**The League of Women Voters/Los Alamos**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday July 11, 2024**

**UU Fellowship Hall**

**1738 North Sage Street**

**Los Alamos**

**Call to Order**

Felicia Orth called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

**Board Members Present**

Felicia Orth, President

Ellen Mills, Second Vice President

Barbara Calef, Past President

Rebecca Chaiken, Secretary

Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader

Akkana Peck, Director at Large

Lynn Jones, Voter Services

Becky Shankland, Director at Large

Jody Benson, Publicity

Bob Williams, Newsletter

Lisa Hampton, Community Health and Wellbeing

**Guest:** Jean Dewart

**Minutes**

The May minutes were accepted as presented.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report dated July 11, 2024, showed a checking account checkbook balance of $13,219, which includes total receipts of $2,499.79 and disbursements of $398.14. Receipts included transfers from PayPal, donations, dues, interest, and income from an advertisement. Disbursements were to Becky Shankland, Domain Name Services, and Aspen Copies. The savings account ending bank balance was $25,629.15, which includes $1.68 interest.

The Treasurer’s Report was accepted as presented. A corrected Treasurer’s Report for April 2024 remains pending.

According to Addie’s report, she met with Helen Carpenter regarding our required biennial review. Felicia will send a thank you note.

**Lunch with a Leader**

Karyl Ann reported that Abbey Hayward will be our speaker for the July event. She listed several possibilities for August. After some discussion, it was decided to ask Mike Holtzclaw (UNM-LA Chancellor), Lonna Atkeson (Professor Emerita, Department of Political Science, University of New Mexico), or Tanaka Dale (plastic bottle project).

Jean suggested that we invite a member of the school board before the 2025 election. Other names suggested included Phil Gursky who could discuss affordable housing, and the members of Boomtown, our newest news organization.

**Membership Database**

According to Bob’s membership report, we have 174 “members” in the database. This figure includes members, donors, other household members, and the 27 members who have not paid their dues. Becky has sent reminders to these members twice already. They will be removed from the membership list at the end of September, per our bylaws. Counting traditional members only, we have 139 members. Lynn and Barbara asked Bob to indicate the number of active members, exclusive of donors. Bob will add a subtotal line. Lynn needs this information so we do not overpay PMP.

Jody questioned the total income reported in Bob’s report, because the numbers do not add up. Bob will investigate.

Lynn also asked for a way to sort on the dues date, so she can “combine” household members. She needs to remove lapsed members by January for LWVUS data purposes.

It was requested that, if she is not doing so already, Addie send membership information to Becky, Bob, Karyl Ann, Felicia, and Lynn. Lisa will also need this information if a donation is included.

Bob asked for the definition of “new member.” The answer: someone who has not been in the database before. Bob also asked if he should be saving the paper membership forms after he scans them. There was a discussion about archiving this information elsewhere and keeping the scans in at least two places, after which the paper forms can be shredded. In response to an observation made by Jean, Felicia suggested this conversation continue when Addie returns.

**Fundraising**

Ellen said that the Fundraising Committee last met on June 11. They have done well with Friends of the League ($2,350) and with members ($2,975). They have scheduled a thank you event for donors on September 8 at Ellen’s home. All members and Friends of the League will be invited. An invitation will need to be sent, and refreshments discussed. Felicia has already offered a substantial food contribution.

The grant from Enterprise Bank has not yet been received. Ellen will follow up with her contact. Felicia had breakfast with Jeffrey Howell, the president of the Delle Foundation. Felicia was told that her letter requesting funds was “perfect” and funds were likely by the end of August when the Delle board meets next. Because the Delle Foundation will be closing in five years, it was suggested that we ask for even more money.

The Fundraising Committee has decided not to reach out to small businesses anymore, because there has been no response. Lisa reported that we lost out to First Born during the last 100 Men Who Care donation event.

For clarification, Friends of the League are those who donate but do not want to be League members. Lisa added that our donors are divided into three categories: businesses, Friends of the League, and members.

**Voter Guide**

Lynn said that she will mail the questions to the candidates for the general election as soon as she has them. She noted that CNM and Southern New Mexico are not changing their questions from the primary, and she is not sure about Santa Fe. CNM needs to go to print on August 26. She said that voters were not interested in the Voter Guide for the primary because of the lack of contested seats. New questions would be of limited value except perhaps for the County Council race. She added that new questions could be posed during the candidate forum. Jean said the committee has some enthusiasm for new questions, and she noted that there were several good questions that were not included in the primary Voter Guide. Barbara thinks the committee should consider new questions.

Jean will schedule a meeting with the committee to discuss new questions, but she will be gone for three weeks. Felicia said that it would be fine for the board to consider any new questions via email.

The Eco Club at the high school has sent questions to the candidates in the past. Jody offered to liaise with them.

It was decided to have the Voter Guide published on October 3, because early voting begins on October 8.

**Candidate Forum**

Barbara initially suggested that the Candidate Forum be held on October 10, so it won’t interfere with the Jewish holidays. However, Parks and Rec meets that day and one of their members is a candidate. It was also noted that Wednesdays are bad for Mormons and Baptists. Monday, October 7 was the date selected for the forum. Wendy will check with UNMLA about using the student union, because it holds the most people. If they cannot accommodate us, Fuller Lodge will be the next choice.

Barbara said the Citizen’s Climate Lobby wanted to hold a forum with the League. She suggested instead that the League present a climate question. Additionally, members can be in the audience and ask their questions. The climate question Barbara suggested was, “What action, if any, should the County Council take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the County.” This was acceptable to all.

Barbara suggested that only one forum would be needed for this election, since the only contested seats are for County Council and House District 43. She would like Michael Redondo to be invited, however, so the community can get to know him. Unopposed candidates are ordinarily given three minutes to make a statement, and sometimes they have been allowed to answer questions.

Barbara said that Santa Fe is holding a forum for U.S. Senator. She does not believe we should bother with the U.S. House race because of the difficulty of getting the candidates to participate.

**Miscellaneous**

Barbara planned to schedule a membership meeting, because one is required yearly. However, it was concluded that the donor thank you meeting on September 8 satisfies that requirement.

Ellen said that we are registered for the rodeo parade on August 3. She has the banner and sashes. Those who participate should meet at 9:00 and the parade will be from 10:00 to 11:00. Becky will send a Friendly Reminder.

**Important Dates**

The deadline for the next newsletter is August 1, 2024.

The next board meeting will be August 22, 2024, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Church. Both Bob and Akkana said they would be absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken*