

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY MAY 26, 2020
VIA ZOOM DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

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, 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
Leslie Wallstrom, Publicity
Amy Birnbaum, Reservations
Rosmarie Frederickson, Acting Treasurer and Fundraising

Guests: JoAnn Lysne, Newsletter
Addie Jacobson, Special Projects

Minutes

The April minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Barbara reported that she spoke with Kathy Taylor in the morning. Kathy suffered a stroke on May 7 and, after spending a few days in the hospital, was transferred to Sombrillo. Rosmarie filled in for Kathy and provided the treasurer's report with the caveat that she did not have access to Kathy's records. For April 2020, she reported having a checking account beginning book balance of \$4,928.73 and an ending balance of \$2,327.71, which includes total receipts of \$900; disbursements of \$2,601.02; and \$.04 interest. Receipts included dues and donations. Disbursements included payments to Aspen Copies and the L.A. Daily Post along with PayPal charges. Rosmarie and the bank differ by \$.29 but she cannot reconcile without access to the records. The savings account ending book balance was \$35,788.70, which includes \$.88 interest.

Rosmarie reported that she is working on securing check-signing rights.

The bill from the L.A. Daily Post in the amount of \$2,410.24 may have been erroneous. Lynn said the billing amount for the Primary Election Voter Guide should have been \$2,046 and she will inquire with the payee about the discrepancy.

Julie and Becky discussed PayPal receipts and a question about whether one member paid dues as well as made a donation. They will review their records and reconcile. Julie added that she will separate the membership dues and donation buttons on the website to make accounting easier.

Membership Report

Becky reported that 58 members have paid their dues. She will begin to send friendly reminders to those who have not yet paid after the next newsletter has been published. We have five new members - Maire O'Neill, Cat Ozment, Carrie Walker, Harvey Rose, and Mari Jorgensen.

Lunch with a Leader

The June Lunch with a Leader will feature Heather Ferguson from Common Cause New Mexico. Barbara would like her to discuss her hopes for the special session and vote by mail for the general election. For July, Karyl Ann will invite State Historian Robert Martinez. If he is unable or unwilling to participate, she will ask Liddy Martinez who can talk about Enterprise Bank and her cookbook! Barbara met nuclear engineering graduate student Bobbi Merryman at a teleconference on the spent nuclear fuel project and found her to be charismatic and knowledgeable. She could be invited for August.

Because it is unlikely that the COVID-19 outbreak will have been resolved by July, Karyl Ann moved that we buy the Zoom upgrade for July. Lynn seconded this motion and all voted in favor.

Candidate Forums Report

The candidate forums via Zoom were recorded and posted on our website and YouTube. Thus far 213 have watched the CD3 Democratic candidates and 72 have watched the CD3 Republican candidates. Finally, 267 have watched the forum that featured opposed candidates for County Council, Senate District 5, PRC, and District Attorney. Barbara requested assistance in conducting the candidate forums for the fall, including sending out invitations to the candidates. Ellen volunteered to help.

Voter Services

Diane Goldfarb, voter services director for LWVNM, contacted each local league asking for voter guide questions to be submitted in advance of the July board meeting. Hence, we will choose our questions during the June board meeting.

Barbara is meeting with County Elections Manager Gloria Maestas following this meeting to be trained for processing absentee ballots. She also plans to schedule a meeting with Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver to review issues with the SOS website in order to improve the process for the general election. Barbara, Akkana, and Judy Williams have gathered a list of items to discuss with her.

Local Studies

Both JoAnn and Dave North asked for guidance on how to proceed with the studies, which were approved during the annual meeting. Barbara said they should determine the scope of the study, ask for volunteers, organize a meeting, and then make assignments. Barbara will send LWV guidelines for studies to both JoAnn and Dave.

BPU Observer Corps

The Board of Public Utilities met on May 20, 2020. The only item on the agenda was the utility assistance program. Donations have been received from 19 individuals and only two individuals have requested assistance.

Council Report

At the May 5 County Council meeting, which was covered by Rosmarie, Harry Burgess discussed the pandemic and the phased reopening of businesses and entertainment. Also covered was a consent motion regarding leasing land to the dog obedience club. Beverly Simpson presented an emergency operations plan.

Leslie will watch the May 19 meeting and send her report to Barbara. Addie is watching tonight's meeting.

Gallery Exhibit

According to Becky, the Chautauqua planned for the June Community Days sponsored by the Los Alamos Historical Society (Deborah Blanche impersonating Nina Otero-Warren) is on hold with Deborah and her sponsor, the New Mexico Humanities Council. The Mesa Public Library contacts, Eileen Sullivan and Diane Stoffel, have confirmed that the exhibit, which is on hold, will occur at some unknown time. The list of exhibit items continues to progress. Dave North will work on how materials will be affixed to the walls as well as how to best display three-dimensional materials.

Other News

A letter was sent to Barbara and Becky from an intern with the criminal justice committee for the League of Women Voters of California asking for input into their

project on criminal justice reform. Because LWVNM positions already address several of these issues, board members can respond to their survey if we so choose.

Both Ellen and Leslie have registered for the LWVUS convention. Barbara hoped for a caucus on the transfer of federal lands but the study leaders are not delegates and it is not clear if they will be authorized to lead a caucus. It appears the planning for the convention is behind schedule.

Jody was concerned that our forums are not linked on Vote411 and she sent an email to someone about this. Akkana agreed the forums should be posted and Barbara suggested Jody contact Judy Williams.

Important Dates

The deadline for the next newsletter is June 3.

The next board meeting will be June 23, 2020, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Submitted by Rebecca Chaiken