

Report: 2016 National Convention

Washington, DC

Attendees from Louisiana delegation: Rosalind Cook, Annemarie Dewey, Jessie Nieblas

Report compiled by: Jessie Nieblas

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LOBBY DAY

Attendees: Jessie and Rosalind

Meetings with the offices of:

- Representative Cedric Richmond
- Representative Steve Scalise
- Senator Bill Cassidy
- Senator David Vitter

Topics covered: Voting Rights Advancement Act. Money in Politics (Cassidy)

Asks:

- Support VRAA if it gets out of committee
- Support discharge petition to bring bill to House floor vote (Richmond)
- Support campaign finance reform efforts (Cassidy)

NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE 2016-2018 BIENNIUM

Motion to adopt the LWVUS Board-recommended concurrence with the position on Redistricting as outlined on p. 32 of the Convention Workbook.

Motion # 2016-2, LWVUS Board

Motion APPROVED by Card Vote. Total number of votes cast = 652; Yes = 463; No = 186; Illegal = 3

Motion to adopt the LWVUS Board-recommended concurrence with the LWV Colorado position on Behavioral Health Care as outlined on p. 33 of the Convention Workbook.

Motion # 2016-3, LWVUS Board

Motion APPROVED by a two-thirds vote

Motion to retain all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy.

Motion # 2016-6, LWVUS Board

Motion APPROVED

LWVUS/EF FINANCES AND BUDGET

Pat Donath, LWVUS Treasurer, presented the report of the Treasurer.

Henrietta Saunders, LWVUS Budget Committee Chair, presented the proposed LWVUS/EF FY2016-2018 Budgets.

LWVUS budget approved by attendees. LWVEF budget presented for review, but approval is up to board.

2016-18 LWVUS PMP rate of \$32 was approved

PROPOSED 2016-2018 LWVUS BYLAWS

LWV of Minnesota proposed that Article III (2), Types of Membership strike the word “citizens” and replace with “persons.” Motion was approved by 2/3 majority.

LWV of Minnesota proposed that Article III (2), Types of Membership strike the words “at least 18 years of age”. Motion was hotly debated, debate was closed, and a card vote was conducted. Defeated 629 to 369. LWV of Georgia moved to amend the motion to strike 18 and insert 16. Motion approved

<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/report-convention-action-saturday-june-18-2016>

Section now reads (bolded changes for emphasis):

- A. Voting Members. **Persons at least 16 years of age** who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) **Those** who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues

PRESENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Approved resolutions:

LWV of Florida: Motion to move a resolution responding to gun violence in America.

In the wake of our country's worst mass gun violence in our history that killed 49 people in Orlando, Florida, we ask for a moment of silence to remember those who were killed, pray for peace for their families and friends and strength for the community and our country.

Be it resolved to continue our longstanding position LWVUS position on Gun Violence.

LWV of Florida: Motion to move a resolution on gun safety and Center for Disease Control Research Support restoration of funding for gun violence research at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

LWV of District of Columbia: Motion to move a resolution supporting statehood for the people of District of Columbia.

Therefore, be it resolved that the League of Women Voters of the United States strongly supports legislation that will establish statehood for the people of the District of Columbia.

LWV of California: Motion to move a resolution: Therefore, be it resolved, the LWVUS consider signing onto an Amicus Brief with the 21 youth plaintiffs from Our Children's Trust.

LWV of Oregon: Motion to move a resolution: Therefore be it resolved, LWVUS support the United States ratification of the UN COP 21 Paris Agreement.

LWV of Oregon: Motion to move a resolution: Therefore be it resolved, that the LWVUS should continue working for full implementation of the EPA Clean Power Plan, especially at the state level, as a first step and should call on the White House to implement an updated science-based Climate Action Plan that stabilizes global warming by bringing CO2 levels down to no more than 350 ppm by 2100.

ELECTION OF LWVUS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Convention delegates participated in the election of LWVUS Board, Officers and Nominating Committee on Monday afternoon. The results are below.

The Officers are:

Chris Carson, president

Karen Nicholson, vice president

Toni Zimmer, secretary

Henrietta Saunders, treasurer

The Directors are:

Maribel Balbin

Amy Hjerstedt

Kim Lauth

Anita Loch

Jessica Lowe-Minor

Brenda Rogers

Jessica Rohloff

Deborah Turner

The members of the Nominating Committee are:

Peggy Appler, chair

Mary Ann Reeves

Susan Smith

<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/report-convention-action-sunday-june-19-2016>

NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS

Tools

Vote411.org (mbrown@lwv.org)

Member and Leadership Development Coaching

Updates

LeagueEasy

Jessie attended

Get-Out-The-Vote Strategies that Work

Making Voter Information Work for All

Budget Q&A

Coaching for Impact

POSITION ON REDISTRICTING

Redistricting Position in Brief:

Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

Redistricting Position:

1. Responsibility for redistricting preferably should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups.
2. Every redistricting process should include:
 - a. Specific timelines for the steps leading to a redistricting plan;
 - b. Full disclosure throughout the process and public hearings on the plan proposed for adoption:
 - i. Redistricting at all levels of government must be accomplished in an open, unbiased manner with citizen participation and access at all levels and steps of the process,
 - ii. Should be subject to open meeting laws;
 - c. A provision that any redistricting plan should be adopted by the redistricting authority with more than a simple majority vote;
 - d. Remedial provisions established in the event that the redistricting authority fails to enact a plan. Specific provisions should be made for court review of redistricting measures and for courts to require the redistricting authority to act on a specific schedule:
 - i. Time limits should be set for initiating court action for review,
 - ii. The courts should promptly review and rule on any challenge to a redistricting plan and require adjustments if the standards have not been met.
3. The standards on which a redistricting plan is based, and on which any plan should be judged, must:
 - a. Be enforceable in court;
 - b. Require:
 - i. Substantially equal population,
 - ii. Geographic contiguity, and
 - iii. Effective representation of racial and linguistic minorities.
 - c. Provide for (to the extent possible):
 - i. Promotion of partisan fairness,
 - ii. Preservation and protection of “communities of interest,” and
 - iii. Respect for boundaries of municipalities and counties.
 - d. Compactness and competitiveness may also be considered as criteria so long as they do not conflict with the above criteria
 - e. Explicitly reject:
 - i. Protection of incumbents, through such devices as considering an incumbent’s address, and
 - ii. Preferential treatment for a political party, through such devices as considering party affiliation, voting history and candidate residence.

This position does not supersede any existing state League redistricting position.

POSITION ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

In addition, the LWVUS Board recommends a concurrence with the LWV Colorado position on Behavioral Health including amending the LWVUS Health Care position to include the following as the second sentence under Basic Level of Quality Care:

Every U.S. resident should have access to affordable, quality in- and out- patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care.

Position on Behavioral Health Support for:

- Behavioral Health as the nationally accepted term that includes both mental illness and substance use disorder.
- Access for all people to affordable, quality in- and outpatient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services.
- Behavioral Health care that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care.
- Early and affordable behavioral health diagnosis and treatment for children and youth from early childhood through adolescence.
- Early and appropriate diagnosis and treatment for children and adolescents that is family-focused and community-based.
- Access to safe and stable housing for people with behavioral health challenges, including those who are chronically homeless.
- Effective re-entry planning and follow-up for people released from both behavioral health hospitalization and the criminal justice system.
- Problem solving or specialty courts, including mental health and drug courts, in all judicial districts to provide needed treatment and avoid inappropriate entry into the criminal justice system.
- Health education — from early childhood throughout life — that integrates all aspects of social, emotional and physical health and wellness.
- Efforts to decrease the stigmatization of, and normalize, behavioral health problems and care.