

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING
MONDAY JANUARY 28, 2021
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
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
Jody Benson, Publicity
Leslie Wallstrom, Publicity
Amy Birnbaum, Reservations

Guests: Addie Jacobson, Special Projects
JoAnn Lysne, Newsletter

Minutes

The November/December minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report

For November 2020, Rosmarie reported a checking account beginning book balance of \$583.09 and an ending balance of \$2,077.95, which includes total receipts of \$2,768.39 and disbursements of \$1,273.53. Receipts included dues, a donation, and a transfer from savings. Disbursements included payments for State PMP, to JoAnn for Zoom, and Aspen Copies. In addition, \$200 was received from both Becky and the Garden Club from Kathy's memorial bench fund and then disbursed to Self Help. The savings account ending book balance was \$33,294.94, which includes the \$2,500 transfer to checking and \$.84 interest.

For December 2020, Rosmarie reported a checking account beginning book balance of \$2,077.95 and an ending balance of \$1,747.27, which includes total receipts of \$348.99, disbursements of \$679.67, and interest of \$.02. Receipts included dues and donations. Disbursements included payments to the L.A. Daily Post, the U.S. Postal Service, Aspen Copies, and Julie Williams-Hill for the Mylo Webpage. The savings account ending book balance was \$33,295.82, which includes \$.84 interest.

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

Lunch with a Leader

The February Lunch with a Leader was to have centered on Medicaid for All, another perspective on health care in New Mexico, but speakers were not identified. Instead, Ellen suggested Los Alamos Public Schools Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Guy to discuss online learning. During the meeting, Ms. Guy agreed to participate. For March, it was agreed that Richard Skolnik would be a good speaker to discuss the COVID situation, both locally and worldwide. 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.

Membership

Becky said there has been no change in membership since the last meeting. The February *Update* will list all of the members' names but no other data. Becky also noted that a father recently became a Friend of the League on behalf of his 11-year-old son.

Report on LWVNM Board Meeting

The State board met on January 16, 2021, and was attended by Barbara, Becky, Akkana, and Rebecca. Barbara noted several items of interest to our League. First, Dick Mason and the Action Committee recommended three top priorities for this legislative session: Fair Taxation and Revenue for Essential Services; Reproduction Rights; and Redistricting Reform. The board voted to accept these priorities but added Racial Equity as a fourth priority.

The board also voted to pay for each local League to use Vote411 for the 2021 election. Barbara noted that in these off-year elections (school board and UNM-LA Advisory Board), we typically have a candidate forum but do not produce a Voter Guide. Barbara added that the funds for the 2021 Vote411 would be provided by a grant from the Thornburg Foundation. Leslie reminded the group that she is a grant writer and is happy to help with any grant writing needs of the state League.

The state board needs to fill three important positions: First Vice President; Program Director; and Voter Services Director. Lynn declined the Voter Services Director position.

The Education Committee has undertaken a huge rewrite of the Education Position. Although a vote was not planned, the board voted to approve the Higher Education section by concurrence and the expanded Early Childhood Education section.

Consensus meetings with the local Leagues for the balance of the position are being planned.

The Spent Nuclear Fuel Committee is in the process of consensus meetings for its proposed position. Our consensus meeting was recently held and League member Kyle Wheeler did an excellent job writing our report.

League Day will be held virtually on February 18, 2021, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Amber Wallin will talk about revenue bills and Justice Edward Chavez will focus on redistricting reform.

Preparation for Annual Meeting

Our annual Program Planning meeting will be held on February 8 beginning at noon. Barbara asked that we think about any local studies that need to be undertaken and if there are any state or local positions that need to be changed or new studies for the state League added.

Our annual Fund Drive will be held the week of March 8 and Ellen will oversee this event. Becky has made a list of members who may wish to participate and will send the names to Ellen. Becky is also seeking her replacement as membership chair. Barbara has envelopes and Rosmarie has both envelopes and stamps. Rosmarie will try to make labels.

Barbara reported that there will be a change to our Bylaws. LWVUS has changed "Purpose and Policies" to include a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy. Because we are required to follow LWVUS, this addition will be made to our bylaws. Article III will add Section 2 to read: "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy. The League is fully committed to ensure compliance - in principle and in practice - with LWVUS's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy." Barbara will announce this change at our annual meeting.

The Budget Committee is made up of Rosmarie, Julie, and Ed Birnbaum. They have been unable to meet yet because of Julie's busy work scheduled. Barbara reminded the committee they have until the beginning of March.

The Nomination Committee is made up of Ellen, Leslie, and JoAnn. They have been meeting and are communicating with current volunteers to see if they will stay on or transition off the board. They will have a list soon and are aiming to have nominees reported in the March *Update*.

Digital Privacy Study

Based on the input during the consensus meeting, JoAnn and Akkana drafted a proposed Digital Privacy Position, which was submitted to the board for its review. Ed Birnbaum offered some wording changes, which were acceptable to JoAnn and

Akkana. Jody asked that one or two introductory sentences be added to clarify the issue for our County Council, but this was rejected; the position needs to be vague because the issue changes so quickly. Once the position is adopted, we can advocate at the County Council. JoAnn added that our somewhat vague position may also be easier for another League to adopt by concurrence.

Akkana noted that the Council might already be aware of some issues related to digital privacy. The new chair, Randall Ryti, has mentioned social media and privacy concerns and it is likely that this issue will come up before the Council this year.

Once we have the final language for the proposed position, Barbara will call for an electronic vote.

Council Reports

Lynn covered the January 5 meeting. At the first County Council meeting of 2021, Randall Ryti was elected Council Chair and James Robinson was elected Vice Chair. Three new council members - Denise Derkacs, David Reagor, and Sean Williams - are replacing outgoing council members Antonio Maggiore, Katrina Martin, and Pete Sheehey. The Council authorized the sale of land at 3661 and 3689 Trinity Drive (just east of the Los Alamos Medical Center) to Pet Pangaea. The owner, Cyndi Wells, plans to have the retail pet store on the first level, and four pet friendly housing units on the second level. This sale to a local business was welcomed by all seven councilors.

Akkana covered the January 12 meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the county's top priorities for 2021. Like last year, the council agreed that seven priorities was a good number and that, if they added new priorities, they should replace old ones. There was fairly strong agreement that broadband was important enough to be one of the seven priorities, replacing transportation. According to a recent survey, respondents gave county government low marks for communication and transparency. Several councilors wanted to bring back the company that did the survey to discuss the issue with them. Councilors Scott and Robinson cited a need to make the county website easier to use. Chair Ryti questioned whether they could use means other than social media. Capital projects were also discussed. Some projects, like the Canyon Rim Trail underpass (under SR 502 to the Co-Op) and the multigenerational pool, are going to cost more than originally anticipated. Two other capital projects, golf course improvements and the White Rock splash pad, are mostly done. Last, it was agreed that racial equity be added as an overarching priority (like "quality government") rather than as one of the seven priorities because it pervades everything.

Leslie covered the January 26 meeting and her written report will be included in the next *Update*.

Ellen agreed to cover the meeting scheduled for February 2; Lynn will cover the February 16 meeting; and Rosmarie will cover the February 23 meeting.

Important Dates

The deadline for the next newsletter is January 30, 2021.

League Day will be held on February 18, 2021, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Program Planning meeting will take place on February 8, 2021, beginning at 12:00 p.m.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken