone else, trying to figure out what had just happened and then it kept happening. It was disheartening to not be in the usual places doing what we do best. We made some judgment calls that I realize left some of our members feeling disappointed. I felt that safety was our priority.

A highlight of the year was that we were the recipients of no less than three proclamations.

The first proclamation was read by Mayor Blad proclaiming Feb. 14, 2020, as "League of Women Voters Day" in the city of Pocatello.

On March 14, we held a Ring the Bell ceremony in partnership with the city and the AAUW where the second proclamation from Blad was read by Councilmember Heidi Adamson honoring "Idaho Women 100".

A third proclamation was read outside of City Hall by the mayor declaring Aug. 26, 2020, as "Women's Equality Day".



LWVP Proclamation



The LWVP was not be able to properly honor her notoriousness, the incomparable Honorable RBG - but that event will happen.

We did work through the election process as best as we could. I was fortunate to work with some new organizations trying to provide voter services for those people who need assistance. This is something that we are going to expand in the future.

We are hosting two virtual Idaho District 28 and 29 forums in January: "A Preview to the 2021 Idaho Legislature". This was organized by our Superhero Action Task Force. These exceptional members have some seriously mad skills.

I really want to thank everyone who was involved in all our voter services, advocacy work, civic events, as well as our commemorative and celebratory events.

We will continue to work toward developing new solutions to the challenges we face. I am ready for a reboot.

2020 was going to be our year. In one respect, it was our year because we stayed unified.

Go Team Pocatello. You have my heartfelt admiration and appreciation.

~Jamar Brown, President LWVP



News from the Local Leagues



LWV Greater Boise Area 2020

2020 certainly challenged us all to find new ways to engage and be of service. In March, we attended the Boise State University Andrus Center's Young Women in Leadership Conference, and in mid-March we were able to attend the Idaho Women's Day proclamation and Ringing of the Bell Ceremony with Idaho Women 100. By April 2020, LWV Greater Boise Area had pivoted to online monthly meetings. While it looked differently, we still managed to meet every month via Zoom. Keeping our schedule in a new way, allowed us to continue finding ways to serve the people in our community.

We partnered with the Boise State University football team for a team voter registration drive. We were able to attend a couple virtual conferences, the Boise State University Andrus Center Women in Leadership conference, went virtual and we went with them. The city of Boise held its annual housing summit virtually and we were able to attend that as well. While new citizenship ceremonies were closed to the public, we delivered forms. We sent Kendal back into the Idaho Debates for the primary and general election. She was instrumental in keeping the LWVID at the forefront of that effort. We were front and center for the primary races for Vote411.org and when the general election came, we were there ready to lend our hands, phones and minds to completing that voter guide for the whole state of Idaho. For the general election we held a county commissioner forum via Zoom, that forum reached over 150 viewers. We also were able to hand out "I voted" stickers at a few local ballot drop boxes and Kendal worked with the city of Boise to register voters and hand out stickers at city hall for the general election.

Just last week, our Elinor Chehey was honored with the Stimpson Award for Civic Engagement. You can watch that tribute here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFjVKr3JBv8>

This year we lost our Facebook account, but really stepped up our Twitter account and joined Instagram.

You can follow us here: <https://twitter.com/LWVGreaterBoise>

<https://www.instagram.com/lwvgreaterboise/>

While it looked different this year, we were able to make a difference throughout the state. We will be back in January 2021.

(Photos on page 6)

~Crystal Callahan, chair



News from the Local Leagues



Greater Boise Area MAL Unit Continued:



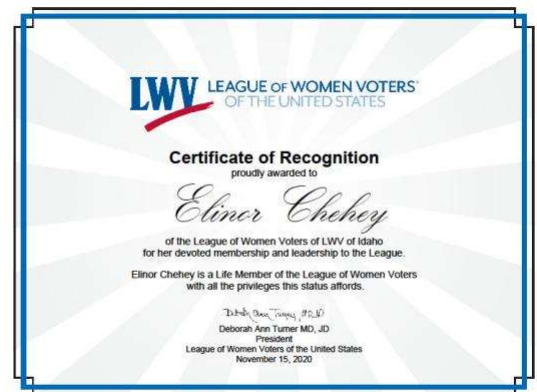
Football player Donte Harrington was the lead giving his time in this voter registration drive.



Kendal Shaber working with the football players.

