

**The League of Women Voters/Los Alamos**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday April 27, 2023**  
**Via Zoom**

**Call to Order**

Barbara Calef called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**Board Members Present**

Barbara Calef, Co-President  
Becky Shankland, Co-President  
Felicia Orth, First Vice President  
Ellen Mills, Second Vice President  
Rosmarie Frederickson, Treasurer  
Rebecca Chaiken, Secretary  
Lynn Jones, Voter Services  
Akkana Peck, Director at Large  
Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader  
Jody Benson, Publicity  
Adelaide Jacobson, Director at Large  
Amy Birnbaum, Reservations  
Bob Williams, Newsletter

**Guest** – Jean Dewart, Membership

**Minutes**

The March 2023 minutes were accepted as presented.

**Lunch with a Leader**

Our speaker for Lunch with a Leader in May will be Senator Leo Jaramillo. Karyl Ann reported that the Co-Op is severely understaffed, and they presently cannot provide lunches for our Lunches with a Leader. She suggested that the May, June, and July events go forward via Zoom. This will give her more time to find an alternative vendor. She will inquire with Ruby K's and Secret City Kitchen to see if they can accommodate our lunch events. It was also suggested that we meet at UNM-LA, where Secret City Kitchen is located, but Karyl Ann has heard that they are not currently providing meeting rooms. Barbara heard otherwise, however, so Karyl Ann will inquire.

For June, Karyl Ann will contact Karl Braithwaite. Becky will provide her with his contact information. The location of the June event is still to be determined.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for March 2023 showed a checking account beginning book balance of \$2,235.86 and an ending balance of \$3,743.45, which includes total receipts of \$1,530.12 and disbursements of \$22.53. Receipts included dues (Sherwood), fund drive donations, and interest. The savings account ending book balance was \$26,821.09, which includes \$1.82 interest.

Rebecca moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, and Becky seconded this motion. All voted in favor.

## **Annual Meeting**

Rebecca completed the minutes from the Annual Meeting and sent them to the volunteer readers, Kyle Wheeler and Wendy Swanson. Wendy subsequently asked a question about our water position, which was sent to the board prior to this meeting. In looking at the issue, Barbara realized that the 2017 version is not the same as what was readopted in 2021. We will consider rewording this position at next month's meeting. Passage will require a 2/3 vote of the board followed by a 2/3 vote of our membership. Barbara will summarize the issue for consideration at the May board meeting.

## **Nonpartisan Policy**

This policy was sent to the board for our review in advance of today's meeting. There were no questions about the policy, which is straightforward. Becky moved that we readopt the policy and this motion was seconded by Jody. All voted in favor.

## **Conflict of Interest Policy**

This policy was sent to the board for our review in advance of today's meeting. Prior to the meeting and via email, Akkana noted some issues with its phrasing. Felicia also said the policy wording is awkward and convoluted, and she would like to rewrite the whole policy. She previously wrote a similar policy for PEEC. She will adjust it for our League and present it to the board for our consideration in May.

## **Membership**

Jean suggested that we devise a way to have email groups, such as one group for the board, and another for the pit production study. Getting a lot of email messages can be overwhelming and email chains are hard to follow. Becky said that setting up email groups with Gmail is easy, but it was noted that not everyone has Gmail and some of us are technologically challenged. Akkana said that we would need a host to

set up a mailing list and there are several external sites which offer this service for free. Club Express, which she has not yet been able to research, would also provide such a service. Barbara is attempting to get LWVNM to pay for the initial start-up costs of Club Express, after which we would pay \$24 per month. Bob does not think we need Club Express, but he agreed to evaluate it along with Akkana.

Jean said that we currently have 120 individual members. There have been numerous renewals since March 1, but she and Rosmarie have yet to exchange these materials. Furthermore, the "Join/Donate" page on our website has been streamlined and improved. Jean has met with Rosmarie and Addie about the Treasurer duties because that position gets all information about memberships and donations. Jean will also soon be meeting with Julie Williams-Hill about PayPal. She noted that there are several individuals, each with a piece of the puzzle. She asked that, if a member wishes to renew with cash, she be provided with the membership information in written form and she will update the spreadsheet accordingly.

Regarding the pit production study, Jody wrote in the chat that she will write an invitation to participate in the study and will ask Becky or Karyl Ann to send it out to all our members. Jody will then create her own mailing list comprised of the pit production study committee.

Our bylaws require three meetings per year for our membership. In the past, we did not need more than the Lunch with a Leader events since they were well-attended. Because that format has changed due to Covid, Barbara suggested we hold a general membership meeting. Because we just had our Annual Meeting, and people tend to travel during the summer months, early September was suggested as a possibility. Ellen has offered her house for this event with the hope that it can be held at least partially outside. Camp May and the North Mesa picnic grounds were also suggested as possible venues. An evening event will be more likely to get working members involved with the League.

## **Voter Guide**

Lynn agreed to continue to lead this effort for the next election, but she still wants someone to replace her. She has people to help with editing at the last minute, but no one else is lined up to assist. Jean has a list of members who expressed an interest in this topic, and she will send it to the board after this meeting. She expressed dismay that the people who have worked on this project for years have not stepped up to fill this important leadership role. Perhaps we can recruit members to participate by offering smaller tasks to start, with the hope that they become willing to take on larger tasks.

Jean thinks we should offer our members an opportunity to develop the questions for our forums and Voter Guides, but via email is not the way to do it. An in-person meeting would be more effective. Akkana agreed that having meetings to discuss

these things is a good idea, because it is hard for people to become engaged without being on the board.

Becky suggested that Lynn try and divide the Voter Guide duties to be smaller, and more manageable. Lynn said that the most time critical and stressful chore is spending two or three days with Bonnie at the LA Daily Post prior to printing. Each time Bonnie makes a change, Lynn's entire document must be reviewed because words and sometimes paragraphs drop off and the alignment changes. Jody offered her assistance in this endeavor.

## **2023 Convention**

The Convention reception will be held at Ellen's house on Friday between 4:30 and 6:30. All board members except for Akkana, Lynn, Addie, Rosmarie, and Bob plan to attend and bring food to share.

Registration begins on Saturday at 8:00 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Barbara Lemmick is no longer able to help with the silent auction, so Addie agreed to take this on. Barbara has the auction forms the donor fills out with a starting bid. Several of us will meet at the church at 7:30 to get the auction and "swag" tables set up.

## **Miscellaneous**

Addie said that she needs to meet with Rosmarie, Barbara, and Felicia about the Treasurer duties and requirements of the bank. Rosmarie said that she will be going to the bank tomorrow and will find out what they require to transfer names as signatories.

Ellen said that the bank will require verification of Felicia and Addie's new roles. She suggested that an Addendum to the minutes be prepared. Ellen then moved to nominate Felicia as President and Addie as Treasurer, and this motion was seconded by Jody. All voted in favor. Rebecca will prepare and sign this addendum and bring it to the reception on Friday.

## **Important Dates**

The deadline for the next newsletter is May 1, 2023.

The next board meeting will be May 25, 2023, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken*

**League of Women Voters of Los Alamos**  
**Addendum to Board Minutes**  
**April 27, 2023**

Ellen Mills moved to nominate Felicia Orth as our President and Adelaide Jacobson as our Treasurer.

This motion was seconded by Jody Benson.

All board members voted in favor.

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Rebecca Chaiken  
Secretary