

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING
MONDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2021
VIA ZOOM DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

Call to Order

Barbara Calef called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Board Members Present

Barbara Calef, Co-President
Becky Shankland, Co-President
Ellen Mills, Second Vice-President
Rosmarie Frederickson, Treasurer
Rebecca Chaiken, Secretary
Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader
Akkana Peck, Director at Large
Lynn Jones, Voter Services
Leslie Wallstrom, Publicity
Amy Birnbaum, Reservations
Julie Williams-Hill, Webmaster

Guests: Addie Jacobson, Special Projects
JoAnn Lysne, Newsletter

Minutes

The January minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report

For January 2021, Rosmarie reported a checking account beginning book balance of \$1,747.28 and an ending balance of \$1,914.97, which includes total receipts of \$167.02 and no disbursements. Receipts included dues, a donation, and \$.02 interest. The savings account ending book balance was \$33,296.64, which includes \$.85 interest.

Rebecca moved that the treasurer's report be accepted as presented. Karyl Ann seconded this motion and all voted in favor.

Because we pay a fee every time dues or a donation is submitted through PayPal, the group discussed whether we should ask our members and donors to add a few dollars to cover that fee. For example, we recently paid \$65.10 to PayPal. Julie knows our website will support such a function but she just needs to be pointed in the right direction by technical support. Rosmarie recommended she also speak with June, the treasurer at LA Cares, because that charitable organization also uses

PayPal and asks for extra funds to cover that cost. Becky was not in support of asking for additional funds thinking it could be too complicated to make it worthwhile, but Leslie noted that the fees we pay can add up significantly over time. Rebecca moved that we add the extra donation button to our website to cover the fees we pay to PayPal and Amy seconded this motion. Julie confirmed that PayPal will add the explanatory sentence asking members and donors if they wish to add the extra funds to cover the fee. A poll was then taken - 9 voted in favor and 2 were opposed. Barbara assured Julie that there was no hurry in getting this accomplished.

Currently, our Zoom and GoDaddy bills are paid through JoAnn and Barbara's credit cards, respectively. We therefore discussed whether the League should obtain its own credit card to pay for these expenses. The consensus was that we should. Rosmarie has not yet been able to check with Enterprise about obtaining a credit card, but she will check with Enterprise as well as Del Norte Credit Union.

Leslie noted that another non-profit group she is associated with has had nothing but trouble with Enterprise and she suggested we "vote with our feet" and switch banks. Rosmarie will check into our other local options.

Lunch with a Leader

The March Lunch with a Leader will feature Richard Skolnik, a local resident and former Director of Health and Education for the World Bank, and Nick Boukas from the Department of Health, to discuss the current situation with COVID. The April event, which is also our annual meeting, will feature Representative Christine Chandler to talk about the legislative session, if she accepts the invitation. Karyl Ann has not yet heard back from Christine. If Christine is unable to participate in April, she will ask her for May. Council Chair Randall Rytty will be asked for April in the event a substitute is needed for Christine.

Ellen suggested we consider future Lunch with a Leader events to take place in the evening. She recently participated in a Los Alamos Mountaineers event via Zoom, which had 144 participants. This has been discussed in the past as a way to draw a broader audience.

Digital Privacy Position

Previously via email, the board voted to approve the Digital Privacy Position submitted by JoAnn and Akkana. Our bylaws require an electronic vote to be followed by a vote at the next board meeting. Becky moved that we approve the Digital Privacy Position and Rosmarie seconded this motion. All voted in favor.

Membership

Becky noted that new members include Tara and Mike Adams, Patricia Cruz, and Richard Skolnik (although his membership form has not yet arrived). She will see what interests they checked on the membership form and send that information to Rebecca for the minutes. After some discussion during which it was agreed that this type of online payment is the way the world is moving, Becky will add PayPal as a payment option on our membership application.

Preparation for Annual Meeting

Ellen reported that the nominating committee (made up of Ellen, Leslie, and JoAnn) has faced some challenges finding people willing to take on certain responsibilities. They therefore decided to seek volunteers to work as part of a team or committee instead. Dottie Reilly is interested in learning about membership, but she is unavailable during our board meetings on Thursdays as well as several months each summer. She has agreed to work with Becky on membership. Ann LePage has agreed to work with Ellen on fundraising. Addie has agreed to become a voting member of the board, as has Felicia Orth. Felicia will work with Leslie, who is leaving the board, on board development strategies.

Ellen added that time and technology commitments have been an additional challenge, such as with the voter guide position. Suzie Havemann may be willing to help, such as by gathering information from candidates, but she is not willing to take over completely. The committee thinks the committee concept might work well for this position and suggests that a call for volunteers be made.

JoAnn noted the glaring vacancy continues to be the position of First Vice President. Leslie added that this is a particularly challenging position because it requires a great deal of League knowledge as well as board experience. The committee hopes that things will shake out as the year progresses and by 2022 someone will emerge to take on this important position.

Program Planning Report

Our Program Planning meeting for 2021-2022 was held on February 8, 2021. Barbara submitted a Program Planning report for the board, which summarized the decisions made during that meeting. The new position on Digital Privacy will be included for approval at the Annual Meeting in April. The Digital Privacy Committee will continue to meet to investigate topics of interest such as identity theft.

The alternatives to landfills study is still pending and will resume after the legislative session ends. Jody asked that composting issues, such as capturing methane, be included. There was a subsequent discussion of improper "backyard" composting causing significant levels of methane. It was also suggested that alternatives to recycling be made part of the alternatives to landfills study.

Recycling education was also discussed. Jody previously volunteered to write something about cardboard (what the county earns for the corrugated cardboard placed in the special recycling bins and what the money is used for). Barbara will ask Jody to also ask the County to post consumer information provided by the Department of Public Utilities in monthly bills on the County website. Rebecca volunteered to write an article for the local papers and the *Update* about recycling the plastic "Smiths" bags.

Becky will work on "how the League works" and Addie offered to help Becky with this project. Leslie also suggested a board development committee could help with something like this. Part of this project will include planning an informational session for League members to educate them on how the League works (e.g., how studies are proposed or positions adopted). Ranked choice voting could be used as an example. As part of this project, Becky will work on updating her old League handbooks to see if information on how the League works could be put on the website and given to new members. We could use "League Lingo" as part of this. For example, Rebecca pointed out that she had no idea at first of what was the difference between "consensus" and "concurrence" as it related to League positions.

Regarding LWVNM positions, there is currently no schedule for adopting a position on Cybersecurity. It is hoped that some volunteers for this project will emerge during the annual meeting. Pit production is another area of concern and it was suggested that Jody explore the LWVUS position as a basis for opposing pit production in New Mexico.

The Judicial Selection study, of which Addie is a participant, is ongoing.

Several participants of the program-planning meeting were opposed to a position on Ranked Choice Voting because they fear it is too complicated, it may dissuade people from voting, and it is opposed by our legislators. Akkana prefers language such as "an alternative voting system like ranked choice voting." She will search for language that used to be included in an old position. If LWVNM adopts the LWVVT position, we could advocate for ranked choice voting for our County Council races.

Fundraising

Our annual fund drive will take place during the week of March 8 and Ellen will oversee this project. Barbara has written the letter, which will be reviewed by Leslie, and will get copies made. Ellen will be asking for volunteers. Becky suggested new members who expressed interest in this area may be willing to help, and she will send this information to Ellen.

Budget Committee

Julie had a few questions needing answers for the budget committee to finish its work. During this meeting she received confirmation that there will be no costs

associated with a printed voter guide. Regarding the number of PMPs, it was suggested she use the last number, which was 90 but it was also noted that our membership is now at 103. It was decided to wait on adding a line item for board insurance. Regarding the costs associated with the 2022 convention, Julie will use the numbers from 2020.

BPU Report

Julie had to leave the meeting before this agenda item came up, but she had given a brief update to some board members who were present before the meeting was called to order. Rebecca's notes reflect the following: stemming from severe weather in Texas, the price of natural gas has skyrocketed and we are now paying 1,000 times more than usual; this cost increase will be passed on to consumers; where consumers are currently paying \$.40 per therm, beginning April 8, 2021, consumers will be paying \$1.23 per therm.

Council Reports

Neither Leslie nor Rosmarie had written their reports for County Council sessions on January 26 and February 23, respectively. Reports written by Ellen (February 2) and Lynn (February 16) will be published in the next *Update*. Addie volunteered to cover the March 2 session. Becky will solicit volunteers from the membership for the March 16 and March 30 meetings. Lynn offered to be backup.

Questions from Ellen and Leslie

Several questions arose during the work of the nominating committee having to do with League not-for-profit finances and records. The following questions were posed to Rosmarie prior to the meeting and the responses she gave during this meeting are provided in italics:

1. Which board member is responsible for reporting to the offices of the Secretary of State and the Attorney General? *Rosmarie reports to the Secretary of State but there is no requirement to report to the Attorney General until we reach income of \$50,000.*
2. Is the League up to date on required filings? *Yes.*
3. What is the status of Kathy Taylor's League records and documents? *Rosmarie has two boxes of records available for review.*
4. Have financial records been filed? *Rosmarie filed the required IRS Form 990 in early May 2020.*
5. What are the Directors' and Officers' insurance requirements for board members and how do we proceed with making sure that board members have insurance protection? *There is no requirement that the board have insurance.*
6. Are there any other 501(c)(3) requirements/information the board should be knowledgeable about? *We can accept donations of up to \$50,000 without further requirements.*

A discussion followed regarding board insurance. Ellen noted that a County Council member was sued and she thinks there is always a potential risk of our board being attacked in the same manner. She is concerned that we do not have board insurance. Barbara said the board previously discussed this issue with local attorney and incoming board member Felicia Orth, who did not think board insurance was necessary. Mary Wilson, former LWVUS president, concurred and did not believe board insurance was necessary for a board like ours. Jeffrey Howell, president of the Delle Foundation, also agreed. Ellen wondered if we could piggyback on the LWVNM policy and Barbara responded in the negative. Ellen will ask, however, if a local League can be added. No one knew for sure if the other local Leagues had board insurance but this question will be posed to them by Ellen.

Important Dates

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

The next board meeting will be March 25, 2021, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken