

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY APRIL 28, 2022  
VIA ZOOM DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

**Call to Order**

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

**Board Members Present**

Barbara Calef, Co-President  
Becky Shankland, Co-President  
Felicia Orth, First Vice President  
Rebecca Chaiken, Secretary  
Lynn Jones, Voter Services  
Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader  
Akkana Peck, Director at Large  
Jody Benson, Publicity

**Guests:** Jean Dewart, Membership

**Agenda**

Because so few board members could be present today, it was decided to delay the discussion of our policies on Conflict of Interest and Nonpartisan Activities. Furthermore, we need to sign an acknowledgement of our Conflict of Interest Policy. Felicia will send a draft to Barbara, who will forward to the board.

**Minutes**

The March minutes were accepted as presented.

The Annual Meeting minutes have been completed. At Becky's request, they will be sent to the board once the readers (Lynn Jones and Kyle Wheeler) have completed their reviews.

**Lunch with a Leader**

Karyl Ann reported that, at Jody's prodding, she has secured Teresa Leger Fernandez for our May event and she will be asked to discuss what she has done during her first term. Chris Chandler has been confirmed for June and she will review the recent legislative session. Several board members expressed concern that Leger Fernandez should not be invited because she is running for reelection, and our nonpartisan policy has been that individuals up for election are not appropriate guests for such events. It could be considered a campaign presentation and the League has been perceived as being partisan. In the end, it was decided that

Leger Fernandez should not be a guest speaker until after the election in November. It was also concluded that Chris Chandler's invitation is not an issue because she is running unopposed. Chris will be invited for May.

Several names were suggested for our June event including Christine Koblenz, Eric Peterson, or someone from the Food Depot. Barbara noted that the list of important topics generated by Jean's query to our members focused on environmental issues. Based on that, Felicia offered to contact Claudia Borchert, the Climate Change Policy Coordinator for New Mexico. Felicia added that Borchert can discuss how the state is addressing emissions in a variety of sectors. Rebecca asked that Susan Herrera be invited after the election to discuss water issues in Northern New Mexico.

At Becky's request, Rebecca will include in the minutes a list of names that have been suggested in recent months. Including today's discussion and going back to 2020, those names include (in no particular order):

U.S. Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez  
Food Depot representative  
Representative Susan Herrera  
Eric Peterson  
Christine Koblenz  
Senator Leo Jaramillo  
Tom Solomon (environmental issues and modernizing the legislature)  
Luis Reyes (CEO of Kit Carson Electrical Co-Op and who secured broadband for Taos) County  
Senator Bobby Gonzales  
Inez Russell Gomez (editorial page editor for the Santa Fe New Mexican)  
Dede Feldman  
Barbara Vigil (CYFD)  
Taraka Dale (plastic bottle project)  
Karl Braithwaite (environmental issues at LANL)  
Christa Slaton (engaging people with differing opinions)  
Maxine McReynolds (issues of law)  
Justice Shannon Bacon  
Thom Mason  
Terry Foecke  
Kathleen Sabo (New Mexico Ethics Watch)  
Patrick Moore (New Mexico Historic Sites)

Karyl Ann said that she would like to find an alternative to the library for our Lunch with a Leader events once they resume in person. She is looking for someplace free (or low cost) that has adequate ventilation. Felicia said that the Unitarian Church has a large fellowship hall with lots of windows and ventilation. The church charges between \$0 and \$15 an hour, or higher if the event has a fee charged for entry. Everyone agreed that this would be an excellent location, and Felicia agreed to inquire with the church about availability on the third Thursday of the month at

noon. Barbara suggested that we might want to consider resuming in-person events in June.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for March 2022 reported a checking account beginning book balance of \$2,369.41 and an ending balance of \$2,692.23, which includes total receipts of \$340.02 and disbursements of \$17.20. Receipts included dues (Mark Graham, Kyle Wheeler, Judy Prono), a donation (Bernadine Goldman), and \$.02 interest. Disbursements were to Aspen Copies and for PayPal expenses. The savings account ending book balance was \$33,308.26, which includes \$.85 interest.

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

### **Annual Retreat**

In June 2021, we held a retreat at Ellen's house, and Barbara would like to repeat it this year. Ellen offered her home on the dates of May 7, May 21, or May 28. Several board members were unavailable the earlier dates, so May 28 was selected. This event will be held from 11:00 to 3:00 and Felicia agreed to lead the discussion.

### **Membership**

Becky spoke to Stephanie Nakhleh about joining the board, but she declined.

According to Jean's most recent report, we have 111 individual members. She likes to wait until a few new membership forms or renewals are in hand before she enters the data to eliminate those mistakes. Rosmarie picks up the mailed forms and checks (perhaps once per week) and then Jean gets the forms from Rosmarie. Except for those which come in through PayPal, Jean estimates that there may be a two-week lag between the time a membership form is received and the time it is entered into the database. Barbara assured Jean that this lag is not problematic.

Jean reminded the group that our request for volunteers was recently updated on the membership form. She asked for input on whether the topics of interest on this form should also be updated. Those topics might be helpful in either securing study groups or deciding Lunch with a Leader topics.

Barbara noted that in years past we have had an annual membership meeting. She would like to resume this practice with an outside meeting toward the end of September. This topic will be discussed in more detail in July.

### **Voter Guide**

Lynn reported that the Voter Guide is in the throes of final proofs and will be wrapped up by tomorrow. She thanked Akkana for a tremendous amount of work, as well as Rosmarie and League members Judy Prono and Elizabeth Auden. Judy Williams and her team with LWVNM were also very much involved. Vote411 will go live on May 2, and the printed Voter Guide will be published in the May 7 *LA Daily Post*. Barbara asked Jody to ensure that the publicity is in place. Lynn will also ask Bonnie (with the *LA Daily Post*) about advertising the Voter Guide on the top of the front page. After May 7, we can alert the populace that hard copies of the Voter Guide are available at either library as well as the Municipal Building.

We previously approved the printing of the Voter Guide via email, but our bylaws require this to be followed by an in-person vote. Rebecca moved that we approve the printing of the Voter Guide, and this was seconded by Akkana. All voted in favor.

Barbara said that she recently attended the certification process of the voting machines at the clerk's office. Sample ballots were fed into the machines with different orientations, as well as undervotes and over votes. Presiding judges were present to answer questions, and about 12 members of the public were observing the process. Naomi said that her office is short-staffed by two positions and Barbara offered the League to help with voter registration at the farmer's market.

Becky suggested that Barbara write an article describing the certification process to satisfy anyone who may be concerned about the process.

### **Annual Fund Drive**

In a written report, Ellen said that she mailed 82 letters to non-members currently on our mailing list. There have been approximately 15 donations made. Deducting the cost of the mailing including envelopes, postage, and the letters, the net gain in donations is approximately \$150. The above costs do not include the volunteer hours spent on preparation and distribution. Ellen suggested that, before the League undertakes the next fundraising effort for non-members, we should discuss the effectiveness of this effort.

Barbara said that in election years we typically solicit donations from local businesses, which get publicity from us for donations made. She will write this letter and get it ready to be sent.

Jody suggested that we utilize different sources of funding such as the United Way pledge for LANL employees, the Chamber of Commerce business breakfast, or talks with the Rotary Club or Kiwanis Club. The talks take more work, but Jody offered to proceed with the United Way possibility.

### **Important Dates**

The deadline for the next newsletter is May 2, 2022.

The next board meeting will be May 26, 2022, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The next board retreat will be held at Ellen's house on May 28, from 11:00 to 3:00.

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

*Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken*