

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY JULY 23, 2019
MESA PUBLIC LIBRARY, LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO**

Call to Order

Barbara Calef called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

Board Members Present

Barbara Calef, Co-President
Becky Shankland, Co-President
Ellen Mills, First Vice President
Leslie Wallstrom, Second Vice President
Rebecca Chaiken, Secretary
Rosmarie Frederickson, Fundraising
Akkana Peck, Director at Large
Jody Benson, Publicity
Amy Birnbaum, Reservations
Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader
Lynn Jones, Voter Services

Guest Speaker Ann LePage

Ann LePage came to the meeting to ask LWVLA to support the bag/Styrofoam/straw ban she has proposed to the County Council. During the discussion, Karyl Ann read a message from Elena Giorgi that the carbon footprint for plastic bags may be less than other options such as paper or cloth. Suggestions included promoting a partial ban; a transition towards the best solution such as promoting cloth bags; and taking small steps towards the reduction of the use of straws. The County's Environmental Sustainability Board Zero Waste Team researching this issue will be asked to meet with us before it presents findings to the Council. Jody will also approach Kroger, which is already moving towards zero waste and plans to do away with single use plastic bags, to move up its time frame. It was also agreed that while it is a complex issue, LWVNM supports reducing waste and the use of plastics. Ann will send an email to Barbara and Jody to begin organizing but she will lead the effort.

Minutes

The June minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Kathy was absent but provided the treasurer's report. For June 2019, it reported having a checking account beginning book balance of \$5,505.44 and an ending balance of \$5,504.99, which includes total receipts of \$115; disbursements of

\$115.05; and \$.05 interest. Receipts included dues and a donation. Disbursements included convention expenses and copies. The savings account ending book balance was \$20,778.79, which includes \$.96 interest.

Membership Report

Becky reported that there was no change since last month. She noted that we are still in need of someone to take charge of our newsletter. She will ask Addie Jacobson, who is already working on our archive project and the LWVNM judicial selection study, to consider taking on this project.

BPU Observer Corps/Webmaster

Julie was not present but submitted the following update electronically:

The BPU meeting was held on July 17th.

- 1) The quarterly review was presented by staff on the condition of electric production utility assets.
- 2) A contract was approved for \$2 million for the design of the replacement White Rock Wastewater Treatment facility. The contract is to be forwarded to Council for approval.
- 3) Resolution was approved by BPU and will go to Council to increase the County's entitlement share in the Carbon Free Power Project (nuclear facility using small modular reactor technology). The additional shares would come from DOE who are subscribing to ~50 MW in the CFPP for research & development (R&D) purposes for 15 years (also called the JUMP program - Joint Use Modular Plant). After the 15 years is up, DOE's megawatts are up for grabs with all the capital costs already paid for by the DOE. The Resolution that the Board approved and will now go to the council, expresses the County's interest in taking 3MW from DOE's JUMP program after the R&D has concluded, increasing the County's subscription from 8MW to 11MW.
- 4) The next BPU meeting will be held on Thursday 8/22, rather than Wednesday 8/21.

Update on Student Dues

Barbara has not received a response from Meredith regarding applying to the diversity fund to cover student dues. She did learn, however, that the definition of "student" is up to each local League. At their July meeting, the LWVNM board voted to waive the PMP for students, leaving the student dues up to local Leagues. After much discussion it was agreed that our definition of student would be any student at the high school or UNM-LA age 16 and older with no cap on age. We discussed the proper amount of student dues. Rebecca suggested \$0 to encourage young people to join and Jody suggested \$6 to encourage student members to fully participate. Following the discussion, and in honor of the 100th anniversary of the League, Becky moved that we waive the fee for student members. This was seconded by Rebecca and approved unanimously. We will add a student category to our registration form. Leslie, Ellen, and Jody agreed to take charge of advertising this offer to both schools through teacher and staff contacts; social media; a paid advertisement; and/or a press release. The 100th anniversary will be noted in the publicity.

Redistricting

Dick Mason wants to meet with our League members to discuss educating voters about redistricting (what needs to be done based on the census, what we can do to prevent gerrymandering, and how do we convince our legislators to not draw lines simply to protect themselves). Two dates were agreed upon when most board members could attend and following the meeting Dick selected September 4. The meeting will be held at the Rosmarie's home from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Membership Meeting

October 1 was selected as the date most board members would be able to attend a social event for past and present members, as well as those interested in joining. The event will be held from 6:30 to 8:00 and hearty hors d'oeuvres will be served. The location is still to be determined but it will either be at Rosmarie's home or the social room at the Unitarian Church.

History Updates

Barbara provided brief histories of LWVLA for the years 2011-2014; 2014-2016; and 2016-2018. Becky would like to add some wording and Leslie would like membership numbers to be included. Akkana questioned the date of the bag ban. Barbara will make some changes and reintroduce the history updates for approval at the next meeting.

Lunch with a Leader

Karyl Ann reported that our speaker for August will be Genie Stevens from Global Warming Express. Jean Dewart, through Barbara, suggested we ask Eric Martinez, the county engineer, to talk about traffic. Stephanie Garcia Richard could speak about royalties and the Chaco-area issues. Leslie asked that we get speakers to discuss (not debate) recent legislation concerning gun safety. Lynn suggested going back to some of the previous speakers included in the histories compiled by Barbara.

Next month we will discuss Leslie's recommendation that some Lunch with a Leader events be held during the evening.

Voter Services

Election laws impacting the 2020 election and beyond have changed drastically. Polling places will now be required to have Wi-Fi to register voters and all county clerks must allow same day registration (known as AVR - Automatic Voter Registration). Because of these changes, retraining of registrars will be necessary. Lynn said that Naomi Maestas will have an outreach session on these new issues but we will ask for a meeting with her on September 23 at 11:00. This date and time was later confirmed. It was also noted that September 24 is National Voter Registration Day. There will be a voter registration event at PEEC.

100th Anniversary

The rodeo parade is scheduled for August 10. It was suggested that we make buttons to be worn in honor of the anniversary and Rebecca agreed to see if LWVLA could borrow a button machine from the Democratic Party. Ellen will ensure that we are registered for the parade. Ellen has also created white sashes with green and purple trim and she purchased two flags in these colors we can carry in the parade. She will add "Votes for Women" (or something to that effect) to these flags. Ellen also asked for approval to purchase a poster commemorating the first votes for women to be carried in the parade and other needed supplies. Akkana moved that Ellen may spend up to \$100. This was seconded by Lynn and approved unanimously. Becky will email the League members and request RSVPs so we can see if additional sashes will be needed.

The essay contest subcommittee headed by Leslie will meet separately to discuss the matter.

Other News

Leslie and Ellen recommend that the date of the State Convention be changed from May to sometime in April. May is a very busy month for both parents and students. Barbara noted that the date is not in the bylaws but it needs to be publicized in the proper time frame. She will make this suggestion at the next state board meeting.

Important Dates

The deadline for the next newsletter is July 31.

The meeting some board members have with Brian Blalock, new cabinet secretary of the Children, Youth, and Families Department, is scheduled for August 6 from 11:00 to 12:30 and will be held at the PERA building in Santa Fe.

The next board meeting will be August 27, 2019, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Mesa Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Submitted by Rebecca Chaiken