

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY JULY 22, 2021  
VIA ZOOM DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

**Call to Order**

Barbara Calef called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

**Board Members Present**

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

**Guests:** JoAnn Lysne, Newsletter  
JJ Mortensen, Library Exhibit

**Minutes**

Lynn submitted corrections to the BPU section of the June 24 minutes. The amended June minutes were accepted as presented.

**Lunch with a Leader**

Karyl Ann reported that the August Lunch with a Leader will feature Amanda White who has expertise in surface water quality. Speakers suggested for September include Taraka Dale (plastic bottle project), Karl Braithwaite (environmental issues at the Lab), Allegra Love (immigration lawyer), Senator Leo Jaramillo, Brian Blalock (New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Secretary), or new County Manager Steve Lynne. Becky suggested we invite Sylvia Ramos Cruz, a retired surgeon and women's rights activist, to speak during the women's suffrage library exhibit. Because a speaker has already been confirmed for August, she was discussed for the September event, however that same evening will be the Chautauqua with Deborah Blanche portraying Nina Otero Warren. Barbara did not think we should have two similar events on the same day. The Chautauqua is being coordinated by the library, but we could advertise it to our members as Dinner with a Leader. Becky will

communicate with Dr. Cruz and see if she would be willing to speak at a future event, separate from Lunch with a Leader, perhaps on August 30.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for June 2021 reported a checking account beginning book balance of \$6,786.56 and an ending balance of \$7,175.74, which includes total receipts of \$560.06 and disbursements of \$170.88. Receipts included dues (Whyte, Trujillo, Armbruster, Williams-Hill, Orth, and Garimella), donations (Armbruster, Williams-Hill, and Jones), and \$.06 interest. Disbursements were to Ellen, Aspen Copies, and PayPal. The savings account ending book balance was \$33,300.75, which includes \$.82 interest.

Rosmarie noted that she has registered with the Secretary of State and that procedure went smoothly.

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

### **Library Exhibit**

JJ reported that we are on time and currently on budget. The most expensive expenditure will be for printing, however, and we are not yet at that stage. Most of the panels are done. JJ thanked the subject matter experts as well as Addie and her husband for their work on the jail and mannequins. We have gathered vintage hats, posters, and cartoons. The gallery exhibit manager has come up with a poster design, which they will finalize next week. JJ will email a schedule of dates and times volunteers will be needed for set up. Jody's slide show is great. Decisions still need to be made about what the ballot boxes will be used for (e.g., deposit raffle tickets, ask questions about voting issues/redistricting, or a vote for a favorite suffragist). Ellen said the boxes are smaller than she anticipated, but that might be a good thing in terms of space. She is spray-painting them black. Rosmarie reported that another \$100 donation has been received for a total of \$200 donated towards the exhibit.

In connection with the gallery exhibit, Becky said that the Chautauqua by Deborah Blanche will cost \$300. The New Mexico Humanities Council will not underwrite the event, but she expects the Historical Society to share the cost. Lynn moved that we pay the \$300 fee and Akkana seconded this motion. All voted in favor.

### **Membership**

Email reminders have been sent out to those who have yet to renew their memberships. Becky will ask Dotty or Jean to see if Dr. Garimella is a new member so we can solicit a short biography for the *Update*.

## **Rodeo Parade**

Ellen said that we are now registered to march in the parade, which begins at 10:00 a.m. on August 14. She does not yet know where the parade will begin or where we will meet. All of the sashes are now done and she asked that we all wear white. Ellen also has the original suffrage banner, a new banner in gold and purple, and League posters. She is working on posters advertising the library exhibit and will write something about women's suffrage and the library exhibit for the parade announcer. Ellen will ask Metzger's to donate long paint sticks for the posters. She will need parade participants to carry banners and posters. Karyl Ann will send out a request for parade participants to our members, asking them to RSVP to Ellen so she can have an estimated head count.

## **Meeting in Person/Zoom/Hybrid**

The candidate forum for Los Alamos School Board was recently held, and the hybrid method of meeting had serious technical issues. Felicia spoke to others who have attempted hybrid meetings and they reported similar audio-visual disasters. Although we hoped to begin hybrid meetings at the library, the spotty WiFi may cause connection issues. Barbara suggested that, until everyone is comfortable with meeting in person, we continue to meet by Zoom. Amy will cancel our reservations at the library for August and September. We will decide about October and thereafter at a later date. Once we decide to attempt a hybrid meeting, the location may need to change (e.g., from the library to the school board room) and we may need to use microphones. We will certainly need good broadband and practice.

## **Retreat Follow-Up**

Felicia said that her priority since the retreat has been to work with Maxine to post content on Facebook. There have been no postings since June. Ellen suggested her message about the parade could also be posted on Facebook. Julie intended to reach out to Maxine but she has been unable to do so. Julie recently posted the video of Maggie Toulouse Oliver and she can promote the gallery exhibit and parade.

## **BPU Report**

The Board of Public Utilities (BPU) met on July 21 in a hybrid meeting. BPU members voted to recommend to the Council that the County continue in the Carbon Free Power Project, a proposed nuclear power generation plant in Idaho. A new off-ramp for the project was inserted since the project participants (of which Los Alamos County is one) voted to reduce the size of the plant from 12 small modular reactors (SMR) to six. The SMRs were recently upgraded to 77 megawatts and the target price went from \$55 per megawatt hour to \$58 per megawatt hour. The project will go to the County Council for a go-no-go vote on July 27.

Julie also reported that with the recent heat dome, electric prices increased dramatically to \$1,750 a megawatt hour for a short period of time. Consider that the proposed CFPP power plant would be \$58 a megawatt. Typically, we pay around \$40 and \$60 a megawatt hour. Fortunately, we have other resources (solar and hydro-electric) and will be exiting the San Juan Power Plant in 2022. We could be in a vulnerable spot.

### **Council Reports**

Lynn wrote up her report on the July 6 meeting for the *Update* and Barbara will use Councilor James Robinson's summary for the July 13 meeting. Julie volunteered to cover the July 27 meeting; Barbara will cover the August 10 meeting, and Lynn will cover the August 24 meeting. Barbara has asked Steve Lynn if the County could produce transcripts of County Council meetings but she has not yet communicated with the Council. Barbara will ask Wendy Swanson about covering the Planning and Zoning meeting on August 11.

### **Miscellaneous**

Barbara said that there is a virtual open house this evening at 5:30 regarding the proposed development code changes to Chapter 16. There is also a Zoom meeting on mapping for redistricting and a link was sent with the board meeting emails.

At the Lunch with a Leader with Maggie Toulouse Oliver, League member John Bartlit suggested there be a forum on Voter Identification. Barbara said that any time she registers voters, she is asked how we can be certain of the identity of a voter without an identification requirement. Jody said such a forum could assuage some, but definitely not all concerns. Mr. Bartlit suggested that the high school debate team debate the issue and Rebecca suggested a Lunch with a Leader event. Akkana said that many people do not know how hard it is to vote in other communities and it would be good to educate the community on the issue. She wondered who would speak and added that personal stories would be helpful. Barbara will ask Margo Batha about the school debate team participating, and she also suggested that we could write letters to the editor.

JoAnn has agreed to edit the *Update* articles, taking this burden off of Barbara's shoulders. Any articles in the future should be sent to JoAnn. Becky will ask JJ to write an article about the library exhibit.

### **Concurrence with California on Criminal Justice Position**

Barbara provided a copy of the LWV-California position on Criminal Justice. That League has asked LWVNM to concur with the position and our input is needed before such a decision can be made. Jody and Becky both liked the position and would support it. Barbara said LWVNM does not have a position on Criminal Justice, just the Administration of Justice and the Position in Brief may be supportable.

Akkana agreed that the rest of the position is too detailed, but there are areas of the position itself that are not included in the Position in Brief. Rebecca expressed a number of concerns with the position and would not support concurrence. Addie suggested holding a meeting with the membership along with people in the criminal justice community. It was agreed that a meeting in October (after the library exhibit closes) will be pursued and next month we will decide if it will be held in person or via Zoom. In the meantime, Barbara asked the board to review the position carefully in advance.

### **Important Dates**

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

The next board meeting will be August 26, 2021, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken*