

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 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
Kathy Taylor, Treasurer
Rosmarie Frederickson, Outgoing Secretary
Rebecca Chaiken, Incoming Secretary
Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader
Akkana Peck, Director at Large
Ellen Mills, Director at Large
Jody Benson, Publicity
Amy Birnbaum, Reservations
Julie Williams-Hill, Webmaster and Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Observer Corp

Minutes

The January Minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

For January 2019, Kathy Taylor and Rosmarie Frederickson reported having a checking account ending book balance of \$1,628.10, which includes total receipts of \$306.25; disbursements of \$405.82; and \$.01 interest. The savings account ending book balance was \$20,774.52, which includes \$.88 interest.

A lengthy discussion of the proposed budget for next year (fiscal year begins May 1) was undertaken. It was agreed that the expense for a Post Office box will be moved to its own line item and Arrangements/Refreshments will be combined. It was also agreed that \$600 will be appropriated for a website upgrade to MyLo which will include a fee for migration. Formats for collecting donations and fees, such as PayPal and Stripe, were also discussed but a decision was not reached. After it was determined that the proposed budget under discussion was a one-year rather than the required two-year budget, further discussion was suspended. (Please note that on March 1 the Budget Committee produced a two-year budget for 2020/2021, which was sent electronically for consideration).

LWVLA Non-Partisan Policy

The non-partisan policy of the LWVLA was discussed because of Ellen Mills' elevation to First Vice-President and her deep and visible ties to the Democratic Party. The Policy states "[b]oard members holding a position of high public visibility shall limit their partisan participation to attendance at partisan functions for the purpose of becoming informed about candidates and issues. The President and the Voter Service Chair, and other members who, in the opinion of the Board, hold high visibility positions will be restricted by this provision." After some discussion it was agreed that the position of First Vice-President is not considered a position of high public visibility and that Ellen Mills, and other board members with low visibility positions, may participate in partisan activity in accordance with the policy. It was largely agreed that although the LWVLA is a nonpartisan political organization, we are *perceived* to be Democratic and it was suggested that local Republicans and Independents be encouraged to join to have their voices heard. However, Ellen should NOT become the president as long as she wishes to continue her work with the Democratic Party.

Nomination News

Sandra West will be relinquishing her position of Newsletter Editor following the April 2019 edition. It was suggested that Jean Dewart may be willing to step into this role and Becky Shankland will approach her. It was also noted that we need a Nominations Chair, which is an elected position. Until that is filled Ellen Mills will continue to serve in this capacity.

Lunch with a Leader

Karyl Ann Armbruster advised that the February Lunch with a Leader had to be cancelled due to snow. It was problematic that the County website had no information on cancellations due to snow and Julie Williams-Hill was asked to bring this issue up to the County. It was agreed that Lunch with a Leader will be cancelled if the Lab closes due to inclement weather.

The March event will feature Richard Skolnik who will talk about global perspectives on healthcare in the United States; April will be our annual meeting and the event will feature Lt. Governor Howie Morales who will likely talk about education reforms; and May will feature the Zero Waste discussion, which was cancelled in February. Proposed future speakers were also discussed and they included Brian Blalock, the new secretary of the Children, Youth, and Families Department and Jill McLaughlin who is the editor of the Los Alamos Monitor.

Membership Report

Becky Shankland advised the Board that we have two new members - Felicia Orth and Judy Prono - which brings our membership to 89 or 90. Becky Shankland suggested that we develop a handbook of some sort for new members. It was

agreed that the discussion would continue, likely with a focus on digital rather than paper.

Ellen Mills suggested an interview with Carol Clark, the editor of the Los Alamos Daily Post, to publicize the League, our website, history, and goals.

There was a discussion about the composition of the Nominating Committee. Here is the relevant section of the bylaws:

ARTICLE IX. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least two members, one of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. Any vacancy in the Nominating Committee shall be filled by the Board. Suggestions for nominations for officers and directors may be sent to this committee by any voting member.

It was agreed that the website be upgraded to include the ability for prospective members to join online. Julie Williams-Hill and Akkana Peck will investigate this matter further.

Voter Services

Lynn Jones was not present.

BPU Observer Corps/Webmaster

BPU members approved a rule to allow customers to opt out of the advanced metering infrastructure project, which includes electric smart meters. There will not be a fee, just a form to sign. This will be presented to the County Council on March 5. The 6.5 percent water rate increase was also approved and this will go to the County Council on April 2. On March 20, the BPU will review the fiscal year 2020 budget for submission to the County Council.

The County has a contract with PEEC for a conservation plan for water and energy. The County intends to improve publicity on recycling. "Dummy bills" are still a problem - water usage was estimated for January because the meter readers were blocked by snow.

Regarding the website, changes need to be made to make it easier to find League positions. It also needs to be updated to reflect 501(c)(3) status.

Advocacy for LWVNM

Not discussed.

Report on League Days

Barbara Calef advised that the League Days were a success with many participants from Los Alamos. Because some people came without confirming ahead of time, the space reserved for lunch was inadequate. The new location for the legislative reception, Rio Chama, was very nice, although more expensive.

LWVNM Convention Plans

The State and National conventions are held in alternating years. This year the State convention will be held in Los Alamos May 17, 18, and 19. The banquet will cost \$35 per participant. Stephanie Garcia-Richard will be the keynote speaker. Christine Chandler will speak briefly at lunch. Los Alamos will have five delegates to the convention and their fee will be covered through our budget, but anyone is welcome to attend.

Annual Meeting

Howie Morales will be the speaker at Lunch with a Leader before our annual meeting, which will be held on April 16, 2019, at the Mesa Public Library.

Report on Program Planning and 100th Anniversary

It was suggested that pre-kindergarten in Los Alamos be addressed, possibly through a lunch speaker. Leslie Wallstrom will seek out a speaker for this topic and how the shortage of space and teachers would be addressed.

The bill proposing the Early Childhood Education and Care Department (SB22) has been amended. Early childhood education functions of other state agencies would be transferred to this new department and pre-kindergarten programs will be expanded.

Barbara Calef wants to talk to Craig Martin about implementation of the open space management plan and the concern that only one person is in charge of open spaces for the County.

The 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters is in 2020. The League was founded in 1920 when women gained the right to vote and it morphed from the suffrage movement. Becky Shankland will report on what the State League is doing. It is anticipated that two celebratory events will be held in February (combined with League Day) and August. In Los Alamos this could be combined with the Rodeo Parade. It was also suggested that the anniversary be memorialized through posters, pictures from the archives, and perhaps a display at the library.

Becky Shankland noted that the Los Alamos Historical Society Archives is rapidly filling and the technology for storage continues to change. Rebecca Collinsworth, the archivist, says that there is no consensus on hard copy v. digital material.

Newsletter

The deadline for submissions is March 3. Richard Skolnik's biography will be included along with the proposed budget and announcement of the annual meeting.

Fund Drive Party

Rosmarie Frederickson selected March 13, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., for our annual fund drive. Barbara Calef will write the letter, Rosmarie will get the stamps, and we already have envelopes. The event will be held at the Frederickson home located at 1372 47th Street. The list of potential donors is out of date and we do not want business donors to be included this year (only in election years).

Important Dates

The next board meeting will be March 26, 2019, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Mesa Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by Rebecca Chaiken