

AAUW-NM Ingenious Ideas Award AAUW-NM Ingenious Ideas Award AAUW-NM  
Ingenious Ideas Award **MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS  
ALAMOS BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY DECEMBER 8, 2022  
VIA ZOOM**

**Call to Order**

Barbara Calef called the meeting to order at 12:02 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  
Rosmarie Frederickson, Treasurer  
Lynn Jones, Voter Services  
Akkana Peck, Director at Large  
Bob Williams, Newsletter  
Jody Benson, Publicity  
Amy Birnbaum, Reservations

**Guest:** Jean Dewart, Membership

**Minutes**

One minor correction was needed to the October minutes. The amended October minutes were accepted as presented.

**Lunch with a Leader**

Teresa Leger Fernandez has been confirmed for our meeting on December 15. A speaker for January 19, 2023, has not yet been decided. Barbara inquired about Jean's previous suggestion to invite a County Council liaison to the BPU. Jean said that she had a negative response from the board and did not pursue the matter further. Following Barbara's suggestion that Sara Scott could discuss the P&Z and how it functions, Jean said that she would prefer to hear from a councilor who will be continuing on the Council, such as Randy Ryti. Ellen suggested Denise Derkacs. Jody brought up the possibility of inviting the county's new environmental staff person who was hired based on the recommendation from the Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy, and Environmental Sustainability (LARES) task force. Becky asked Akkana if the broadband issue in the county was moving ahead, and Akkana responded in the negative. Barbara suggested that a County Councilor could address this issue. Regarding her suggestion about Denise Derkacs, Ellen said that

Denise does her homework and is halfway through her term. Jean added that there have been a lot of comments from the public over the last few months regarding the county's lack of public involvement and transparency. Akkana echoed this sentiment. In the end, it was decided that Denise Derkacs should be invited for our January meeting. As a second choice, other names suggested from our list of possibilities included Dr. José Delfin, Karl Braithwaite, or Tom Sullivan. Because modernizing the legislature is a major issue right now, it was decided that Tom Sullivan would be our second choice.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for October 2022 showed a checking account beginning book balance of \$1,672.53 and an ending balance of \$2,535.99, which includes total receipts of \$6,740.17 and disbursements of \$5,876.72. Receipts included a necessary transfer from our savings account, a transfer from PayPal, dues, and interest. Disbursements were for our LWVUS PMP, to the LA Daily Post for the Voter Guide, Aspen Copies for the newsletter, PayPal charges, and Zoom charges. The savings account ending book balance was \$26,813.96, which includes \$.69 interest.

The Treasurer's Report for November 2022 showed a checking account beginning book balance of \$2,535.99 and an ending balance of \$874.07, which includes total receipts of \$220.08 and disbursements of \$1,882.00. Receipts included donations (Fairbanks and Swenson), dues, and interest. Disbursements were for our LWVNM PMP and for the rental of Fuller Lodge for our Legislative Preview in January. The savings account ending book balance was \$26,814.64, which includes \$.68 interest.

Rosmarie noted that October was an expensive month. She recently paid for the post office box, which leaves our checking account balance at approximately \$600. She added that no big expenses should be considered at this time. Barbara noted that AAUW will reimburse us for half of the Fuller Lodge rental, and we should also receive our Fuller Lodge rental deposit back.

Rebecca moved that both the Treasurer's Reports be accepted, and Lynn seconded this motion. All voted in favor.

### **Membership**

Jean advised that we now have 121 individual members; however, as Becky noted, 16 members on this list have yet to renew. Becky sent one last request for them to renew, and she anticipates that perhaps half will do so. Jean sent out a summary of what member interests are, but she added that about half of the members did not respond to that question on the membership form.

### **Legislative Preview**

The Legislative Preview will be held, in person, on January 5 at Fuller Lodge. Barbara said that Julie Williams-Hill once created a brochure about what the League does, and she asked if Jean could review it to see if it needs updating. Becky noted that she has many these brochures which we could use. The only change needed is to the dues, which could be updated by hand. Everyone liked the idea of using the brochures we already have.

The Legislative Preview will start with refreshments at 6:30, provided by AAUW, and the forum itself will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Margo Batha will be our moderator and several of her students will act as timekeepers. Barbara asked Amy to advise Fuller Lodge about the proper setup of the room, and to ensure that the microphones work. Wendy Swanson will provide the beverages.

### **Candidate Forum**

Barbara recently learned that LAPS school board member Erin Green will be resigning, and a notice for applications for her replacement has been published. We have been asked to moderate a candidate forum. This will take place on January 4 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The event will be held at the LAPS school board room and via Zoom. Felicia will moderate.

Jean asked about the questions that will be proposed to the candidates. Barbara will find the questions we asked at the last school board forum, and she asked for any more current questions the board wishes to ask to be sent to her. She will compile the list of possible questions and send them out to the board.

### **Program Planning**

Our annual program planning event will take place at the home of Ellen Mills on January 26 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. An invitation will be sent to our members next month. It will include an RSVP and a request to bring a dish to share.

### **Fund Drive Party**

Our annual Fund Drive party will be held on February 23 at Ellen's home. Desserts to share will be requested. Further details will be forthcoming.

### **Annual Meeting**

Our Annual Meeting will be held following Lunch with a Leader on April 20. Barbara is unaware of any proposed bylaws changes. We need a Budget Committee. The last committee was made up of Rosmarie, Ed Birnbaum, and Julie Williams-Hill. Amy said that Ed would be unable to participate this year. Barbara will ask Jeffrey Howell if she will serve. [Jeffrey Howell subsequently agreed.]

The Nominating Committee is currently composed of Ellen and Leslie Wallstrom. Ellen will ask JoAnn Lysne if she will participate again as well. Ellen noted that Leslie has also offered to help with the next Voter Guide. Barbara suggested that Ellen inquire with Marguerite McClay about taking over either the Treasurer position or Voter Guide Chair. Marguerite is the former owner of Rose Chocolatier and owned a woodworking business. Becky said that Judy Prono may help with the Voter Guide. She added that Elizabeth Auden, Judy Machen, and JJ Mortenson should also be approached to either help with or take over the Voter Guide. In 2023 we will only have one simple Voter Guide, so now is an opportune time for training in a new group. Jody also offered to help.

## **2023 Convention**

The 2023 LWVNM Convention is to be held in Los Alamos over the weekend of April 28 to April 30. A reception at Ellen's will be held on April 28 beginning at 4:30. A concert will take place that evening as well. We have secured a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn Express at a nightly rate of \$119. The convention itself will be held at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, which has offered space to us at no charge. We still need to plan for lunch on April 29 as well as a banquet that evening. Lunch is included in the registration fee, but attendees pay for the banquet on their own. The banquet was held at Pig and Fig in 2019, and Rebecca offered to contact them about securing their space. Regarding lunch, both Ruby K's and the Co-Op were suggested. Ruby K's would be difficult for those who are gluten free, and the Co-Op is improving since their new manager has been hired. Both Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and Senator Leo Jaramillo were suggested as possible speakers. It was decided that the Governor will be our first choice and Senator Jaramillo our second choice. Barbara asked that any other suggestions for food or speakers be sent to the board via email.

## **Action Calendar**

As part of the agenda, Barbara included the LWVNM Action Calendar and a list of priorities. The Action Committee will select the top three priorities after the first of the year.

The Action Committee has selected the following priorities, in the order of preference:

- Voting/Election Issues
- Reproductive Rights
- Taxes and Revenue Policy
- Modernizing the Legislature
- Ethics Legislation
- Environment
- Other Issues including nuclear waste and violent crime

The Action Calendar for the 2023 Legislative Session is as follows:

January 3 – Legislation can be early filed  
January 7 – Advocacy Workshop  
January 11 – Action Committee meeting  
January 12 – LWVNM Legislative Prep  
January 17 – Legislature convenes at noon  
January 21 – LWVNM board meeting  
February 15 – Legislative Reception  
February 16 – League Day at the Legislature  
March 4 – LWVNM board meeting  
March 18 – Legislature adjourns at noon

On January 7, the Advocacy Workshop will be held via Zoom from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The Action Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m. on January 11 and will discuss what the League supports and on January 12 beginning at 6:30 p.m. the LWVNM “Legislative Prep” session will be held via Zoom. The Legislative Reception will be held on February 15 at Rio Chama in Santa Fe, and that will begin at 5:30 p.m. Former U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman will be the keynote speaker. League Day will be held on February 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and this event will be held at the State Land Office. Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard will speak first, followed by Jeremy Ellis (ethics) and Amber Wallin (budget issues). Barbara hopes that this event will be available in person and via Zoom.

### **Document Storage**

Bob brought up the issue of document storage and the best way to do it. Akkana said that there are a lot of companies that offer this service, and it depends on which one we want to trust. We have used Dropbox in the past and Jody noted that it was very hard to navigate. If we sign up with Club Express, which Akkana will be researching further, document storage could be part of our package. Bob said he will also investigate both Club Express and Dropbox.

### **Important Dates**

The deadline for the next newsletter is January 2, 2023.

The next board meeting will be January 26, 2023, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The Legislative Preview will be held at Fuller Lodge on January 5, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken*