

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY MAY 27, 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  
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, Library Exhibit

**Minutes**

The April minutes were accepted as presented.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting were also accepted and will be printed in the June *Update*.

**New Board Member**

Previously via email the board voted to add Maxine McReynolds to the board. Our bylaws require this to be followed by a vote during a board meeting. Becky moved to approve Maxine McReynolds as an off board director and this motion was seconded by Jody. All voted in favor. Maxine may be asked to be our JEDI liaison. Karyl Ann asked why Andrea Determan has not been considered to be our JEDI Liaison. Becky explained that Andrea is not a member of the League, although she is a friend of the League. Karyl Ann will discuss this with Andrea and Becky will send Andrea a membership form.

**Lunch with a Leader**

Karyl Ann reported that the June Lunch with a Leader will feature Stephanie Garcia Richard and July will feature Maggie Toulouse Oliver. Both have been confirmed. Karyl Ann will need some assistance for the July meeting because of a previously scheduled appointment. For August, Barbara suggested that we invite Christa Slaton, who spoke during the Convention about engaging people with different opinions.

We briefly discussed whether to continue meeting via Zoom or return to in person. Because the library meeting rooms have not yet reopened, it was decided that we will continue to meet via Zoom at least through July. Jody noted that Zoom meetings allow for more participation and Barbara noted that in person meetings are much friendlier.

## **Membership**

Jean reported that she and Dotty have been trained by Becky, who also handed over her files. As of yesterday, we have 76 individual League of Women Voters of Los Alamos members with 53 League of Women Voters memberships. It was discovered that some people sent in their dues to Rosmarie without the accompanying membership form, so some people are missing from the membership rolls. Jean also had a conversation with Julie about tracking dues and donations and sharing the different spreadsheets. Jean noted that Julie's spreadsheet is more robust. Jean would like to be able to sort by name and date and soon will be in a position to do so.

Karyl Ann needs to be notified of new members for her Lunch with a Leader emails. Jean will send out the tracking sheet she has been working on for our input. It should give everyone what they need. She is still working on dealing with household members with different last names. She suggests that the membership form be updated to include multiple email addresses for household members. Julie will revise the online form to allow for multiple people and, at Jean's request, will also add a field for new/renewal membership.

Lynn noted that the LWVUS database does not allow for multiple emails and Constant Contact only allows for one contact per email address.

Becky suggested that it would be a huge help if Rosmarie added the names of those paying dues to her treasurer's report. Barbara will bring this up with Rosmarie.

## **Library Exhibit**

Barbara, Becky, and JJ all have viewed the library gallery space in person and Becky has had additional conversations with Diane Stoffel. They are starting to get a grip on what the space will look like and what materials belong in each section of the gallery. JJ suggested that we run gold and purple ribbons around the whole gallery

as a time line. She also needs some of the materials in Drop Box and will provide a tutorial as needed. Becky thinks it will be easiest to divide the gallery space into sections to determine how much space will be available. She is concerned that all of our materials will not fit into the space. JJ said that she and Hedy Dunn will do all of the editing but they need a graphic designer. Dave North was volunteered for this job.

There was a brief discussion about printing pictures from slides. JJ said that not all images are in the public domain and she suggested using Library of Congress images as the source. Whether images are printed on a home computer or at Aspen Copies will be determined both by cost and guidance from the graphic designer. Julie noted that the size of the pictures also depends on the quality of the image. Becky added that a slide show can be shown in the rotunda.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for April 2021 was sent to the board via email. It reported a checking account beginning book balance of \$5,795.95 and an ending balance of \$7,011.26, which includes total receipts of \$1,425.05 and disbursements of \$208.79. Receipts included dues, donations, and \$.05 interest. The savings account ending book balance was \$33,299.02, which includes \$.82 interest. As previously noted, Barbara will ask Rosmarie to add membership names to future reports.

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

### **Follow Up on Annual Meeting**

Julie posted the revised bylaws and positions to the website. Becky asked if the Digital Privacy group should follow up with the county. JoAnn previously said she could not commit to more time and Barbara said we will weigh in if such an issue comes up at a County Council meeting. JoAnn added that the group asked the County to see certain documents as well as a pending RFP but they never heard back from their contact. Julie will try and follow up with him. Akkana added that the county often operates without citizen input.

