

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY AUGUST 25, 2022
VIA ZOOM DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

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
Rebecca Chaiken, Secretary
Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader
Akkana Peck, Director at Large
Jody Benson, Publicity
Amy Birnbaum, Reservations

Guest: Jean Dewart, Membership

Minutes

A minor correction to the July minutes was needed. The amended minutes were accepted as presented.

Hybrid Meetings

Barbara announced that the LWVNM meeting will be held in the meeting rooms at the library in Los Alamos on September 24, 2022. Amy advised that the necessary cables for a hybrid meeting are held at the front desk. Sam, the library's technology specialist, could not guarantee he would be available should the need arise because of his other library duties. Furthermore, he cannot hook up the audio for the Zoom component and someone with the League will need to know how to do it. Amy and Felicia both mentioned past problems with hybrid meetings. Felicia suggested a dress rehearsal may be a good idea. Barbara will discuss these concerns with Sam at the library. Rebecca mentioned that she has heard about a speaker for such meetings called a "Zoom Owl." [Sold on Amazon for nearly \$1,000.]

Lunch with a Leader

Karyl Ann reported that she has confirmed Anne Laurent, the Deputy County Manager and former head of both Community Planning and Public Works, for our September meeting. Barbara would like her to discuss what is going on in the Community Services Department, specifically as it relates to Pueblo Canyon, the golf

course, and spending large sums of money on consultants before having a clear idea what the community would like. Jean suggested she start her presentation with a description of what the Community Services Department is responsible for. Becky added that this description should be included in Karyl Ann's article for the newspapers. Beverley Simpson may not be able to participate in October because of her National Guard duties, but Karyl Ann will check back with her soon. Jean suggested that, if Beverley Simpson cannot participate in October, someone from the Lab or DOE could discuss the Sitewide Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Jody agreed that this is a critical issue. When it was learned during the meeting that the public comment deadline is October 3 for this EIS, it was agreed that Karyl Ann would ask Anne Laurent if she could speak in October instead of September. Jean will provide possible names for Karyl Ann to contact about the EIS for our Lunch with a Leader in September. Teresa Leger Fernandez will be invited for November and Karyl Ann will ask Beverley Simpson if she could speak at our December meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for July 2022 showed a checking account beginning book balance of \$1,286.92 and an ending balance of \$1,554.37, which includes total receipts of \$430.01 and disbursements of \$162.56. Receipts included dues (Alme, Havel, McClay, and Orth), donations (Thayer and Milder), and \$.01 interest. Disbursements were to Enterprise Bank (convention expenses charged to the credit card), a payment towards the Annual Report, and for PayPal expenses. The savings account ending book balance was \$33,311.60, which includes \$.85 interest.

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

Membership

According to Jean's most recent report, our membership stands at 120 individual members. Becky said that she would like an easier way to identify new members and Jean said she could run a report for her at any time. Jean sorts the membership list the way that she does because that is what Lynn needs to update the LWVUS data base. Jean will continue to send the membership spreadsheet to the board monthly, for those who may be interested.

Jean said that Dotty has received some negative feedback from our members about the online membership form. Jean thinks it is just a matter of our website lacking a simple "join" button but said that other website maintenance issues need addressing. Barbara will try and schedule a meeting next month with Helena Whyte and Madhavi Garimella to discuss these and other issues.

Barbara said that Club Express offers a free trial. Because we just paid LWVCA our annual fee for the website, she needs to find out what Club Express will charge us for membership services only.

Rodeo Parade

Ellen reported that 9 people showed up to march in the parade, which was enough to represent our group. The hard work has already been done, so future parades will be easy to arrange. We did not win an award this year. A few pictures were posted in the local newspapers, but we did not have a photographer designated to take pictures. Barbara would like a new picture for our website. Becky will ask Maire from the Los Alamos Reporter if she would be willing to share a picture.

Voter Services

September 20 is National Voter Registration Day. Naomi Maestas said that her office will be doing something for this event. They also will be registering voters at the farmer's market, but not every week. Barbara suggested that we cover the weeks that the clerk's office will not be present. The first date is confirmed to be September 8. A volunteer is needed to review the membership spreadsheet and identify those members who expressed an interest in voter registration. Two hour shifts each day should be adequate.

Ellen did not contact the high school principal because she did not want to take up his time at the beginning of the school year. She also asked for more guidance on what they should discuss. She might reach out to Jennifer Guy first. Barbara knows that Naomi's office plans to go to the high school to register eligible students, but she does not know when.

The questions for the Voter Guide were sent via email and discussed electronically. Amy and Felicia supported the questions and Karyl Ann still wants a question on election integrity. She will ask her question, using the language suggested by Felicia during an online discussion, at a candidate forum. The term "codified" in one of the questions still bothers some members, and Felicia suggested an alternative could be "adopted into statute or law." Barbara said that the questions with the term "codified" have already been sent to candidates for statewide offices.

During the online discussion of these questions, Jean suggested we replace the County Council question about privately-owned commercial properties with, "what County services need to be improved and how will you champion these improvements?" Jean said this question is a little freer form and allows the candidates to present themselves. Rebecca then moved that we accept the four County Council questions, including Jean's replacement. Jody seconded this motion, and all voted in favor. Becky then moved that we accept all the other questions for the other candidates. Akkana seconded this motion, and all voted in favor.

Becky expressed concern about something discussed at our July meeting. The sentence from the minutes which prompted her concern was, "Barbara said that the LWVNM Executive Committee will ask for a meeting with the Secretary of State to discuss voter intimidation following concerns she has heard about the publication of voting records." Barbara responded that, if someone has a need for the voting records (e.g., a political party for campaign purposes) the Secretary of State (SOS) will release those records for a fee. The issue of concern was a group which wanted the records not for campaign purposes. The Attorney General ruled that it could not stop these records from being published. The LWVNM President was going to meet with the SOS about this issue and Barbara will report back to us when she learns the outcome.

Barbara proposes that two forums will be held, one for the County Council candidates and one for Chris Chandler and all the other candidates facing opposition. The dates everyone agreed to are September 29 and October 3. Ellen said she is available to facilitate both events.

Important Dates

The deadline for the next newsletter is September 1, 2022.

The next board meeting will be September 22, 2022, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken