

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY AUGUST 26, 2021
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
Rosmarie Frederickson, Treasurer
Akkana Peck, Director at Large
Addie Jacobson, Director at Large
Amy Birnbaum, Reservations
Jody Benson, Publicity
Felicia Orth, Director at Large
Lynn Jones, Voter Services
Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader

Guests: JoAnn Lysne, Newsletter
JJ Mortensen, Library Exhibit
Jean Dewart, Membership

Minutes

The July minutes were accepted as presented.

Lunch with a Leader

Karyl Ann reported that the September Lunch with a Leader will actually take place during the evening of September 16, and will feature the Chautauqua with Deborah Blanche portraying Nina Otero Warren. The library will coordinate this event and will be in charge of running the Zoom. Karyl Ann will get the Zoom link from Eileen Sullivan and it will be included with the online and print advertisements in the LA Daily Post. No one has been selected for the October event yet, but several names were previously suggested including Allegra Love and Steve Lynn. Karyl Ann will try Allegra Love first, and Steve Lynn second. Jean noted that Steve Lynn could discuss the draft master plans for the county as well as the updates to the development code. Because of the spike in COVID cases, the event will be via Zoom only and Amy will cancel our reservations at the library.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for July 2021 reported a checking account beginning book balance of \$7,175.74 and an ending balance of \$7,693.06, which includes total receipts of \$560.06 and disbursements of \$42.73. Receipts included dues (Morris, Forman, Jacobs, and Bartlett), donations (Morris, Bartlett, Jacobson, and Goldman), and \$.06 interest. Disbursements were to the Secretary of State, Aspen Copies, and PayPal. The savings account ending book balance was \$33,301.60, which includes \$.85 interest.

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

Membership

Jean sent the most recent membership report via email, which reflects 93 individual members (including single and household memberships). Dotty sent out a reminder to 25 individuals in July who have not yet renewed their membership for this year. A couple of people responded with their renewal and those numbers are included in the spreadsheet. Dotty also sent out thank you notes to those who made donations to the League. Jean noted that the Excel spreadsheet is sortable and useful as a source of email addresses. Jean also noted that the system used for keeping track of members is not perfect, as some sign up as a single member and donate on top of their membership, and some sign up as a sustaining member with a smaller donation included.

Rosmarie asked if she needs to keep up her list since Jean's is so complete. No one had any issues with this but Rosmarie will check with Julie (who could not be present today) before she deletes it.

Library Exhibit

Becky will write up a short report detailing the history of the exhibit, which can be included in the minutes. She asked that everyone sign the guest book, which will be saved for our archives. Jeffrey Howell wrote a nice letter in support of the exhibit, which will be published in the local papers. Becky will send out a sign-up sheet for members to be present during the exhibit to welcome guests. She also noted that the guests are using the ballot boxes in the exhibit. She wants to hang more posters around town advertising the exhibit. Addie and Felicia volunteered to help. Jody will distribute the advertisements to the local papers and on our website. JJ sent an announcement to the events section of the LA Daily Post, as well as to other papers in the area and concierge desks at local hotels. Karyl Ann asked Voices of Los Alamos and the Democratic Party of Los Alamos County to advertise the exhibit. She will also approach the Republican and Libertarian parties along with the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs. JJ suggested that the other Leagues in the state should be notified and perhaps it could be included in the events section of Pasatiempo.

November Election

Tuesday was the filing day. We have eight school board candidates and seven candidates for UNM-LA Advisory Board. Barbara asked everyone to send her suggested questions for the Voter Guide, which she will then organize and send out for an electronic vote. Lynn suggested that four or five questions for each candidate is reasonable. Addie and Rebecca urged that a print edition of the Voter Guide be published in addition to the online version.

Barbara noted that the County Clerk is not sending out requests for absentee ballots. Lynn said that the first page of the Voter Guide always includes voting information. Lynn will set up a timeline and send it to the board.

Dates for the candidate forum were then discussed. Lynn will be gone for most of October so Felicia agreed to act as moderator. It was agreed that the forum will take place via Zoom on October 6 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The County Clerk will speak about new election rules at the beginning of the forum. Barbara thinks these rules should also be printed in the local papers.

Barbara approached Margo Batha about the proposed debate on voter identification requirements and they agreed a panel discussion would be the best format. Margo is excited about the panel discussion and will work with the students (IVote as well as the Hilltalkers debate team) to come up with a plan. Akkana asked that they include voter identification issues for those hard-to-reach voters, such as those individuals living on rural reservations. It was agreed that early January would be the best time for this panel with the hope that it could at least be a hybrid event. Barbara will ask Maggie Toulouse-Oliver to participate.

BPU Report

Julie could not be present today, but in an email she reported that not much happened at the BPU meeting. The County was looking for the BPU endorsement on some Customer Relationship Management software, but since several department staff were unable to attend the meeting, the topic was rescheduled for a future meeting. The rest of the meeting included presentations on asset conditions from department staff on the two hydroelectric facilities and the overall power production division.

Council Reports

Barbara reported on the August 10 meeting during which Randall Rytty discussed a change in County Council rules leading to more transparency. She received a written summary from Rytty, as follows: "At the July 27 meeting, we added the following council rules - a motion was made by Councilor Williams, seconded by Councilor Reagor, that Council approve the proposed rule change amended to say

when a proposed ordinance is introduced a Councilor may propose that the introduction is followed by discussion to clarify the purpose of the ordinance, notify the community about the ordinance, allow initial Councilor questions, and describe the process leading up to the public hearing on the ordinance." The biggest issue during this meeting was whether to vote on restricting ground floor private building space to retail and medical. Barbara said there was a lot of public comment but in the end the council voted to withdraw the motion. She thinks this is essentially the same as voting no. In addition, the Governor sent a letter to all local governments and businesses asking that they mandate COVID vaccines and testing for employees. The Council voted in favor, although Councilor Reagor voted against a mandate.

Lynn watched the working group meeting on August 24, which had presentations from Art in Public Places and the Resiliency, Energy, and Sustainability Task Force. The regional capital funds project was discussed during which it was agreed that, because Los Alamos receives the GRT, we need to do more to help our regional partners. A fund is being set up to help Rio Arriba County. A mobile connectivity trailer was approved for emergency situations. There was also a lengthy discussion on how to deal with vacant buildings. It appears the Council does not have a grasp on the extent of the situation. The Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) was discussed with respect to transparency with the local business community. Lynn also made an official League public comment on our climate change position and got a very good response.

Barbara wrote to the County Council about transcribing meetings. Sara Scott will look into it. In the meantime, Barbara said a live transcription is included when the meeting is downloaded.

Volunteers were solicited for future meetings. Addie will cover August 31; Rebecca will cover September 7; Lynn will cover September 21; and Rosmarie will cover September 28.

Concurrence with California on Criminal Justice Position

It was agreed we will have a meeting on November 8 for all League members to discuss this proposed LWVNM concurrence with California. Addie suggested we get input from the District Attorney and Public Defender. Felicia agreed to ask these groups to help us frame the topic. Jody noted that the position is more complicated than it looks on the surface. Becky added that, while our understanding of criminal justice issues may be limited, we can still use our common sense to make sensible suggestions. The format for this meeting is yet to come.

Important Dates

The deadline for the next newsletter is September 1, 2021.

The next board meeting will be September 23, 2021, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken