

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY APRIL 28, 2020
VIA ZOOM DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

Call to Order

Barbara Calef called the meeting to order at 12:04 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
Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader
Akkana Peck, Director at Large
Lynn Jones, Voter Services
Julie Williams-Hill, Webmaster and BPU Observer Corps
Jody Benson, Publicity
Amy Birnbaum, Reservations
Rosmarie Frederickson, Fundraising

Guests: JoAnn Lysne, Newsletter
Addie Jacobson, Special Projects

Minutes

The March minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Kathy was absent but provided the treasurer's report. For March 2020, she reported having a checking account beginning book balance of \$3,479.06 and an ending balance of \$4,028.69, which includes total receipts of \$1,114; disbursements of \$564.40; and \$.03 interest. Receipts included dues and donations. Disbursements included payments to Aspen Copies, the award to Philippa Fung for her 100th Anniversary essay, and a payment to Rosmarie for fundraising. The savings account ending book balance was \$35,787.82, which includes \$1.20 interest.

Previously via email, the board voted unanimously to spend \$40 for a one-time Zoom upgrade. For the record at this meeting, Becky moved that we spend this \$40 and the motion was seconded by Jody. All voted in favor.

Julie reported that we have been enrolled in PayPal so now dues can be paid through our website. Because PayPal takes 2 percent, dues of \$45 nets us \$42.50.

Some concern was expressed that this might be a problem for the treasurer's record keeping. Julie has been unable to add a "tip" to this process to cover the PayPal fee and no one at PayPal has been available to assist her. It was agreed that we would wait for six months and see how everything goes. In the meantime, Julie can run a PayPal report to include in monthly board meeting materials.

Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting we approved raising household dues from \$65 to \$70, along with the two studies. Everyone agreed that the meeting via Zoom went well under the circumstances. There were no additions or corrections to the annual meeting minutes, which were approved and filed. They will be included in the next newsletter.

Publicity

It was confirmed that Leslie will be assisting Jody with publicity. She remains on the board as a voting member. Going forward, Jody and Leslie will write the press releases for the voter forums. Julie will post the videos on our website and YouTube at which time the press releases can be issued. Julie asked to be kept in the loop on the press releases.

Lunch with a Leader

The May Lunch with a Leader will feature Maire O'Neill who was rescheduled from March when that event had to be cancelled. Several names were suggested for the June event including State Historian Robert Martinez; Thom Mason; Terry Foecke; and Kathleen Sabo, executive director of New Mexico Ethics Watch. It was eventually agreed that Karyl Ann would invite Heather Ferguson, the head of Common Cause New Mexico. If she is unable or unwilling, Robert Martinez will be invited.

It is clear that the May event will be held via Zoom. Most board members said they would not attend a June event if it was held in person, even if social distancing rules are relaxed. Leslie moved that we buy the Zoom upgrade for May and June. Karyl Ann seconded this motion and all voted in favor.

Candidate Forums

The candidate forums via Zoom begin tomorrow evening with the CD3 Democratic candidates. The following evening will feature the CD3 Republican candidates. One Republican who has been invited will not be able to attend because she lives on the Navajo Reservation, she does not have access to reliable Internet services, and she is frequently stopped by police enforcing travel restrictions on the reservation. She was offered the opportunity to submit a statement to be read by Ellen who is the moderator for this event.

Barbara sent out a list of questions that we can ask candidates if there are not enough questions from the audience. Akkana amended this list. Any other questions can be posed via Q&A during the forum.

Voter Services

Laura Montoya, Democratic candidate for CD3, missed the deadline for her answers to be printed in the Voter Guide, but they are included in Vote411. Chris Luchini, candidate for PRC, declined to answer any questions for the primary election. Becky intends to write a letter to the editor detailing how much work went in to preparing the voter guide.

BPU Observer Corps

The Board of Public Utilities met on April 22, 2020. The utilities manager, Philo Shelton, gave a presentation on the Department of Public Utilities staffing levels that was presented in March as part of the proposed two-year budget. BPU had been expecting staffing levels to be reduced shortly after the Advanced Metering Infrastructure project was implemented. Rather, the budget kept staffing levels the same plus one. Shelton explained that with increased construction developments in town and the upcoming retirements of key staff who will need to train replacements before leaving, in addition to hiring a Conservation specialist, the DPU would not be able to reduce staffing levels. BPU agreed.

Council Report

At the April 7 County Council meeting, which was covered by Barbara, Harry Burgess said that COVID-19 testing would be offered at the Public Health Office on Mondays and Wednesdays. Those wishing to be tested need to be prescreened and make an appointment. Paul Andrus discussed changes to the LAC Housing Assistance Program.

Rebecca will send out an email asking for volunteers to cover County Council meetings on May 5, May 19, May 26, and June 9.

Other News

Julie will put Vote411 on our website along with the Voter Guide. Barbara said that Vote411 is supposed to do their own publicity but we can ensure our three news outlets are aware of it.

Becky has been in touch with Diane Stoffel who is in charge of the gallery in the library. Diane said that it is clear that nothing will be mounted in May and that

nothing will happen for a while. We have a lot of good ideas and we have the time to organize before it is our turn.

During the LWVNM meeting on Saturday, Maggie Toulouse Oliver explained how the primary election will be run. Ellen said that it took some time to get the meeting up and running but once that was done it went smoothly.

It was suggested that everyone check with NMVote.org to make sure our absentee ballot requests were accepted.

The LWVUS convention will be held virtually this year and registration will begin in May. Ellen and Leslie will be our delegates but it is likely that other members will be able to participate.

Important Dates

The deadline for the next newsletter is May 1.

The next board meeting will be May 26, 2020, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Submitted by Rebecca Chaiken