### **Retreat for the Board**

Barbara wants the board to meet in person to discuss how we can function better. Felicia said that such a retreat can serve a number of functions including learning more about new members and reviewing accomplishments. The best use for such a retreat, however, is to make sure we share a vision for the road ahead. There are fundamental discussions for a non-profit like ours including who our constituents are. Barbara also wants succession planning, definition of board tasks, and increasing our diversity to be part of this event.

Ellen offered her home as the meeting place. Julie asked that it be held on a weekend because of her work schedule. Barbara will send out a Doodle poll to see what date in July works best. Barbara, Becky, and Felicia will meet in advance to determine the agenda. Any specific concerns should be sent to them.

## **Program**

According to Barbara, Dave North is still not ready to proceed with his approved study and wants to wait until meetings can be held in person. Barbara asked what plastic bags are recyclable and Jody replied that they are recyclable if there is a bias. Rebecca added that she still has not written the promised article on plastic bag recycling, but she noted that the information contained on the county website is not consistent with the information contained on the Kroger website. Barbara said to focus on Kroger and Rebecca agreed to complete this task in June.

## **Report on LWVNM Convention**

Barbara reported that the things we thought would be a problem at the convention were not. There was a surprise change to Election Procedures position which was amended to read "The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports...6. an all-inclusive system of voting that allows all registered voters to participate in the primary election so that voters who are not enrolled in a major political party may vote on one ballot per primary without having to enroll in that particular party;..." The delegates rejected, however, the proposed section requiring voters to vote only on the ballot of their party. Delegates approved the extension of the Judicial Selection study as well as a new study on Tribal Sovereignty. Barbara has asked Rebecca Álvarez for an article on that new study. During the convention, two new board members were approved - Rebecca Álvarez and Bobbie Riedel. Maxine McReynolds volunteered to work on Vote411. The new state board then voted to appoint Renny Ashleman as the director of Voting and Elections, which will deal with the political aspects of voting and elections with the legislature and Secretary of State. Three at large directors and an archivist were also appointed.

Barbara then asked the convention delegates to provide their impressions of the convention. Ellen found the guest speakers to be education-rich and their presentations were highly relevant. Becky agrees that the speakers were excellent, especially the first speaker who was inspirational. She thinks it would be good to have any of these speakers at our Lunch with a Leader. Becky added that Hannah Burling ran a great meeting and the Southern New Mexico League also did a great job. JoAnn said that she was not prepared for the rather bizarre Nominations and Elections discussion, especially voting for the person rather than the portfolio they represent. She added that there were four people running that Zoom meeting and she will, in the future, ask for cohosts for our meetings. Felicia agreed with Ellen and Becky and was impressed with how smoothly it went. She offered to cohost our Zoom board meetings.

## **BPU Report**

Julie said there were only two items on the BPU agenda. First, they approved moving forward with a grant to a private group - River Stewardship - to restore the watershed around the reservoir. Second, they have been unable to hire a full time employee to keep track of the resources expended in the new energy imbalance market. They approved rewriting the job description. Both these items will go to the council soon for approval. The BPU also accepted three applications for Kathy Taylor's replacement. A decision on her replacement will be made on June 8.

## **Council Reports**

Lynn said the April 27 meeting, which she had agreed to cover, appears to have been cancelled.

Jody reported on the May 4 meeting. The Council voted to approve Bathtub Row Brewery to sell wholesale to restaurants. There was also a surprisingly controversial discussion about limiting ground floor building space to customer services such as restaurants, retail sales, entertainment, and personal/medical services. This "Pedestrian Retail Zone" was introduced by Councilor Sean Williams and it passed by a 5 to 2 vote. The plan will now go to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Jean noted that there will not be any limit to public comment because the entire community will be impacted by the decision.

No one volunteered to cover the May 18 meeting and Lynn sent her report on the May 25 meeting to Barbara for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Volunteers for the June meetings include Lynn (June 8), Rebecca (June 15), and Julie (June 29).

## **Miscellaneous**

Ellen said she was contacted by the county events person asking if we want to participate in the parade this year. Ellen suggested that could be an opportunity to advertise our gallery exhibit.

Jody said the Zero Waste team will be conducting a food waste audit and will do outreach at the summer concerts. They also plan for a "fix-it" day where people can bring in broken items or torn clothing to get them repaired. The county also distributed over 320 backyard compost kits.

Karyl Ann wants the ribbons used in the library exhibit to be green and purple rather than gold and purple. Becky noted that there will be two mannequins, each with the two sets of colors.

## **Important Dates**

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

The next board meeting will be June 24, 2021, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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

*Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken*