

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY JUNE 24, 2021  
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  
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  
Jean Dewart, Membership  
JJ Mortensen and Hedy Dunn, Library Exhibit

**Minutes**

The May minutes were accepted as presented.

**Library Exhibit**

JJ and Hedy Dunn reported on the library exhibit progress. JJ warned participants to be careful with copyright laws. She came across a case study that could fit our situation and she suggested any text be run through a plagiarism check online. "Fair use is not a right - it's a legal defense." Photographs from before 1925 should be fair use, but if they are altered that could change the scenario. JJ needs all hands on deck to put the exhibit together over four days (August 16 to 20) for the opening on August 21. She asked everyone to respond to the doodle poll she sent out. The times for each shift should be Mountain Standard Time. JJ then gave a "tour" of what the exhibit should look like including a mannequin at the entrance directing guests to begin down the main aisle. The materials will be divided into decades. There will be an area for guests to sign up to be League members and a low table with puzzles,

coloring pages, and pencils for children. JJ will communicate separately with Jody about the slide show, which cannot be shown in the rotunda.

Hedy does not yet know how many panels we will have. She is seeking printing costs and will go with the best deal, but she noted that it will be a challenge to stay within the budget. Spotty photographs can be helped through Photoshop. Hedy will need help cutting out the photograph of Alice Paul.

It was suggested that we wear Ellen's sashes and/or suffrage colors for the opening. Ellen said she has 40 sashes with the purple and green colors and is making an additional 12 sashes with purple and gold colors. Ellen also suggested we raffle the sashes because we likely will not need them after these events conclude.

JJ will email a wish list of items needed to the board. This will include a 48-star flag needed to cover an ugly gray concrete wall. Ellen said she has other banners in suffrage colors if we are unable to find the flag.

### **Lunch with a Leader**

Karyl Ann needs help for part of the July Lunch with a Leader, which will feature Maggie Toulouse Oliver. She will write the biography and description of the event this weekend. She has not yet contacted Christa Slaton and Barbara asked her to hold off on this because a pending grant request may pay her to speak with the entire League. Karyl Ann will instead ask Teresa Leger Fernandez (first choice) or someone from the Department of Energy to discuss the appeal of the Lab's storm water permit. Jean will find the best person to discuss this topic and communicate it to Karyl Ann.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for May 2021 was sent to the board via email. It reported a checking account beginning book balance of \$7,011.50 and an ending balance of \$6,786.56, which includes total receipts of \$175.06 and disbursements of \$400. Receipts included dues, donations, and \$.06 interest. The disbursement was to Julie for web hosting. The savings account ending book balance was \$33,299.93, which includes \$.85 interest.

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

### **Membership**

Jean previously emailed the membership report to the board. Local membership is at 89 members and there are 23 from last year who have yet to renew. She is ready to contact them via email to encourage them to renew their membership. Jean has been working with Becky, Rosmarie, and Julie to make sure all the spreadsheets are

consistent and to make sure the information Lynn sends to LWVUS is correct. Jean asked if sustaining members should get some special recognition and the consensus was that they should not.

### **Rodeo Parade**

The 2021 Rodeo Parade is supposed to be live this year. Jody moved that we participate and Akkana seconded this motion. All voted in favor. Ellen will sign us up with an estimate of 35 participants. She is in the process of making additional sashes in the alternative suffrage colors. Ellen suggested we wear the suffrage sashes and/or suffrage colors and also noted that we should have some sort of poster advertising the library exhibit. She will coordinate with JJ and Hedy.

### **Zoom**

Barbara and JoAnn reported that our Zoom subscription is due to expire in July and we will need to decide if it should be renewed. Rebecca was in favor of this because the amount - \$104.93 - is not a lot of money and it allows for more people to participate in our events. Felicia moved that we renew our Zoom subscription and Karyl Ann seconded this motion. All voted in favor.

### **NEH Grant**

Barbara emailed the board a grant proposal to be submitted to the National Endowment for the Humanities by the New Mexico Humanities Council in partnership with the LWVNM. This would be a training program for facilitators of Community Conversations, a new civics outreach, education, and participatory community conversation program. Barbara noted that LWVNM wants to leave it up to the four local Leagues whether to participate; the proposal would entail a lot of work. She also emailed Becky's comments on the proposal, which in summary said we are hard-pressed to do our own central tasks well and taking on another task would be difficult. Akkana added that the project sounds laudable but it is not something we should take on at this time. The entire board agreed. Barbara will use Becky's written comments as her response to LWVNM.

### **BPU Report**

The Council appointed Cornell Wright to the BPU. This will be a five-year term. The gas rate that was at \$1.22 per therm because of the weather issues in Texas last year, has dropped to \$0.49 per therm because the DPU recovered the costs. Los Alamos obtained some America Recovery Act funds, some of which will help residents who fell behind in their utility bills during COVID. Furthermore, late fees and collection activities have been put on hold for the time being. Because extreme heat and drought is expected in the future, the electricity production team is putting together a plan to deal with anticipated issues stemming from these climate issues.

## **Council Reports**

Barbara will write to the County Council asking them to produce transcripts of their meetings.

Lynn and Rebecca covered council sessions on June 8 and June 15, respectively, and submitted written reports for publication in the next *Update*. Julie is covering the June 29 session. Rebecca noted that the first public open house on the downtown master plans is set for July 22. Barbara said a friendly reminder will be sent to our members.

Lynn volunteered to cover the July 6 council meeting. No volunteers were forthcoming for sessions on July 13 and July 27.

## **Miscellaneous**

Julie offered to send the link to our newsletter to both the Los Alamos Daily Post and the Los Alamos Reporter. She recently posted the last Lunch with a Leader on Facebook and puts all of our recordings on our YouTube channel. We can then share these recordings on Facebook and our website. She plans to coordinate with Maxine about having a schedule for Facebook postings and how to divide the work. It is clear that we need to do a better job using social media tools to educate the community. Julie also may create a video page on our website to make it easier to access archived videos, as she does with our newsletters. She can provide this information and links to Karyl Ann to be forwarded to our membership. Addie also suggested that we use Facebook to raise public awareness of our positions.

Julie also reached out to the Chief Information Officer for the county, John Roig, who had promised the Digital Privacy Study group a copy of a policy and of the RFP for the new website. He apologized for not being able to provide what we requested because the policy remains in limbo and the RFP never made it to his desk.

Barbara will make a list of all the tasks for which we need volunteers that Karyl Ann will then send to the membership.

Everyone agreed the retreat went well and was worthwhile. Felicia will prepare a list of suggestions for targeted issues for future board meetings.

## **Important Dates**

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

The next board meeting will be July 22, 2021, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

\* The asterisk indicates that some members left the meeting early. We still had a quorum.

*Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken*