

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY JULY 28, 2020  
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  
Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader  
Akkana Peck, Director at Large  
Lynn Jones, Voter Services  
Jody Benson, Publicity  
Leslie Wallstrom, Publicity  
Julie Williams-Hill, Webmaster  
Amy Birnbaum, Reservations  
Rosmarie Frederickson, Acting Treasurer and Fundraising

**Guests:** JoAnn Lysne, Newsletter  
Addie Jacobson, Special Projects

**Minutes**

The June minutes were accepted as presented.

**Treasurer's Report**

According to the treasurer's report for June 2020, Rosmarie reported having a checking account beginning book balance of \$3,111.94 and an ending balance of \$3,899.88, which includes total receipts of \$873.26; disbursements of \$85.06; \$.03 interest; and a \$.29 discrepancy on the books since at least May 2020. Receipts included dues and donations. Disbursements included payments to Ellen Mills for convention registration and to Aspen Copies for newsletter expenses. The savings account ending book balance was \$35,790.49, which includes \$.88 interest.

Rosmarie said she has been unsure how to report PayPal expenses. On her report, she included the amount we received with the expenses charged by PayPal in parentheses. She inquired with L.A. Cares, which reported they record only what they receive and ignore the PayPal expenses. Los Alamos Landscaping told her they log the total amount paid and the expenses to PayPal are logged under expenses. Rosmarie was inclined to follow the L.A. Cares model but some board members expressed concern that our financial records would not be complete without those

expenses. Rosmarie agreed to record the gross and net receipts and in the future will send the report to the entire board. We can revisit this procedure after six months to see if there is an alternative way of dealing with this issue.

Following a question by Jody, Becky said that Kathy Taylor stopped sending thank you notes to those who made a donation sometime last year; however either she (Becky) or Rosmarie now send these notes and tax receipts. Becky also sends a tax receipt for membership renewals.

JoAnn said we were offered a 30 percent discount from Zoom if we purchased an annual membership. On July 13, 2020, Barbara emailed the board asking for a vote to approve the annual fee of \$104.93 plus tax. All board members who responded voted in the affirmative (Rebecca, Ellen, Becky, Amy, Akkana, Lynn, Leslie, and Karyl Ann). Now we can proceed with our monthly meetings via Zoom without further payments through July 2021, except for additional expenses that will be needed for webinars for the upcoming candidate forums. Julie said she has recently learned how to stream events such as this live on Facebook and YouTube and to embed the event into the website. This is a good security tool because the event would still be public but those who are watching are not participants. Akkana noted that this was the method used during the convention and questions can be submitted via email. Julie said there is a little lag between the Zoom meeting and the live streaming, so questions may be a little slow to come in. Another downside is if any participant's Internet connection is bad, there can be a problem with the audio.

### **Lunch with a Leader**

The August Lunch with a Leader will feature Elaine Sullivan and two other participants to discuss public banking. Elaine wanted to make the presentation personalized for Los Alamos and had questions about county finances and investing locally that Karyl Ann could not answer. Barbara answered these questions as best she could and admitted the subject is quite complicated. Becky and Barbara agreed that it was not necessary at this time to pose these questions to our county treasurer. After we learn more about the subject, we can approach Steven Lynne or someone else in the county for further information.

For September, Barbara suggested we invite someone from the new Racial Justice Action Advisory Council and/or someone from JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion). She would like to know what issues Los Alamos may or may not have in this area. Karyl Ann will check with Christina Olds to see who might be a good speaker on this topic. If that does not pan out, she will invite Liddie Martinez who is on the Governor's Economic Recovery Council (and has a cookbook!). Jody suggested we invite someone from the public schools who can talk about the school reopening plans. Akkana agree this is a good subject and something many people are interested in.

### **Membership Report**

Becky reported that we are up to 88 paid memberships. A few people she has contacted about renewing their membership either have left town or are too busy with other things, but she anticipates another 10 members will renew. She will send the membership list to Karyl Ann (for Lunch with a Leader) and Lynn (who can update the national data base).

## **Election News**

Barbara said that Daniel Ivey-Soto is going to be speaking to League members via Zoom on August 12 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. He will be discussing Senate Bill 4 and the election. Invitations will be sent out via Constant Contact.

Regarding the questions for County Council candidates, she asked the board to vote on via email, there were four which most of the board favored. Question #1 is: What do you consider to be the most important issues facing the county and how can they be addressed? Because question #1 is so expansive, she asked if we should increase the allowable characters for responses. Lynn did not think this was necessary and it could be problematic because of the generic letter, which is sent to all candidates and details the limits for their answers. Becky said she liked the limit because it forces the candidate to focus. Barbara then asked if we should make the question singular. Karyl Ann and Akkana suggested asking the candidates to focus on two issues, to which the group agreed.

Question #2 is: What environmental goals or policies would you champion as councilor? This question got more votes than the one that asked about reducing the county's carbon footprint but it is broad enough that candidates can focus on the aspect of the environment they are most concerned about. Question #3 is: What ideas for economic vitality in Los Alamos would you support and encourage. Why? Question #4 is: Some parts of downtown are empty or poorly used. Since this is private land, how can the County address this problem?

Akkana and Becky separately suggested a fifth question dealing with the candidates' position on the county's request for the transfer of land. Lynn urged the group to limit the questions to four because the candidates are being pummeled with questions from a variety of organizations with different interests. She does not want the League to overload them and give them a bad taste. Barbara agreed and said that none of the other questions came close to the votes received for the chosen four. Leslie agreed, adding the limit keeps it simpler for the reader as well.

Regarding the questions to be posed for judges up for retention, the following three questions have been selected: Question #1: What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current judge? Question #2: Given your experience as a judge, what improvements are needed in the First Judicial District Court and how could those improvements be implemented? Question #3: What policies and/or ethical practices are critical to keep the judiciary independent and free from

political interference? Question 3 is a combination of two questions originally suggested.

Barbara reported that Santa Fe has chosen the questions for the judges who are not up for retention but they are all unopposed so they will not be included in our printed Voter Guide.

Barbara has looked at the list of candidates for all positions where there is opposition and there are a total of 17 candidates running for Congressional District 3, Senate District 5, House District 43, PRC, PEC, and County Council. This number of candidates equates to two forums and currently she is not planning to invite the judges. The Supreme Court and Court of Appeals candidates are facing opposition but they have not been invited in the past. If anyone disagrees with this, Barbara asked for an email to the entire board. Otherwise, we will plan on forums for the 17 candidates.

Becky asked about the question for Family Court Judge (Do you think judicial selections should be partisan?) and Karyl Ann did not care for a question for Division 3 (How can you as a judge improve the foster care system?). Because neither candidate is opposed, however, the questions will not be on our Voter Guide and the topic was not further discussed.

## **Voter Services**

Lynn is working on the general election and now has Vote411 set up. Diane Goldfarb has received the questions for the races, the fields have been populated, and the candidate letter is being written. Because Albuquerque/CNM has to get their materials to print by September 14 and that is the date we gave as a deadline for our candidates, Lynn will need to reconsider her time line.

In the email sent by Barbara on July 23, 2020, detailing this board meeting, the agenda included the following:

Dear League of Women Voters;

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit our price quote for printing and inserting your 2020 General Election Voter Guide into the Los Alamos Daily Post newspaper (delivered to every home and business in Los Alamos County).

Our quote of \$2,566 includes:

- A 24-page standard tabloid in full color on bright white stock (for 20 pages subtract \$260, for 28 pages add \$260)
- 9,300 copies of the tabloid that will be inserted in our full market distribution on the Thursday of your choice;
- An additional 300 copies of the tabloid for the League;

- Composition and design services using material provided by the League to assemble the pages; and
- Inclusion on the Los Alamos Daily Post website from the date of publication through the Election Day.

Any applicable federal, state or local taxes are not included in this quoted price and will be added to the invoice.

Lynn said this is the same quote we received for the primary election and she recommends we approve it for the general election. Becky moved that we accept the quote from the Los Alamos Daily Post. Before the move could be seconded, ten members voted in the affirmative and there were none opposed.

Karyl Ann also suggested that we advertise the Voter Guide in the paper the day before it is scheduled to be published.

### **Local Studies**

JoAnn reported that the privacy group had a good meeting with the Chief Information Officer for the county, John Roig. He runs mostly internal aspects of software, telephones, and networks. We learned that there is not the oversight in the county that JoAnn pictured and instead the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will discuss software only if it crosses different departments. Otherwise, if the software is isolated to one department (like the county newsletter) the decision is up to the department head. The decision to use Constant Contact was made by a department head with no discussion or guidance. TAG includes representatives from a number of different departments, including fire and public works, and they operate off a 10-year-old policy (1210). This policy is currently being rewritten and Roig is seeking permission to share the draft with us. He seemed open to receiving our comments. We also learned that the development of the outward facing web page is going out for an RFP this year. That gives us an opening to share with the county that we would like less tracking on the county web page. We have asked for a copy of that RFP.

Akkana added that the county has been offered the opportunity to piggyback on the broadband line the Lab is bringing in, so there might be an option for fiber broadband in the county. Barbara noted that the County Council has decided that they would have an outside entity, such as Black Mesa, as a possible provider rather than having it operated by DPU. Julie thought this could lead to better privacy because a third party would not be subject to IPRA but JoAnn believes it would not result in better privacy because a third party would be profit-driven.

Dave was not present to discuss his project but told Akkana that he has started his study and the participants are aware of what is going on. Barbara said he sent a list of questions to participants but he needs to schedule a meeting.

## **BPU Observer Corps**

Julie said that at the last meeting on July 15, two new BPU members (Eric Stromberg and Cornell Wright) participated. Carrie Walker was elected as chair and Steve McLin is now the vice chair. The main focus of the meeting was a presentation by the Conservation Committee of their recommendations for conservation initiatives. The board plans to wait until a September strategic planning meeting to decide which initiatives they may be interested in. After that, Julie will be in charge of rewriting the entire conservation plan.

Tonight's joint BPU/County Council meeting will focus on a presentation concerning the Carbon Free Power Project. The county has subscribed to 11 megawatts from this proposed nuclear power generating facility that uses small modular reactors. Sited in Idaho, the facility would be operational by 2030 and has a target price of \$55 a megawatt hour. There will also be a public town hall meeting on August 3 and public comments are being accepted on the Open Forum page on the county website. The BPU and County Council need to decide whether to continue to the next phase of the project. The next phase would require the county to commit to approximately \$1 million and would continue through 2023 before the next go-no-go decision. If the BPU and Council decide to unilaterally exit now, the county's sunk costs total approximately \$130,000 (this takes into account the LANL/DOE cost share earlier in the project). If the project ends for other reasons, the county would be reimbursed. The decision dates are August 19 (BPU) and August 25 (County Council).

## **Council Reports**

Barbara sent the board written reports by Rebecca (who covered the council meeting on June 30, 2020) and Lynn (who covered the county council meeting on July 14, 2020). Jody covered the meeting held on July 7 and provided a verbal report. Most of the meeting revolved around the Los Alamos Main Street Plan, which extends from the new roundabout past Ashley Pond. The presentation focused on retail, mixed-use development, and how business is going to change in the future. The Council was concerned that the project would lead to exorbitant rent increases so some form of rent control was discussed. The meeting also included a vote on a proclamation that was supposed to address the proposed bag ban. In the end, the proclamation was changed to focus on composting, reducing trash, and encouraging restaurants to reduce plastic waste. The proclamation was not approved.

## **Gallery Exhibit Planning**

Becky said the group continues to make progress. Documents and text have been selected, but she has told the county that we will not be ready until at least October. Hedy Dunn has joined the group and she is familiar with organizing and presenting materials. Ellen expressed frustration because of the announcement of a new deadline. Becky said she would convey this concern to J.J., who is overseeing the

planning. Barbara made assurances that before anything is published, it will go to the board for approval.

### **Other News**

Ellen has agreed to help JoAnn administer Lunch with a Leader meetings via Zoom.

### **Important Dates**

The deadline for the next newsletter is August 2.

The next board meeting will be August 25, 2020, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

*Minutes taken from Zoom recording and submitted by Rebecca Chaiken*