

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY JANUARY 27, 2022
VIA ZOOM DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

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
Ellen Mills, Second Vice President
Rebecca Chaiken, Secretary
Rosmarie Frederickson, Treasurer
Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader
Akkana Peck, Director at Large
Jody Benson, Publicity
Felicia Orth, Director at Large
Amy Birnbaum, Reservations
Addie Jacobson, Director at Large

Guests: Jean Dewart, Membership
JoAnn Lysne, Newsletter

Minutes

The December minutes were accepted as presented.

Lunch with a Leader

Karyl Ann reported that she has still been unable to reach Patrick Suddath to confirm that he will speak at our February 17 event, but she will continue to try. For our March meeting, Akkana suggested Jerry Smith, the new broadband manager for the county. Akkana agreed to reach out to him. Karyl Ann mentioned that it can be difficult to secure County employees for Thursdays at noon because that is when Steve Lynne, the County Manager, has a standing meeting. Alternate times were suggested, such as an evening meeting, but Becky was concerned that such a change could put people off. Karyl Ann asked for suggestions for someone well known for our joint Lunch with a Leader/Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for April 21. Jody suggested Governor Lujan Grisham, but her busy schedule and the fact that she will be running for reelection were mentioned as reasons not to invite her. For one of our events, Jody also suggested a man from Taos who set up a solar array, or former senator Dede Feldman. Karyl Ann added that we have not yet invited either Senator Leo Jaramillo or Judge Barbara Vigil, the new director of Children, Youth, and Families Department. For our April event, Ellen suggested that we consider

inviting Liz Martineau, a woman leader and the head of the Los Alamos Historical Society. This would be timely because Los Alamos County will be celebrating its 75th anniversary. Everyone liked this idea. Regarding the time of this special event, Jean polled several members and there was no consensus. It was agreed to keep our usual time. Karyl Ann will invite Jerry Smith for March and Liz Martineau for April.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for December 2021 reported a checking account beginning book balance of \$3,432.04 and an ending balance of \$3,309.53, which includes total receipts of \$80.03 and disbursements of \$202.54. Receipts included dues (Katie Bruell, Friend of the League), a donation (Pat Harlow), and \$.03 interest. Disbursements were to the U.S. Post Office (post office box), Aspen Copies, and for PayPal expenses. The savings account ending book balance was \$33,305.79, which includes \$.85 interest. (Friendly Reminders and Thank You notes need to be sent to Ms. Harlow by "snail mail.")

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

Rosmarie expressed concern that she was receiving email messages purported to be from Becky via the "president" alias asking for money. After some discussion, it was agreed that these messages are spam and Rosmarie should block them. Rosmarie was also concerned about possible overage fees from Zoom, but Akkana and JoAnn said the alerts we receive stem from a cloud storage issue, and we are not being charged.

Membership

Jean emailed the most recent membership report, which reflects 108 individual members. At a previous meeting, we discussed publishing an article in the *Update* about the various volunteer jobs which are needed. She has started a draft of this article, which has been reviewed by both Barbara and Becky, but she needs the rest of the board to send her the language needed for the various job descriptions. These job descriptions should include both long- and short-term opportunities.

Barbara reported that Julie recently met with Madhavi Garimella and Helena Whyte, who will be assisting her with the website. Julie has another meeting with Eduardo Santiago, who may be able to assist with the editing of videos to be posted to our website.

Barbara asked JoAnn if she would be able to continue editing the newsletter. JoAnn said that she has a lot going on right now and cannot promise how reliable she will be. She would welcome someone willing to take over all or part of this task. JoAnn uses Pages so the work would not be difficult for someone who uses a Mac. Jean asked JoAnn to draft the necessary language for inclusion in the *Update* article. As

usual, the *Update* announcing the Annual Meeting will go out as both an email and as a hard copy sent in the mail.

LWVNM Board Meeting

Barbara reported that she was disappointed in the decision to concur with the LWV-CA Position on Criminal Justice. She does not think the board members read the draft she proposed but at least a committee has been formed to review the language of this position. Barbara is a member of this committee.

2022 Legislative Session

Akkana has started an Action Study Group which meets every Thursday at 2:00 p.m. during the legislative session. It will change to monthly meetings once the session is over. The purpose of this group has multiple goals but is generally to help people learn how to advocate during the session and to help the Action Committee with analyzing bills.

Barbara applauded the bill tracker created by Akkana. It can be accessed at NMBillTracker.com. This link will be shared in the Friendly Reminder about Dede Feldman's library presentation.

Barbara is following 16 different natural resources bills. She spoke against the Hydrogen Hub favored by the Governor. She added that 73 percent of those who responded to a poll about this project were opposed to it.

This 30-day Legislative Session has been "crazy." Numerous bills have been filed and there is not enough time in the day to hear from all those who wish to speak.

League Days will begin with a virtual reception on Wednesday evening with a presentation by Amber Wallin. Thursday's virtual event will feature Maggie Toulouse Oliver who will speak about voting legislation, and Tom Solomon who will talk about the proposed hydrogen hub. Becky will send out a Friendly Reminder about League Days on Saturday.

Barbara was pleased with the Legislative Preview. It went very well, and we had both good speakers and good questions from the audience.

Forthcoming Events

The Budget Committee has not yet met because of some communication issues with Ed Birnbaum. Barbara asked that Ed telephone Julie about the spreadsheet, but Rosmarie said she can send Ed the necessary spreadsheet. Addie is presently not on the committee because of her time constraints.

The Nominating Committee has just started its process. Ellen has asked Becky for a list of the current officers. Ellen is also waiting to hear back from Leslie Wallstrom about her participation and JoAnn is overloaded.

Ellen plans to conduct the fund drive as she did last year, because of COVID. She will deliver materials to approximately five volunteers. She plans to wait until after League Days before she solicits volunteers. She has enough supplies but will need the fundraising letter from Barbara. Ellen will also send language about this volunteer opportunity to Jean.

Report on Program Planning Meeting

The Program Planning meeting was sparsely attended, with only one participant who was not on the board. Barbara will send out her report via email. In sum, however, there were no suggested updates to our positions and no new studies were advocated for. During the Program Planning meeting, Barbara said that we need to do more advocacy and she reviewed all our positions.

The lengthy and detailed LARES report will be coming out in March. The County Council will decide what recommendations they will support. Barbara believes the League should go through the report and make recommendations to the County Council about the areas they should support.

Soliciting volunteers for covering County Council sessions was also discussed during the Program Planning meeting.

At the end of the Program Planning meeting, it was agreed that we should have more than one of these meetings per year.

Council Reports

On February 15, there will be public discussion of the proposed Development Code and the Planning and Zoning Commission will discuss this on February 23. Jean said that the consultant has started on Module 3, which includes procedures for implementing Chapter 16 of the Development Code. This module should be available in the spring and the entire package should be complete this summer. Jean added that, although the link for public comments on Module 1 has been taken down, she encouraged continued public comments on both Modules 1 and 2 to the County Planning Manager, who oversees this effort. They continue to make changes based on public comment. Addie was pleased to hear that the procedure is going to be more organic than she originally thought.

Barbara will contact the Martins to see if they covered the meetings they agreed to. Jean said that last night's P and Z meeting covered the work plan for the next fiscal year and a discussion of the upcoming public meeting on Chapter 16 of the Development Code.

Jody covered the December 14, 2021, County Council meeting and sent a summary for the meeting minutes to Rebecca. Highlights of the meeting include the following: the plan to reduce the use of glyphosate passed unanimously; the motion to include funding for LARES (primarily staffing) in budget recommendations passed; an overview of the Comprehensive Health Plan was presented; the North Mesa Housing Project was again put out to bid; a new broadband manager (Jerry Smith) was hired; Danielle Duran is the new intergovernmental affairs manager; Chair Ryti reported on the COP26 meeting he attended in Scotland; and both the Tourism and Art in Public Places Boards have openings.

Important Dates

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

The next board meeting will be February 24, 2022, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken