

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY JUNE 23, 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, Second Vice-President  
Rebecca Chaiken, Secretary  
Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader  
Akkana Peck, Director at Large  
Lynn Jones, Voter Services  
Leslie Wallstrom, Publicity  
Amy Birnbaum, Reservations  
Rosmarie Frederickson, Acting Treasurer and Fundraising

**Guests:** JoAnn Lysne, Newsletter  
Addie Jacobson, Special Projects

**Minutes**

The May minutes were accepted as presented.

**Treasurer's Report**

Rosmarie said that she plans to redo the April treasurer's report because, at the time it was originally prepared, she did not have the proper documents and some checks had not yet cleared. This will be emailed to Barbara and Rebecca for inclusion in the minutes, along with the report for May. Rosmarie believes that she has figured out PayPal for April and will work with Becky to reconcile names. She was unable to say whether she got the PayPal reports from Julie because she did not have access to her computer.

According to the emailed treasurer's report for April 2020, Rosmarie reported having a checking account beginning book balance of \$4,028.69 and an ending balance of \$2,135.13, which includes total receipts of \$888.94; disbursements of \$2,782.25; and \$.04 interest. Receipts included dues and donations. Disbursements included payments to Aspen Copies, the LA Monitor, and the LA Daily Post. The savings account ending book balance was \$35,788.70, which includes \$.88 interest.

According to the emailed treasurer's report for May 2020, Rosmarie reported having a checking account beginning book balance of \$2,135.13 and an ending balance of \$3,111.94, which includes total receipts of \$1,137.30; disbursements of \$160.51; and \$.02 interest. Receipts included dues. Disbursements included payments to Karyl Ann and JoAnn. The savings account ending book balance was \$35,789.61, which includes \$.91 interest.

### **Membership Report**

Becky reported that 66 members have renewed or joined and 27 have yet to renew. Of this number Becky estimates that 20 or so will renew. Karyl Ann is sending out 98 friendly reminders. Becky can cull the list after looking at new information from Rosmarie.

### **Lunch with a Leader**

The July Lunch with a Leader will feature State Historian Robert Martinez. Barbara invited Chris Chandler for a special Zoom lunch on June 30 to talk about the special session. Becky suggested Justice Shannon Bacon for August but Rebecca said she has an opponent in the general election. Because of this, Justice Bacon will not be invited until after the general election. Becky also suggested new League member Mari Jorgenson (or someone she recommends) who has an interest in public banking. Becky will send us the two flyers she received from Jorgenson and then Karyl Ann can contact her. Addie said the Retake Your Democracy group has members active in public banking and they may be able to suggest a speaker. Rosmarie and Becky plan to watch a webinar on this topic tonight and they will pass on any names to Karyl Ann. Barbara suggested Liddie Martinez to discuss Enterprise Bank in the times of COVID. Martinez is also on the Governor's commission regarding the phased reopening (and she has a cookbook!).

The Zoom contract we have is on automatic renewal until we cancel.

### **Election News**

Barbara said the election went well with good voter participation, many of whom voted by mail. Staff and volunteers completed tabulating votes at 10:30 p.m.

Barbara also reported that an election bill was included in the special session but the Senate Rules Committee voted against vote by mail. On the floor, a senator added an amendment that Decline to State voters can change their party affiliation when they go to the polls during a primary election. The bill initially failed in the House but later passed on a revote with no input from the public. County clerks will be able to send out absentee ballot request forms 50 days before the election.

## **Voter Services**

Prior to this meeting, Barbara emailed possible questions that can be posed via Vote411 to candidates for U.S. Congress, Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, New Mexico Legislature, Public Education Commission, and Public Regulatory Commission. Based on the responses she received, she compiled a list of four questions favored by the majority of board members for each office. Each question was reviewed and discussed. The final language for each question was subsequently approved. Barbara said the state League will review the questions to ensure they are nonpartisan. Questions for the non-statewide races will be discussed at our next meeting.

One question that arose from this discussion was what the definition of "broadband" is. The County Council has addressed the issue of bringing broadband to Los Alamos but is unable to run the lines through San Ildefonso property. JoAnn said she believes the Lab is running a line on DOE property. It was agreed that we need to know more about this topic and it was suggested that a future Lunch with a Leader might feature a speaker versed in this area. We will ask Julie to recommend someone.

Lynn had nothing new to report but said that she has a meeting coming up with Diane Goldfarb.

## **Local Studies**

JoAnn reported that Akkana has agreed to be co-chair for the privacy study. Prior to the first meeting, the 15 participants watched a TED talk on personal data collection. The next meeting is scheduled for July 6 and this will cover web browsers and vulnerabilities. JoAnn has learned that the County has a CIO in the information management division who has agreed to talk with the group.

Dave has not acted on his study since our last meeting.

## **BPU Observer Corps**

Julie was unable to attend the board meeting but she submitted the following update via email:

The BPU meeting was held on June 17. Kathy Taylor has resigned from the Board. Carrie Walker is not acting as chair. The Department of Public Utilities has begun advertising, seeking applicants to complete the last year of Kathy's term (expires June 30, 2021). Interested applicants have until July 3rd to submit an application. Jeff Johnson completes his five-year term at the end of this month. Eric Stromberg was appointed by the Council to replace him. Discussed and approved by the BPU was the sale of 833 acre-feet of Los Alamos County's San Juan-Chama water to the Rio de Chama Acequia

Association. The sale price is the same price developed by the Bureau of Reclamation (includes 10% administrative costs) up to \$50,000. Second agenda item discussed and approved was an amendment to the Department's vendor to process credit card payments. The amendment adjusts the total amount a customer can process on a credit card for a single transaction, from \$2,400 to \$99,000. It also increased the amount on the contract to absorb fees charged by the credit card.

## **Council Report**

Barbara covered the County Council meeting, which was held on June 9. This meeting began at 6:00 p.m. and adjourned at 12:40 a.m. on June 10. It was again convened at noon on June 10 and finally concluded at approximately 2:30 p.m. Public comments covered Unquarked and the New Mexico Innovative Triangle. It was unclear if the Council knows what the new owner of Mari Mac plans to do with the property. The police chief thanked the protesters for being peaceful. Harry Burgess provided an update on COVID and said they are getting little guidance on reopening. A partial reopening of county offices, the library, pools, and restaurants has begun. The second phase of the county reopening allowing groups of 25 to 50 should occur in early July and may expand to groups of up to 100 in August. The BPU interviewed two of three candidates (the third did not show) and selected Eric Stromberg to serve on the board.

The main event of the meeting was regarding the county staff recommendation that Las Cumbres should receive the contract for social services rather than Family Strengths Network. Many public comments were read in support of FSN. Following the lengthy discussion on this topic, the council did not accept the recommendation from staff and are now awaiting a gap analysis. It is possible that both Las Cumbres and FSN will both be hired to work together. Barbara said that many county councilors and community members were unhappy with the process. The NMSA manager met with Sara Scott and Randy Ryti. The council had previously voted against the proposed "road diet" but Ryti later decided he had voted the wrong way. The splash pad came in over budget but the council decided to pay the overage because other projects came in under budget. The council was not pleased that there were so few applicants for the Planning and Zoning Commission but new member Stephanie Nakhleh was approved. There are currently only eight members rather than nine.

Lynn covered the county council meeting work session that was held on June 16. Much of the audio was very garbled and the slides did not get included in the agenda packet. There were presentations by the Parks and Recreation Department, the library, and Public Works Department. The Parks Department reported that they have a new trail builder on the staff. The library reported on the new curbside delivery program as well as the new audio-visual projector and controls in the main meeting room and one small meeting room. The Public Works Department reported

on the airport master plan. The FAA is requiring changes for security and clearance reasons.

Rebecca will cover the June 30 council meeting but may not be able to make the July 1 deadline for the newsletter.

### **Gallery Exhibit**

JoAnn and Becky are working on Drop Box so it is accessible for everyone. It has been harder than either of them anticipated. JoAnn said it will be great once it is figured out because we will need it for other things. Becky still does not know when our exhibit will go forward but she knows we are after the photography exhibit and before the concert association exhibit.

### **Other News**

Ellen said she will be participating in the national convention which begins virtually this Thursday. Barbara suggested she and Leslie vote for concurrence on the transfer of federal lands.

### **Important Dates**

The deadline for the next newsletter is July 1.

The next board meeting will be July 28, 2020, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

*Submitted by Rebecca Chaiken*