

League of Women Voters of the Lewis-Clark Valley
54th Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 28th, 2009, 11:00 AM—2 PM / Home of Co-President Maxine Miller, Lewiston

MINUTES

Our 54th Annual Meeting began at 11 AM with registration, greetings, and final touches to luncheon.

Attending were Co-Presidents Adele Plouffe and Maxine Miller, Secretary Rosemary Nelson, Carolyn Frei and her guest Charlotte Blood, Barb Kramer, Mardy Bradford, Jane Spencer, and new members Robynhawk Wilson and Donna Gray. Our speakers, fellow League members Dr. Christina Bjornstad and Attorney John Tait, had lunch with us—tasty potato-leek soup prepared by Maxine, a variety of subs, three types of chips, a fresh, colorful mixed fruit bowl, and chocolate chip cookies and frosted brownies to top off our meal on a sweet note.

The topic of the day was the evolution of women's rights as experienced by our speakers. Dr. Bjornstad spoke briefly about her medical training in the late 1960s and general philosophy of preventive medicine. She told about applying at fourteen medical schools and being accepted at two; the problem was the small number of places allotted for women. Moreover, she had to all but promise that she wouldn't have children, fearing that her interviewers would decide that a place would be "wasted" on her if she indicated she might want a family. She described her reception by the medical community in the Lewis-Clark Valley in the early 1970s as less than enthusiastic; no clinic would accept her into its practice, and she was ignored for a year while she built a private practice and the local doctors became used to the idea of a woman in their midst. Carolyn commented that her granddaughter began medical school in a 50/50 male/female class, emphasizing the change in attitudes over the last several decades.

Attorney Tait spoke about his experience in law school at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. In 1971, he said, only 10% of the law students were women. A class on women and the law was attended mostly by the women. Three years later, under the encouragement of Prof. Martha Daughtry, first woman professor at Vanderbilt and now a federal judge on the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, the ratio was 50/50. John has defended a number of discrimination cases, including one in the '80s for a woman logger and telephone field worker. She was not wanted on the team, especially by the wives of the male pole-climbers, so a pole-climbing test was rigged against her and she failed. John helped her sue the telephone company, and they won. He commented on the League push for education as valuable for the future of women, especially since there is much work to be done: only 23% of business in Idaho are managed by women—28% nationally—and the poor are disproportionately women. Action, John said, needs to be on local issues, given Idaho's poor standing on women's issues. Donna Gray commented on the transition taking place in the Valley, with mining and logging giving way to retired people. John said in conclusion that older women also fare poorly here because their husbands tend to take their full pensions and leave their widows with only Social Security.

Our discussion was especially informative and stimulating, but alas, we also had a business meeting on the agenda.

Meeting called to order at 1:15 PM. Quorum declared. Everyone present had either downloaded or was given an Annual Meeting 2009 booklet including all documents relevant to the agenda.

- Adele began with the news of the loss of Director **Alice Kellogg** in February. Carolyn gave a brief, but eloquent tribute to Alice's memory and the great respect she commanded in the League. Mardy also praised Alice's fine character.

- Adele reviewed **voter service activities** of past year: candidate debates, voter registration at LCSC and NezPerce County Fair booth, and two days of registration of LCSC students in early October, set up by Adele at request of two students, which registered up to 150 students.

- Maxine urged members to come to meetings; **next meeting at Carolyn's, 929B Stewart Avenue, on Saturday, April 18th, 9:30 AM.**

Minutes of 2008 Annual Meeting presented in 2009 booklet. Mardy moved, Carolyn seconded motion to accept as presented. Accepted unanimously.

- Adele turned to **Slate of Officers** submitted by Nominating Committee Chair Carolyn Frei, noting that those currently serving as co-presidents, secretary, and treasurer had agreed to serve again, but that three Director positions were vacant (ballot on file). Robynhawk, Mardy, and Donna agreed to stand for these positions. Barb agreed to be Chair of Nominating Committee. Maxine acknowledged the service of **valued member Ginny Foote**, who will continue to be involved as Webmeister. Maxine moved to accept the ballot with nominations from floor, Rosemary seconded motion, and members approved unanimously.
- Adele put on her Treasurer's hat and explained proposed budget (on file). She explained that per-member payments (budget lines D1 and D2) were based on 12 members who had paid as of January 31st, but we have 16 paid members as of today. Maxine called attention to allowance for State Convention (budget line C1) and urged members to attend this year May 1st- 3rd in Twin Falls. Registration fee is \$75. Maxine will drive; estimated cost to participants for meals, \$50; cost of lodging not known. Maxine said budget is merely a road map; Adele opined that funds might be available to aid members who want to go to Convention. Maxine moved, Carolyn seconded motion to approve proposed budget. Unanimous approval.
- Maxine presented her **calendar of action events for 2009** and urged members to indicate on a return slip the events for which they would volunteer. She also circulated a sign-up schedule for three-hour shifts at the upcoming **LCSC student elections** on April 15th and 16th. She pointed out that we were paid \$400.00 for our services last year, making this an important fundraising activity for our local League. She repeated invitation to State Convention, suggested adding it to calendar; Robynhawk, Mardy, and Adele to represent our local league; Maxine and Ginny to attend as State Co-Presidents. Maxine also added School Board elections on May 19th to the calendar.
- As for **League positions**, Maxine said topics depend on level. State League topic to be Vote By Mail; national positions on LWV Web page; Adele suggested voter education as local issue, and also the bi-state issue, with the dues question and Know Your Community updates a priority for both sides of state line. Rosemary remarked on Circles participants' reaction to VBM when Adele and Rosemary presented topic at their meeting. Special concern was security of postal system and possibility of votes coerced in the home.
- In **concluding remarks**, Adele thanked Maxine for opening her beautifully remodeled home for the meeting. Maxine took the obligatory pictures, and the meeting was **adjourned** just before two o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Nelson
Secretary, LWVLCV