LWVID Member Honored twice

Elinor Chehey is the newest member of LWVID to become a “Lifetime Member”. She joins six other members. Lifetime membership is achieved after being a member for 50 years. With that membership status, there are no dues. Congratulations Elinor. But more important is what she has done for defending democracy in Idaho. Elinor is a pioneer in the debates, education funding, redistricting and more. Her achievements have not gone unnoticed by her community. You many have noticed the Dottie and Ed Stimpson Award that she recently received and has been mentioned several times throughout the newsletter. As with all local Leagues, there are the continually active times and the lapses of membership. Elinor held tight to League during the lean times working as a force of one. Thank you, Elinor, for all you have done for Idaho.



City Club of Boise Honors Elinor Chehey

The City Club of Boise presented Elinor Chehey its annual Dottie and Ed Stimpson Award. The honor is given to a person who exemplifies the idea that “no problem was so great that it couldn’t be solved by people with open minds, using civil discourse.” Dottie Stimpson was the founder of City Club of Boise. Previous honorees include Bob Kustra, Ben Ysursa and Jim Weatherby.

Elinor is a past state president of the LWVID and is currently the state League treasurer. The various persons describing Elinor’s work are captured on the video presentation available at: <https://www.cityclubofboise.org/listen> and find the LINK that takes you to the Boise Radio archive where the programs are saved. You will smile and be proud of Elinor and her work for Idaho.

News from the Local Leagues



The League of Women Voters of the Lewis Clark Valley celebrated the Anniversary of the 19th Amendment by displaying 8-by-4 signboards in seven locations around the valley from August through October.

We honored Maxine Miller, our spokesperson and long-time local and state officer, for her 45 years of membership and work. We registered voters at the August Lewis Clark State College “Welcome Back Fair” and at the city library on Voter Registration Day. We also held webinar candidate forums for Nez Perce County contested races.

COVID-19 derailed our plan for a play presentation (Barbara Callander’s “May’s Vote”), but we look forward to honoring the 19th Amendment with live presentations as soon as we can. Meetings have been held indoors, outdoors and on Zoom this year, but we are carrying on.

~Cheryl Tousley, Spokesperson



I hope you are all healthy and positive about the new year. Since Covid-19 kept most of us at home, we continued the league’s business using the many options available to avoid the spread-ing virus.

We worked with our local census leaders to encourage participation in the count. Training sessions were provided at local libraries to help people use the web program to fill out their census questions.

Kathy Dawes trained our leaders on Zoom so our membership could participate in live meetings and watch past meetings and presentations of the Speaker Forums. The Speaker Committee present a full slate of programs via Zoom during the fall. LWV Moscow continues its weekly speaker forums via Zoom. A list of upcoming events is available on our website lwvmoscow.org or Facebook Events [LWVM Spring Speaker Series](#). The forums resume Jan. 13 with a presentation by Robert C. Huntley on funding Idaho education.

I am impressed with the work that Murf Raquet, Susan Ripley and Tim Casey put in on the League’s online voter guide, vote411.org.

Raquet, Ripley, and Betty Leslie, along with Moscow High School teacher Mike Wear, organized the Mock Election held in several Latah County schools. Online students voted absentee ballots.

Susan Zenier and Andrea Beckett organized the Candidate Forum on Oct. 7. The candidates were in-person in City Hall council chambers. The event was streamed live on Facebook. Nearly 70 people “attended” and more watched the taped version.

~ Liz Khosravi, LWVM president

News from the Local Leagues



LWV Kootenai County has not met since the pandemic and is currently in a state of reorganization.

Idaho Debates Report

Idaho Debates of 2020: the same yet different

For 40 years, the League of Women Voters Education Fund, along with Idaho Public Television and academic partners, has sponsored the Idaho Debate series. The purpose has always been to provide a nonpartisan platform for an exchange of ideas between candidates so the voters can make better informed decisions. This election year's programs were a departure from the traditional in-person debate format because of the Covid-19 pandemic but serviced the public interests, nonetheless.

Unlike all previous debates that were televised from a central location with all candidates present, this year's broadcasts were produced and individually prerecorded via Zoom video teleconferencing with each candidate. The candidates' answers were then spliced together to respond to the moderator's questions. The producers at Idaho Public Television worked with each candidate to make sure the technical aspects – including lighting and background were optimal given the circumstances.

While contacting the candidates is perennially challenging, this year proved to be even more so especially for the primary election in May. Campaigns were distracted by figuring out how to reach voters given Covid-19 had upended the usual campaigning strategies. But they weren't the only ones sorting out a new way of doing things. The League's partners, academic institutions and Public Television, were also trying to remotely navigate a different way of doing business. This left much of the impetus to the League to execute.

While watching the video Idaho Public Television made honoring our own Elinor Chehey on the City Club of Boise awarding her with the Dottie and Ed Stimpson Award for Civic Engagement, I realized the path Elinor has well-worn over the decades has always been pitted with potholes. Most series have their own frustrations and challenges bringing this important programming to the voters of Idaho. In an extraordinary year when some candidates struggled to get their message out while many incumbents were quite willing to avoid the voters entirely, this less than perfect format still served the voters' interests by having all the candidates answer questions on the important issues of the day. Still, let's hope the next series in 2022 will be face-to-face for the sake of accountability and healthy political discourse.

~Kendal Shaber—Greater Boise Area MAL Unit

Vote411 Report

We have talked about participating in Vote411, the League's online voter guide, for several years and finally got our toes wet in 2018. We had planned to do just the statewide and congressional candidates.

We found out the Idaho Statesman also uses the Vote411 to create their candidate questionnaire for print and online. The Statesman does the statewide, federal and the legislative and county contests in Ada and Canyon County. I agreed to work with them on the statewide, federal, and legislative contests in the Boise area. The Statesman reporter working on it had experience with Vote411, so I had his technical help as well as the help from the LWVUS office. There were some 150 candidates, and nearly all of them responded. We were able to include those legislative candidates in our Vote411 page in addition to the statewide and congressional candidates.

In 2020, we raised enough money – we are charged a fee by the LWVUS to use the software – to do all the legislative contests and expected to work with the Statesman again. Unfortunately the newspaper's ownership decided to create their own candidate website. I contacted the Idaho Press in Nampa to see if they were interested in printing our candidate questionnaire. They joined with us and printed the responses for the Ada and Canyon County candidates as well as the federal candidates.

Sue Ripley and Crystal Callahan recruited a great team of volunteers who helped us cover the state, and they learned how to manage the software, so there were three of us to be a help desk for the crew. Many thanks to Sue, Crystal, Murf Raquet, Tim Casey, Libby Butner, Kendal Shaber, Betsy McBride, Carolyn Abbott, Ann Carlson, Jaime Moss, Jean Henschied and Karleen Davis for their help contacting candidates. We wound up with some 350 candidates on our list and had more than a 45% response.

For the general election we attempted to include the county contests. It turned out that many counties and some legislative districts are one party, and their contests were essentially in the primary, so we did not have a great response from those candidates.

Our biggest problem was getting email contact information for the candidates. We used to be able to get phone numbers for the candidates from the lists of campaign treasurers. Before the election season started, I asked the secretary of state if we could get email addresses for the candidates. He said sure. It turned out that we could not get those email addresses from him or from the counties because a recently passed law forbids the election offices from sharing the email addresses of candidates. I hope we can get that changed before 2022. We invite the candidates by email and give them each a unique link to a secure space on the website for them to enter their information and picture. We cannot invite them without an email address, and it takes a lot of research to find email addresses and phone numbers.

We are looking forward to the 2022 elections and hope to have enough volunteers to reach out to county candidates for the primary elections. I will make it my mission this winter to get the law changed so we can get candidate emails and or phone numbers through the election offices.



~Elinor Chehey, Great Boise Area MAL Unit

LWVID Program Report

PROGRAM NOTES:

Betsy McBride, V.P., LWVID, bmcbride@ctcweb.net, 208.229.7039

Climate Teams: U. S. and Idaho Teams for League Members

The delegates to the LWVUS national convention added “Climate Emergency” to the League’s national action agenda.

LWV-Idaho Climate Team

A wise U.S. Speaker of the House said, “All politics is local.” The closer to home the greater the access to decision-makers. Our Idaho team will connect to the larger U.S. Climate Team to share information and action strategies. While Idaho is not California, Idaho residents do care deeply about this place we call home – Earth.

All are invited to join the Idaho Climate Team and participate in the action planning and execution. Contact your local League president or Betsy McBride, bmcbride@ctcweb.net. We are gathering via ZOOM.

LWV – U.S. Climate Team

Working with staff from the national office, the Steering Team has been meeting since spring 2020, first to organize for the national League convention and then after to carry forward the work of the previously appointed LWVUS climate task force. The national teams, open to all, are currently designated as core teams (teams working across issues) and issue teams. **All League members are welcome** to join a national team or multiple teams. Teams are just forming and in the League spirit of grassroots bottom-up directions, the work and scope will be determined by the team members.

Special note to Idaho League members. The Water Issue Team listed below is hoping that an Idaho League member will join since the state includes significant river basins.

TO SIGN UP: <https://lwvc.org/lwv-us-climate-team>

U.S. Climate Core Teams are:

LWV U.S. Climate Steering Team
Federal Legislation, Regulations, Policy, Judiciary
Social Media

U. S. Climate Issue Teams are:

Carbon Pricing	Foods, Soils and Agriculture
Climate Justice	Wildfires
Renewable Energy	Municipal Climate Action Plans
Transportation	Water
Health and Climate	Oceans

LWVID Program Report continued

The Northwest Energy Coalition – to see the Coalition’s Annual Report, go to:

<https://nwenergy.org/featured/a-year-in-review-2020-at-the-coalition/>

Betsy McBride (LWVID) and Bonnie Douglas (LWV-Kootenai County) both attended, via ZOOM, the recent meeting of the Idaho Caucus of the Northwest Energy Coalition. Of particular interest was a report from Ben Otto (Idaho Conservation League) about a request to the Public Utilities Commission from Intermountain Gas Co. to add gas from renewable sources to their gas pipeline for distribution. It is assumed that the request is related to companies, including Chevron, now planning to come to Idaho to build 18 gas digesters for the capture of feedlot waste generated gas. Dairies are big business in Idaho and cows produce piles and piles of waste that can be processed into useable gas. That gas can be then fed into pipelines for general distribution or used to generate electricity. Of note: Research scientists at INL demonstrated the feasibility of this technology a few years ago.

TOADS*, Robert Huntley and Idaho’s School Funding Mess

All three state universities are imposing furloughs on faculty.

RE: Faculty “they’re wondering why they’re being asked to take unpaid time when the state is projecting a surplus of more than \$500 million.” (*Idaho Statesman*, Nov. 1, 2020, pg. A7)

Robert Huntley, the uber-activist attorney (retired from city council, state legislature, state Supreme Court) who has won two lawsuits based on the failure to fund public education as the Idaho Constitution requires, is working with a group of current and retired educators to push hard for Idaho to give up its bottom-or-near-the-bottom-of-all-states ranking for education funding. Multiple calls for action have been delivered to Gov. Brad Little and members of the Idaho Legislature. The second round of signed action requests was gathered across the state and delivered by a group of school students.

Action Requests include: restoration of \$129 million “hold back” from education funding; supplemental appropriations in January 2021 for higher education and kindergarten; and enhanced revenue for education (i.e., tax reform measures).

*TOADS = Totally Optimistic Advocates Dedicated to Students

Redistricting

The number of state legislative districts is now fixed at the current 35 with the Nov. 3, 2020, election. Sixty-eight percent of voters said “yes” to the measure endorsed by state legislative leaders of both parties.

COMPLICATION: Idaho Public Radio reports that census data needed for state work is still tied up in court challenges related to the incompleteness from the undercounting of hard-to-reach residents and how to use the counts of non-citizens. The LWVID has a committee to work on providing redistricting/reapportionment community information. Contact Susan Ripley to join in that fun.

Program Planning: 2021 is a state convention year and this means our season for State League program planning is coming soon. This will be an opportunity to guide the work of your state League.

Redistricting

Redistricting is the process of drawing legislative districts. By federal law, redistricting must occur following the census (every 10 years) for two reasons. First, new districts must be drawn when a state gains or loses congressional districts because of the apportionment of congressional districts to the states. Second, even if the number of districts does not change, governments must redraw districts so that the districts have nearly equal populations.

The LWVUS began the People Powered Fair Maps™ Campaign in 2019 when the Supreme Court ruled on the *Rucho v. LWV* case stating, “that no fair test exists for courts to determine when partisan gerrymandering has gone too far”. The court essentially failed to take a stand for voters. LWV began a massive, nationwide campaign designed to reform redistricting state by state and all states joined in, Idaho included. Because redistricting is deemed a state issue, each state must be a watch dog and participate in the redistricting process in their state and LWVUS provides support. LWV has said there has not been any campaign like this since the ratification of the 19th amendment.

In Idaho we have a nonpartisan redistricting procedure. The commission is made up of non-elected officials; three members of the majority party and three members of the minority. The members of the commission will be named soon. The system in Idaho is reasonable. Watching redistricting in Idaho is old hat for 50-year member Elinor Chehey. She was working on the issue when the constitutional amendment which determines the process in Idaho was established.

LWVID participated in the first year of People Powered Fair Maps™ which was mostly working with the 2020 Census. A webinar was made and shared with local Leagues. You can watch it at [introduction to redistricting webinar](#).

We are now in the second year. The goal is to include all interested groups so that everyone can be a part of the process and to stay current with the progress of the commission.

There is a team of members working on a second webinar which we would like to present to as many groups and individuals as possible. The webinar, designed to encourage participation by interested parties, should be completed soon. At the very least, the presentation will provide an education about redistricting in

Idaho. If you are a part of a group that would like to see the presentation, please let me know. If you are interested in working with our redistricting team, please email me at:

lwvid1944@gmail.com

~ Susan Ripley



Follow LWVID on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/lwvidaho>

On the web at lwvid.org

Email president at lwvid1944@gmail.com

LWVID 2020 Council Report

Off the Record: *An observation of discussions at the Sept. 12, 2020, virtual biennial Council ~ by Jamar Brown, LWVID Secretary*

In President Susan Ripley's opening remarks to the properly assembled delegates and observers, she expressed regret that the 35th Biennial Council was not able to be held in April as planned, due to COVID 19. She acknowledged the Greater Boise Area MAL Unit and the extensive effort that had been put forth to plan an exceptional Council and League activities. And we were indeed looking forward to our time in Boise.

Virtually, the Council was attended by the movers, shakers, and volunteers of the local Leagues and the GBAMAL Unit. The delegates and observers included: President Susan Ripley, Vice-President Betsy McBride, Secretary Jamar Brown, Treasurer Laura Hartwig, and Directors Elinor Chehey and Judy Edwards of the LWVID; from the Greater Boise Area MAL Leader Crystal Callahan, and observers Jean Henchied, Janet Reis and Kendal Shaber; Jessica Mahuron and Jennifer Louma from Kootenai County; Maxine Miller from Lewis Clark Valley; Kathy Dawes, Amber Ziegler and observer Murf Raquet from Moscow; and Pam Ward, Annie Harrison, Mary Kuehler, and observers Muriel Roberts and Donna Boe from Pocatello.

The Council produced some new state board members to serve a two-year term (2020-22). The new members include: Elinor Chehey, treasurer, GBA MAL Unit; and directors Jessica Mahuron, Kootenai County, and Pam Ward, Pocatello. They join President Susan Ripley, Moscow; Vice President Betsy McBride, GBA MAL Unit; Secretary Jamar Brown, Pocatello, and director Judy Edwards, Kootenai County who all will serve until the 2021 Convention.

Here are the biographies of the newest board members.

Elinor Chehey

Elinor has been a member of LWVID since the fall of 1970 when her husband was in graduate school at ISU. She helped Donna Boe, Pocatello Leaguer, run the campaign for a revised Idaho Constitution. She also worked on local voter service projects. When they moved to Boise two years later, she continued with voter service and worked with Idaho Public Television on the debates. She has been LWV Boise president, and LWVID president twice and treasurer once. She worked with the early campaigns on Idaho school finance and public kindergarten. She led the LWVID study that became the reapportionment consensus, worked on the League attempt to create a citizens' commission by initiative, and then helped get the legislation passed that created the Idaho Citizen Commission on Reapportionment. She went back to school and finished a degree in accounting and worked for 10 years as the fiscal officer for the Idaho Commission on Aging. Her work with school finance and understanding of the state's needs lead to her interest in our tax structure and maintaining a tax structure that will support needed services. It seems that every time someone thinks the state has too much money, they cut a tax rate, and then the economy tanks, and there is not enough money.

LWVID 2020 Council Report continued

Jessica Mahuron

Jessica lives in Coeur d'Alene and has been a member of the League of Women Voters of Kootenai County since 2016, first serving as secretary and then as program coordinator. Jessica is active in her local community and works in the nonprofit sector. She is passionate about voter education, organizing voter registration drives, and promoting accessible voting methods such as vote by mail. Jessica is the founder of the Civic Engagement Alliance, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that organizes nonpartisan efforts to encourage active participation in civic and community life.

Pam Ward

Pam has been a member of League since 1995. Currently, she is the Pocatello League program director and recently served as the LWVP president. She has been involved in many League activities including the LWVP Voter, observer corps, election central, League position studies, voter services, candidate forums, and planning public meetings on several social issues. She is retired and was a public-school educator for 35 years in the position of a Title I teacher, classroom teacher and principal. She graduated from Arizona State University with a B.S. in sociology and received a master's degree in education at Idaho State University. Pam enjoys skiing, gardening, and reading.

After all the official business was conducted at Council, local Leagues had an opportunity to report on their activities, share ideas and engage in general discussion.

Lewis Clark Valley

The LCV had their annual meeting outdoors in July. Ten members participated. They have a new spokesperson, Cheryl Tousley. She has taken the reins and run with it. They started a banner campaign. The banner has been on display in both Washington and Nez Perce County. The county clerk is a League member, so it has also been on display at the courthouse. It will be utilized for voter registration and other events. They will have a voter services table at the library Sept. 21.

They had planned to hold virtual candidate forums. This proved to be difficult due to technical issues. Some candidates felt that it was an unfair platform. They have partnered with the chamber and are going to host a webinar, utilizing the chamber's equipment. The Lewiston Tribune distributed a special edition in August to honor the History of Women's Right to Vote, which featured Maxine Miller. ("The Tireless Advocate" <https://rb.gy/tdhubx>)

Pocatello

The LWVP had a presence at the naturalization ceremonies in 2019. They participated in the ceremony itself as well as providing voter services for new citizens. They also provide voter services at the Farmers Market and various ISU events, such as National Voter Registration Day, National Constitution Day and "Welcome Back Orange and Black". They marched in the homecoming parade in their best suffragist dress. They hosted candidate forums in both Pocatello and Chubbuck. They were honored to have the LWVID Board of Directors attend their "Back to League" event.

LWVID 2020 Council Report continued

They kicked off “Idaho Women 100” in November with the Apple Crisp “Get Out the Vote” event at Marshall Public Library. In February, they had a celebration and commemorative event to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the LWV. A proclamation was read from Mayor Blad proclaiming Feb. 14, 2020, as League of Women Voters Day in the city of Pocatello. On March 14, a proclamation was read from Blad honoring Idaho Women 100. A third proclamation was read outside City Hall by Blad declaring Aug. 26, 2020, as “Women’s Equality Day”.

Kootenai County

The LWVKC was going strong before COVID19. They participated in the Idaho Women 100 events, partnering with AAUW. They had a showing at many events providing voter services. One of the highlights was the People Powered Fair Maps program. There are postcards that provide information for voters and voter services that are available. Jessica is working on a doorhanger and she would love to feature VOTE411 information. They will participate in National Voter Registration Day. Jessica reached out to members to inquire as to the direction that they would like to see KC take. She did not receive much feedback. She is working to create a leadership team that involves members who will take on specific roles within the League.

Moscow

Moscow will stream their Candidate Forum on Facebook. They will come up with the questions beforehand. They have expanded their Directory of Elected Officials to include the city council, county officials, school trustees and so on. They continue to host a speaker series. They have scheduled an upcoming membership meeting. The members were actively involved with the Latah County Census. They are following the current LWVUS Census lawsuit. They are participating in National Voter Registration Day and are focusing on other venues where they can provide voter services.

Greater Boise Area MAL

GBA membership has grown. Observers Jean Henchied and Janet Reis are two of the new members. This year they have conducted summer meetings via Zoom. They have not had membership meeting during the summer months in the past. They are participating in the BSU Andrus Center “Women in Leadership” Conference where there will be 1,200 attendees. They are partnering with the AAUW to host a virtual booth which will include links to GBA Twitter, VOTE411, Rock the Vote Idaho, etc. They are going to have a myth-busting poll where they can provide answers to relevant questions about voting.

Their fundraising will continue with jewelry and T-shirt sales. The merchandise is available to local Leagues.

They were invited by the BSU football team to register voters, which was exciting. One of the things they worked up, which has also been utilized by KC, was a Quick Response code, which is a type of matrix barcode (or two-dimensional barcode) code. It takes you right to idahovotes.gov. They had it blown up and laminated to make it more assessable. The QR code did stump some students, so it was important to have someone to assist them. The secretary of state’s office has confusing language about the legal term for “Home” when voting.

LWVID 2020 Council Report continued

The language is there to intentionally discourage students from voting from their university home. This is not unique to the secretary's office. There is an active group of "pre-voter" students who have organized themselves. The GBA has postcards that include students' rights to vote which can make the students feel empowered.

Naturalization ceremonies have gone underground. The GBA MAL are not able to participate but they have been able to provide registration cards and voter services information for new citizens. The secretary of state's website incorrectly implies that new citizens need to provide a driver license to register to vote. The GBA is only asking for the last four digits of the citizens Social Security number.

The candidate forums will be via Zoom chat. They are partnering with the Idaho Veteran's Wellness Center. They are going to have a practice session to familiarize themselves with the technology.

Kendall Shaber is the LWV representative for the Idaho Debates, which are presented on Idaho Public Television and Radio. In April, some incumbents decided to not participate due to the format that is a result of the pandemic. Two different letters were sent out to candidates which addressed different criteria. Incumbents and those who were in the primary received an invitation to the debate.

Those who were not in the primary need to demonstrate that they have an active campaign. The debates will be a teleconference with a Q & A format. Given the flexibility of the time frame, there is no reason why a candidate should not participate.

Facebook is on lockdown. Crystal started over with a new Facebook page and it was un-published days later. She is still working on a solution.

Membership Report

Currently LWVID has a membership of 257. The breakdown is:

LWVID Members at large - 43

LWV of Kootenai County – 16

LWV of Moscow – 124

LWV of Lewis Clark Valley – 23

LWV of Pocatello – 49

Of the 43 MALs, 31 are in the Boise metropolitan area which includes Boise, Eagle, Garden City, and Meridian. The remainder are scattered around the state in Bellevue, Filer, Idaho Falls, Moore, Salmon, and Stanley.

(My fear when making a list with names is that I may inadvertently leave someone out. My sincerest apologies if I did.)

Want to get active?

Would you be interested in serving as Advocacy Chair?

Anyone interested in taking over the Voter Newsletter?

What is your area of interest? My guess is we can accommodate your interest. We have several committees working in different areas.

Are you a member at large wondering what one person can do in their community?

Voicing your opinion

Idaho Newspapers for Letters to Editor

Bonner County Daily Bee in Sandpoint, ID: Submit a letter here: <https://form.jotform.com/63485081842157/>
1,500 character limit, including spaces

Coeur d'Alene Press Submit a letter here: <https://form.jotform.com/63567976899183>
Elections info: <https://cdapress.com/news/elections/>

Idaho Press Tribune in Nampa, ID Opinion/Letters to the Editor:
Call (208) 465-8115
Email: op-ed@idahopress.com

Idaho Statesman in Boise, ID
Website form: <https://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/submit-letter/>
200 words or less; Limit of one letter per writer every 30 days

Idaho State Journal in Pocatello, ID Letters to the Editor: ifennell@journalnet.com

Post Register in Idaho Falls, ID
Submit form here: https://www.postregister.com/site/forms/postregister/pr_letter/ 250 words or less

Moscow-Pullman Daily News in Moscow, ID
300 words or less, at least 75% of which are your own; Limit of one letter every two weeks on
Website form: dnews.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/
Email: letters@dnews.com in the body of the email; no attachments

Lewiston Tribune in Lewiston, ID
250 words or less
Website form: lmtribune.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/ Email: letters@lmtribune.com

The Spokesman-Review in Spokane, WA
200 words or less Website form: www.spokesman.com/letters/submit/ Email: editor@spokesman.com

Boise Weekly in Boise, ID Submit a letter here: https://www.idahopress.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/

The Herald Journal (3 x per week) covers Franklin County, ID (MUST HAVE ACCOUNT)

Shoshone News Press in Shoshone County, ID (NO INFO ABOUT HOW TO SUBMIT LETTER)
620 E. MULLAN AVE. OSBURN, ID 83849
Call: 208-752-1120

Times-News in Twin Falls, ID (Need membership)

State Leaders

Executive Branch

<https://www.idaho.gov/government/executive/>

Governor and executive branch (except Supt. of Public Instruction): PO Box 83720, 700 West Jefferson St. Boise, ID 83720

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Len Jordan Building, 650 W. State St., Boise, ID 83720-0027

Legislative Branch

To find contact information for state legislators go to:

House, <https://legislature.idaho.gov/house/membership/>

Senate, <https://legislature.idaho.gov/senate/membership/>

Newsletter team for Winter 2021:

Murf Raquet, Mary Kuehler and Susan Ripley