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

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday May 25, 2023**

**Via Zoom**

**Call to Order**

Felicia Orth called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**Board Members Present**

Felicia Orth, President

Barbara Calef, Past President

Addie Jacobson, Treasurer

Rebecca Chaiken, Secretary

Lynn Jones, Voter Services

Akkana Peck, Director at Large

Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader

Jody Benson, Publicity

Amy Birnbaum, Reservations

Bob Williams, Newsletter

Becky Shankland, Director at Large

**Guest** – Dr. Emily Piltch

**Health Equity Council**

During the 2023 Annual Meeting, League member Maire O’Neill asked that the League focus on Racial Equity and Inclusion (REI). She noted that despite racist issues which have recently occurred in our schools, the County Council voted not to continue the REI task force. Maire’s request to focus on REI was unanimously approved by League members.

Because of this, Emily Piltch and Maire O’Neill were invited as guests to the board meeting to describe how the Los Alamos County Health Council’s Comprehensive Health Plan Subcommittee is addressing the issue of equity. Maire O’Neill could not attend, but Dr. Piltch, the Comprehensive Health Planning Coordinator for the Los Alamos County Health Council, provided a brief overview.

According to the resolution creating the Los Alamos Health Council, the Council is charged with developing recommendations to the County regarding comprehensive health planning, coordination of health resources and identification of needs, services, projects, and programs that can affect community health. “The Health Council shall prepare an annual Community Health Plan and report its Plan to County Council and to the State of New Mexico Department of Health. The Community Health Plan shall include: 1) a county health assessment and inventory of health resources; 2) identification of health priorities determined through independent, community-based planning processes; and 3) strategies and resources to address health priorities.

Los Alamos County Health Goals are to enable all our citizens to live as long, healthy, productive, and meaningful lives as possible, and to achieve this in doable, sustainable, *equitable*, and cost-efficient ways. The focus of the 2023 Comprehensive Health Plan is to answer the following questions: What are the barriers to achieving individual and community health and well-being? What is the socio-economic impact of reduced health and well-being? How can we build upon our strengths and past efforts to address our current (and future) health, health care, wellness needs?

Thus far, the committee in charge of developing the Comprehensive Health Plan has conducted more than 40 interviews of health and social service providers to determine how community members have access to basic needs across their life span. Basic needs include but are not limited to education, employment, transportation, housing, health insurance, legal resources, and community connections. The Comprehensive Health Plan development process also includes community member interviews and focus groups, as well as quantitative data received from Los Alamos Medical Center, the New Mexico Department of Health, Emergency Medical Services, and the Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey.

*The Health Equity Advisory Group has been formed to help ensure that equity and inclusion are at the forefront of comprehensive health planning.* This advisory group is still in its infancy but has reached out to learn of other equity efforts in Los Alamos County, has partnered with Ashley Naughton, the vice chair of the now defunct REI Taskforce, and is in communication with the Los Alamos Public Schools Equity Council.

**Minutes**

Jody moved to accept the April 2023 board meeting minutes, as well as the April 2023 Annual Meeting minutes. This motion was seconded by Barbara, and all voted in favor.

Barbara will publish the Annual Meeting minutes in the next *Update*.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for April 2023 was prepared by our former Treasurer, Rosmarie Frederickson, and presented by our new Treasurer, Addie Jacobson. They are still working on the transition of duties. Addie recently made a deposit of $2,207, including $2,110 in membership dues and donations. She will soon receive the end of the month statements, at which time she will be able to reconcile the accounts. The reconciled April 2023 Treasurer’s Report will be submitted for board approval at the next board meeting.

Barbara noted that she changed the reimbursement form to align with our 501(c)(3) status. She will email this new form to the board. Any request for reimbursement of expenses should be sent to Addie with this form and any receipts.

**Acknowledgement of Rosmarie’s Service as Treasurer**

Barbara and Becky suggested that Rosmarie’s many years of service to the League be honored by a League membership and a gift card to the Blue Window restaurant. Board members are encouraged to make a donation in any amount. Checks can be sent to Becky at her home, and they should be made payable to Rebecca Shankland. Donations should be submitted to Becky within two weeks.

**Voter Guide Director**

Lynn has agreed to continue as Voter Guide Director until a replacement is found. Barbara moved that we elect Lynn as Voter Guide Director, and this motion was seconded by Becky. All voted in favor.

**Voter Guide questions – Proposal**

Jean Dewart submitted a proposal for involving LWVLA members in the development of questions for the Voter Guides. This proposal was emailed to the board and presented by Akkana in Jean’s absence. Jean hopes that her proposal will get more League members involved and engaged with the League. Akkana noted that the committee made up of League members, including any board member who wishes to participate, would develop the questions to be submitted to the board for final approval. Lynn approved of this idea, so long as the standards required by the League are followed (e.g., non-partisan, not leading) and she agreed that this may result in fresh ideas. During our discussion, it was suggested that this committee should also be responsible for developing questions for our Candidate Forums.

A few minor edits to Jean’s proposal were suggested and noted by Akkana. Felicia then moved that we adopt Jean’s proposal regarding the development of questions for our Voter Guides, with the addition of developing questions for our Candidate Forums. Rebecca seconded this motion, and all voted in favor.

**Donation to Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Barbara said that the feedback she received from delegates to the LWVNM Convention were all positive. The Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church (BELC) gave us the meeting room and kitchen at no charge. Barbara moved that we donate $100 to BELC, and this motion was seconded by Felicia. All voted in favor.

**Adoption of Financial Policy**

Because of the recent change in leadership of our League, Barbara asked the board to adopt a new Financial Policy, which was emailed to the board. Barbara and Felicia developed this policy largely from the LWVNM Financial Policy. Barbara noted that it is important for the Treasurer to know of the financial rules to be followed, and for any Treasurer moving forward. During our discussion, several suggestions and edits were made. Akkana asked that it be clarified that the biennial review be conducted by someone outside of the League. Barbara emphasized that the board members involved in League finances need to decide on a division of labor.

Even though Addie is too new in the role of Treasurer to comment on the policy, Felicia and Barbara feel strongly that this policy should be adopted today. It can always be amended as Addie settles into her role. Rebecca moved that we adopt the Financial Policy, including the changes we made during this meeting, and Akkana seconded this motion. All voted in favor.

**Adoption of Revised Conflict of Interest Policy**

Felicia substantially revised our Conflict of Interest Policy, and this was emailed to the board. She noted that it is customary to ask for two affirmations, one of which includes the non-partisan nature of the League. Felicia described the example of the PEEC Conflict of Interest Policy she was also charged to revise. Barbara moved to adopt the revised Conflict of Interest Policy and this motion was seconded by Becky. All voted in favor.

Felicia asked that each board members complete page 2 of this policy and either mail or email her the signed copy.

**Lunch with a Leader**

Because Senator Leo Jaramillo was unable to speak to us in May, he has been rescheduled for our June event. Karyl Ann will reach out to Karl Braithwaite for the July meeting.

A boxed lunch menu from Pig and Fig was emailed to the board. Karyl Ann was concerned about who would pick up the lunches, since the restaurant is in White Rock, but Becky assured her that at least one of the four people who reside in White Rock would be able to pick up the lunches. Karyl Ann also had questions about the cost, and whether a drink is included. She will reach out directly to the owner to get her questions answered.

Karyl Ann also brought up the issue of having hybrid meetings, which was brought to her attention by a new, younger League member. An extensive discussion followed. It was noted that having a hybrid meeting is difficult and time-consuming to set up. We do not have the proper equipment or skills to accomplish a hybrid meeting. Felicia emphasized that we should make such decisions based on our available resources and we should not make decisions to accommodate one person. We previously agreed to have a Zoom meeting if the speaker cannot come in person, and an in-person meeting with lunch otherwise. If the speaker agrees, we can record the meeting for posting on our YouTube channel later. Karyl Ann added that she can solicit questions in advance from League members who cannot attend during the event. Addie and Akkana objected to Barbara’s suggestion that the decision whether to record the event or not be made on a case-by-case basis.

For now, we will proceed as follows: Zoom meetings will be held if the speaker is unable to appear in person. The speaker will be asked if s/he agrees to be recorded. If the speaker can appear in person, the event will be held at the Unitarian Church and lunch will be ordered from Pig and Fig for those who wish to order. No decision was made as to the feasibility of recording an in-person event.

**Water Position**

Akkana developed new wording for “inclining block rate” which was requested by Wendy Swanson following our Annual Meeting. Instead of “we support the inclining block rate structure,” the position will read, “We support a tiered rate structure, with rising unit rates as a customer uses more water.” Later in the position, in the phrase, “to irrigate the parks with wastewater effluent,” the term “wastewater effluent” will be replaced with “treated effluent.” The term “gray water” is appropriate where it is used. Akkana moved that we change the language as noted, and this motion was seconded by Barbara. All voted in favor.

**Report on the Pit Study Committee Formation**

Jody said that she has five individuals who have agreed to serve on the Pit Study Committee. However, she plans to send out the invitation a second time because of a distribution issue. She noted that some people who told her in person at the Annual Meeting that they would participate did not respond to the invitation.

**Website**

Barbara said that she has noticed errors and omissions on our website. Recently she has seen very old photographs that should be replaced and out of date calendars. The list of board members is also outdated. Rebecca suggested that the individuals who have volunteered to update our website were never provided with necessary revisions. Barbara asked for volunteers to review the website for such issues. Both Becky and Felicia volunteered. Akkana suggested that the links to our positions be posted on a side bar.

**Important Dates**

The deadline for the next newsletter is June 1, 2023.

The June board meeting will be cancelled. The next board meeting will be July 27, 2023, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. This meeting will be held in person, at which time a photograph of the new board can be taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken*