

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY JANUARY 26, 2023
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
Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader

Guest: Jean Dewart, Membership

Minutes

The December 2022 minutes were accepted as presented.

Lunch with a Leader

There will not be a Lunch with a Leader event in February because it would coincide with League Day at the Legislature. Karyl Ann will include this information in her next Lunch with a Leader email message. For March, Becky suggested Shannon Bacon, the Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court. She spoke recently at the opening of the Legislative Session and Becky was very impressed.

Rebecca read through the list she is keeping of names suggested for these events. This list is as follows:

Representative from Food Depot
Representative Susan Herrera
Eric Peterson
Luis Reyes (CEO of Kit Carson Electrical Co-Op and who secured broadband for Taos) County Senator Bobby Gonzales
Inez Russell Gomez (editorial page editor for the Santa Fe New Mexican)
Dede Feldman
Barbara Vigil (CYFD)

Taraka Dale (plastic bottle project)
Karl Braithwaite (environmental issues at LANL)
Christa Slaton (engaging people with differing opinions)
Maxine McReynolds (issues of law)
Justice Shannon Bacon
Terry Foecke
Kathleen Sabo (New Mexico Ethics Watch)
Patrick Moore (New Mexico Historic Sites)
Bette Korber, LANL computational biologist focusing on HIV
Angelica Gurule, County Sustainability Manager
Tom Sullivan – legislature modernization
Tracie Stratton (CEO of Los Alamos Medical Center)

Barbara noted that, because the legislature is in session, a legislator should not be invited in March. Furthermore, she and Becky will be in Costa Rica and Panama, respectively. Barbara would lean towards either Shannon Bacon, Karl Braithwaite, Angelica Gurule, or Tracie Stratton. Barbara prefers, however, that Justice Bacon be invited for our April event, which will take place immediately before our Annual Meeting. Felicia suggested that if Justice Bacon is not available, the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Arthur Pepin, be invited. She said he is a very knowledgeable and engaging speaker. Barbara commented that Pepin participated in the legislative preview a few years ago and she agreed he was a good speaker. For April, Karyl Ann will try Justice Bacon first and Becky will send her a list of topics to cover. If Justice Bacon is not available, Karyl Ann will let us know.

For March, Karyl Ann will invite Angelica Gurule. Becky said that a main topic could be composting of food waste. This issue elicited several comments from the board, some of whom thought this plan had already been implemented and some who thought it was “dead.” Akkana thinks there is a discussion of composting in the County Council minutes and Barbara will try and find them.

As an aside, Barbara reported that June Fabryka-Martin, who has been reporting on the County Council meetings for the League, will start to include “ticklers” that are sent to the County Council once or twice a month. This will give us some advance notice of topics which may be coming up for discussion. She will also start including a list of Board and Commission vacancies, of which there are many.

Karyl Ann is also working on our speaker for the LWVNM Convention banquet. Our first choice is Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for December 2022 showed a checking account beginning book balance of \$874.07 and an ending balance of \$988.71, which includes total receipts of \$400.04 and disbursements of \$285.40. Receipts included donations (Goldman, McReynolds, and Howell) dues (McReynolds and Howell), and interest.

Disbursements were to Aspen Copies and for our post office box. The savings account ending book balance was \$26,815.80, which includes \$1.16 interest.

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

Membership

Jean advised that we now have 110 individual members. This is down from the last report because several members have either died or moved away. Furthermore, Jean and Becky reviewed the membership list and concluded that some people have not renewed in a few years, and they have been taken off the list.

Jean said that the membership forms we currently use (both paper and electronic) do not distinguish between those who wish to become or remain members of the League, and those who wish to donate only (Friend of the League). Becky added that Friends of the League come from our fundraising drives and that there is no box to check for this on our membership forms. The fundraising letter is sent to non-members, and it specifies that there is a minimum donation to receive the newsletter and email updates. Barbara will send this letter to the board for our review. Jean said that sometimes she needs to call the individual and inquire about what their intentions are. Jean added that most members do not check any area of interest and she believes that this area could be improved as well. She would like everyone to think about this and share suggestions how to improve this process. [A subsequent email thread led to the creation of a small committee to review this issue. The committee will include Jean, Becky, Rosmarie, and Barbara.]

Legislative Preview

The Legislative Preview, which was held on January 5 at Fuller Lodge, was very successful. There were numerous attendees and all our legislators participated. Jody and AAUW members provided cookies. Barbara noted that this was the first in-person event in three years.

Program Planning

Our annual program planning event will take place at the home of Ellen Mills on January 30 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. An email invitation was sent to all our members. Thus far, the only non-board member who is attending is Eduardo Santiago. Rebecca said that she has personally invited Kyle Wheeler and hopes she will attend.

Barbara asked everyone to read the LWVLA and LWVNM positions and be prepared to discuss any necessary changes. Barbara thinks that the Natural Resources positions needs to be amended. The LWVNM has set a deadline of February 18 to be notified of any suggested changes or studies needed. Barbara added that a current study on Judicial Selection may no longer be needed because of a bill introduced by

Representative Christine Chandler which would increase the qualifications required to become a magistrate judge.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held following Lunch with a Leader on April 20. As we discussed earlier, Chief Justice Shannon Bacon will be invited to speak during the Lunch with a Leader event. The Budget Committee is made up of Rosmarie, Julie Williams-Hill, and Jeffrey Howell. The Nominating Committee consists of Ellen and Leslie Wallstrom.

Positions which need to be filled include First Vice President, Voter Guide Editor, and Treasurer. The remaining board members have volunteered to serve again. Ellen said that Leslie Wallstrom will help with the Voter Guide, and she will approach George Chandler about the Treasurer position. Karyl Ann suggested that Jennifer Holmes be approached to serve on the board, and Barbara suggested that Randy Ryti also be approached to serve.

2023 Convention

The 2023 LWVNM Convention will 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.

A silent auction has been held in the past and Barbara suggested we continue this tradition. It has proven to be popular and raises money for the League. Barbara Lemmick has previously set up this event for us.

The head of local government is ordinarily invited to provide a five-minute introduction. New County Council Chair Denise Derkacs will be invited to provide this introduction.

Everyone agreed that Representative Christine Chandler should be invited to be our lunch speaker. If she is unavailable, either Senator Leo Jaramillo or Representative Susan Herrera will be invited. For the banquet, it was agreed that Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham will be invited to speak. If she is unavailable, Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard or Senator Jaramillo will be invited.

On Saturday afternoon, Jean offered to lead a hike at Bandelier. Barbara suggested that another more strenuous hike would also be in order. Georgia Strickfaden, who used to run tours around Los Alamos, has retired but Becky will ask her anyway. Previously she charged \$25 per person for the tour. Rebecca volunteered to gather informational materials from Los Alamos County, Bradbury Science Museum, the

Los Alamos History Center, and PEEC. She will also try and secure “swag” from the County.

In the past, the Sunday morning event began with speeches from the four local League presidents. Becky and Rebecca thought this was a good idea. Current LWVNM President Hannah Burling will preside over the meeting, and then Kathy Brook will take over after elections.

Barbara will ask Wendy Swanson to provide coffee and tea during the meetings. Felicia offered to provide pastries during registration on Saturday, and Ellen offered to provide pastries during registration on Sunday. Registration both days will be from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

It was agreed that we will ask the Co-Op to provide lunch on Saturday as they have done in the past. Barbara will share the order used for the 2019 Convention with Karyl Ann, who will coordinate the lunch. We can expect 40 to 45 people and we would like the food to be delivered to the church, if possible, by 12:00. The last time Los Alamos hosted the convention, the registration fee was \$35, which covered the costs of lunch, pastries, coffee, tea, and copies. It is likely that the cost of lunch will have increased. Because the church has provided us the space for free, we will also make a donation.

The Sunday lunch for new LWVNM board members, also at 12:00, will also be provided by the Co-Op. We will use Karyl Ann’s Lunch with a Leader protocol and Karyl Ann will resurrect the old menu and find out the new cost. Karyl Ann will send the Co-Op menu to the board. Barbara thinks that there will be beverages left over from the reception.

Laura Crucet of Pig and Fig has offered to provide our dinner banquet at a cost of \$50 per person. The theme will be foods of Spain and will include a selection of tapas. Once Rebecca receives the proposed menu, she will forward it to the board. Water will be available as well as a cash bar.

Before the Convention takes place, a reception will be held at Ellen’s home from 4:30 to 6:30. League members will be asked to bring a dish to share. Details of the concert, which will take place that evening, will be provided in the registration materials.

LWVNM board members Barbara, Akkana, Rebecca, and Ann LePage are automatically delegates. We are allotted five other delegates in addition to the president, Felicia. Becky and Rosmarie both volunteered, and Jean will think about it. Delegates vote on program, any proposed bylaws changes, and the election of new board members. Any other attendees who are not delegates are observers and they do not vote on issues.

LWVNM Legislative Reception and League Day

The 2023 Legislative Session reception will be held on February 15 at Rio Chama. Senator Bingaman will be the keynote speaker. Food will be provided and paid for by LWVNM. A carpool for those attending can be organized.

During League Day at the Legislature on February 16, attendees will be encouraged to attend hearings. Speakers at the New Mexico Land Office between 10:00 a.m. and noon will include Stephanie Garcia Richard, Jeremy Farris (New Mexico Ethics Commission), and Amber Wallin (New Mexico Voices for Children). The League will have three tables set up near the Rotunda of the Roundhouse and volunteers are needed for two of the three tables (the third is on Redistricting and will be handled by others). Volunteers will be needed to help set up, tear down, and monitor the tables. One table will use materials from our Centennial exhibit. Becky, Barbara, and Felicia volunteered, and Barbara hopes members from Santa Fe will help as well. Becky also asked for volunteers to help her decide what and how Centennial materials should be displayed. Felicia and Akkana volunteered.

Electoral Standardization

LWVNM board member Karen Douglas has proposed a pilot project between LWVNM and ASQ Government Division Center for Electoral Quality and Integrity. The goal of this pilot project would be to implement ISO 54001, a quality management system, for electoral organizations at all levels of government. Barbara reported that the list of areas presented by Karen was extensive, and she believes that the Secretary of State already covers most of these areas. LWVLA will not volunteer to take on this pilot project, but Hannah asked that each local League be briefed on the subject.

Miscellaneous

The Los Alamos County Community Services Department is in the midst of outreach to the community for input into strategic planning for the next ten years. The proposed plan they presented is overly broad but there may be tidbits buried in the materials that the League would be interested in. Presentations are being held around town at various locations and via Zoom.

Recently the County experienced power outages during which internet and telephone services were disrupted. This led to the discussion about how these issues could be communicated to the citizens and how the County knows who its vulnerable citizens are. This issue will be discussed more in the future.

Important Dates

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

The next board meeting will be February 23, 2023, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken