**The League of Women Voters/Los Alamos**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday August 22, 2024**

**UU Fellowship Hall**

**1738 North Sage Street**

**Los Alamos**

**Call to Order**

Felicia Orth called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**Board Members Present**

Felicia Orth, President

Ellen Mills, Second Vice President

Barbara Calef, Past President

Addie Jacobson, Treasurer

Rebecca Chaiken, Secretary

Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader

Lynn Jones, Voter Services

Becky Shankland, Director at Large

Jody Benson, Publicity

Lisa Hampton, Community Health and Wellbeing

Wendy Swanson, Reservations and Refreshments

**Guest:** Jean Dewart

**Minutes**

The July minutes were accepted as presented.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report dated August 21, 2024, showed a checking account balance of $13,327.50, which includes total receipts of $108.50 and no disbursements. Receipts included transfers from PayPal, a donation, dues, and interest. The savings account ending bank balance was $25,630.89, which includes $1.74 interest.

The Treasurer’s Report was accepted as presented. A corrected Treasurer’s Report for April 2024 remains pending.

Addie noted that she has not yet received any bills from the LWVUS Convention. Felicia said that she will provide her claims soon. The $20 donation came from an unknown source. Addie has turned this over to the Fundraising Committee. In response to a question posed by Addie, it was unanimous that it does not matter if Addie writes a check or uses automatic ACH withdrawal. Addie has not pursued canceling Zoom because she assumed the charges were on Barbara’s credit card, which has since expired. Addie has yet to receive a bill from LWVCA for our website. She was told that a bill was sent to the alias email, but it was never received by either Addie or Felicia. The member who sent in a check to pay for their membership, (Susannah Rousculp), which was rejected by the bank, has still not submitted a new payment. Addie also noted that we need to address PayPal expenses in our budgeting process. For example, the current membership dues is $45, but PayPal charges us $2.06 per transaction.

**Voter Guide**

Jean submitted the five questions developed by the subcommittee. Becky asked that a link to the 2016 Comprehensive Plan be attached to question number 5. Jean said that could be done, but both Barbara and Lynn suggested that this is unnecessary. It is the candidates’ responsibility to familiarize themselves with the plan. Becky responded that the public also needs to be educated on this topic. Addie agreed. Jody and Lynn added that Vote411 does not allow for the inclusion of any background information.

Barbara moved to accept the questions developed by the subcommittee and Jody seconded this motion. All voted in favor.

**Lunch with a Leader**

Karyl Ann reported that Taraka Dale (plastic bottle project) will be our speaker for the September event. Stephanie Nakhleh, and possibly others from Boomtown, will be invited to speak in October. Lisa suggested that Dan Osborn, the county’s Housing and Special Project’s Manager, be invited to speak in November. It was agreed that there will be no Lunch with a Leader event in December.

Karyl Ann noted that if we want to hear from Mike Holtzclaw (UNM-LA Chancellor), it will need to be done via Zoom because of his work schedule. She thinks that a Zoom event is best for the winter months because of possible adverse weather.

**Membership**

Bob was not present today. Becky said that she received the names of several new members. They include Susan Mendel, Bill Priedorsky, Melissa Bartlett, Catherine D’Anna, Michael Grimler, Denise Derkas, Ann and Steve Laurent, Haley McEntire, Ellen Specter, Steve Reneau, and James Wernicke. After some discussion, it was concluded that those board members who need to have this sort of information will meet separately to figure out the best process for sharing information.

**Fundraising**

Ellen reported that the Delle Foundation came through with a substantial donation of $35,000, which will cover our expenses the next three years. Another application will be submitted after that time before the foundation ceases. Addie expressed some concern that she must file taxes differently for total income of $50,000, but it was determined that we have yet to reach that threshold. Now that we have this substantial income, Ellen suggested that the Committee will step back from fundraising for a while.

The donor recognition event will be held at Ellen’s home on September 8 in the afternoon. Those who made donations of $50 or more were invited. Thus far, 22 Friends of the League have been invited. She asked for RSVPs from the board, as well as food or drink donations for the Italian-themed party. Barbara noted that since this is not a member-wide event, another membership meeting will need to be held.

The grant from Enterprise Bank has not yet been received. Ellen will follow up with her contact.

**Voter Registration Day and Council Presentation**

Naomi Maestas advised Barbara that the County Council will be recognizing Voter Registration Month on August 27, and she asked for League members to join her. Lisa volunteered.

National Voter Registration Day is September 17. Barbara will inquire with Naomi about where the Clerk’s Office will be stationed, and League members can cover any gaps. Lynn volunteered and Karyl Ann may also be able to participate. Becky asked that pictures be taken. Lisa said that she heard that voter register training is not available online. This conflicts with the information shared by Barbara.

Voting machine certification, during which the public is invited, will be held soon but a date is not yet known. A Friendly Reminder will be sent out when that date is known. Poll worker training will follow.

**Candidate Forum**

The Candidate Forum will be held on October 7 at UNM-LA. Candidates for House District 43, County Council, and County Clerk have all been invited. Barbara has yet to hear from Michael or Beverly Neal-Clinton. However, both candidates told Karyl Ann that they would participate. Barbara noted that Chris Luccini has dropped out of the race and Phillip Mach would take his place. In response to a question posed by Lisa, Felica noted that we only have time to cover three races in two hours. CD3 candidates will not be invited; in the past they have not responded without much nagging.

**Rodeo Parade**

Ellen said that nine people showed up to march with the League in the rodeo parade on August 3 and received a great reception from the crowd. She suggested that this become a yearly event for the League since all the time-consuming work (e.g., sashes) has been completed.

**Girl Scouts Democracy Badge-o-Rama**

During the LWVUS Convention, a collaboration between the League and the Girl Scouts of America was introduced. The purpose is for reach and influence. Felicia said there was a lot of excitement surrounding this collaboration.

During Science Fest, Felicia went to the Girl Scouts’ table and learned that they had not heard about the collaboration with the League. But, on August 11, the Democracy Badge-o-Rama was held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The girls were divided into two age groups (over and under sixth grade) and there were 40 participants. Felicia was a guest at this event. The two teams each advocated for either President Thin Mint or President Caramel Delight. Felicia suggested that one girl from each team act as an observer, and in fact they caught an error made while ballots were being counted. Even though it was not part of the planning, Felicia was offered an opportunity to speak for 30 minutes, during which she presented a stripped-down version of her speech to the Rotary Club. She shared ways for the girls to become engaged, including being a poll worker, registering to vote, and joining the League. If interested in participating in a larger special project (e.g., “Journey of the Ballot”), contact Felicia.

**Miscellaneous**

The Julia Brown Asplundh Memorial marker event will be held on August 26. If anyone is interested in participating, please contact Felicia.

Rebecca reported that she will be gone during the next board meeting, and a volunteer will be needed to take minutes. Rebecca added that she and her husband are moving back to Minnesota, as soon as they find a house, and a permanent replacement will be needed soon.

**Important Dates**

The deadline for the next newsletter is September 1, 2024.

Because several board members will be absent, the next board meeting date and time was changed. The next board meeting will be September 24, 2024, from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Church.

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

*Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken*