

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING
MONDAY DECEMBER 1, 2020
VIA ZOOM DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

Call to Order

Barbara Calef called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Board Members Present

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

Guests: Addie Jacobson, Special Projects
JoAnn Lysne, Newsletter

Minutes

The October minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report

For October 2020, Rosmarie reported a checking account beginning book balance of \$2,934.60 and an ending balance of \$583.09, which includes total receipts of \$217.53; disbursements of \$2,569.04; and \$.01 interest. Receipts included dues and donations. Disbursements included payments for the Voter Guide, Aspen Copies, and Leslie Wallstrom. The savings account ending book balance was \$35,794.10, which includes \$.91 interest.

Rebecca moved that the treasurer's report be accepted as presented. Lynn seconded this motion and all voted in favor.

Rosmarie also noted that the \$5 submitted by Becky to increase the Kathy Taylor Memorial donations to \$200 was deposited in early November and a \$200 check was mailed to Self Help but not yet cashed. The November report is not yet complete but a draft was submitted for informational purposes only.

Lunch with a Leader

The December Lunch with a Leader will be held on December 15. This event will feature Dr. Rick Madden and Mary Feldblum, Ph.D., who will provide an update on the Health Security Act and politics associated with current medical issues. Ellen is organizing this event. For January 2021, Karyl Ann has invited Lonna Atkeson, a political science professor at UNM, who will speak about Senate Bill 4 and what is expected in the legislature. The February event is likely to center on Medicaid for All, another perspective on health care in New Mexico. Akkana will identify the speakers used by the Central New Mexico League. Because the February Lunch with a Leader falls on the same day as League Day, it was agreed to hold it on February 16. Jody again asked for an event discussing local educational issues, but Karyl Ann reminded the group that teachers are unavailable during our noon Lunch with a Leader events. Furthermore, we will be having a separate meeting with several representatives from the schools to discuss online learning. This event was to have been held in December, but one of the speakers has been diagnosed with COVID, so it must be postponed until she has fully recovered.

Membership

Becky advised the group that we still have 103 members. One of our newest members submitted a nice biography along with a photograph for the newsletter. Becky will try and get some of our "old timers" who have not renewed to rejoin the League. Becky and Karyl Ann will compare their lists to ensure they both carry the same 103 members. Julie offered to run membership reports from our website and PayPal if that would be helpful.

Report on LWVNM Board Meeting

The State board met on November 21, 2020, and was attended by Barbara, Becky, Akkana, and Rebecca. Barbara noted several items of interest to our League. First, we learned from Diane Goldfarb that Vote411 was a great success. We had 36,000 users and 47,683 "sessions." These statistics led the board to decide to continue using Vote411 every year although the costs going forward are still unknown. For our next election, we will post our questions for the school board and UNM Advisory Board but we may not bother with a printed Voter Guide. It is likely that the state League will pay for this.

Second, the annual convention will be held April 24 and 25, 2021, and is being hosted by the Southern New Mexico League. Because it will be via Zoom, they have asked for technical support. Third, JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) gave a talk about the January 23 car parade and the board voted to fund it. Fourth, the board voted to overturn a motion on Election Procedures from the September meeting because of an administrative issue. Following discussion and a new vote, the same motion passed. Our position is that we want as many voters as possible to

vote in the primary election and we will support any bill that would allow Decline to State voters to choose a ballot, but those registered as Republican, Democrat, or Libertarian will only get the ballot of their party.

Fifth, an archive policy was adopted. Our archivist does not have experience with electronic documents and she has solicited volunteers with experience in cloud storage. Akkana said this will not require much technical knowledge but instead someone who can select a service where we can store files online. Dick Mason plans to use the survey tool to which we have access in order to query our members on various issues, including volunteer opportunities.

Last, the Education Committee has been working very hard on revising the old LWVNM position and provided a draft of the old position with many changes. There is an ongoing discussion amongst board members whether the position should be adopted via concurrence or consensus. At Rebecca's request, Barbara explained the process by which such a position can be adopted. One way is to undertake a study, which ordinarily takes two years. Following the study, the committee writes *consensus* questions that have to be approved by the board, after which the committee meets with each local League to discuss the questions. Any unpopular question will not be included in the position. The committee then writes a position based on the discussions with the local Leagues and brings it to the board for adoption. At the next convention, the delegates can choose to accept, amend, or reject it. *Concurrence* is a faster process that does not involve a study or consensus. Instead, the board votes to adopt a position already adopted by another League. In the current case, the Education Committee has done a lot of reorganizing and has made strides to improve the language. Much of the information is not new, but they are in the process of identifying that which is new. The Education Committee will identify where changes were made and provide support for the changes (such as concurrence from another League, board, or committee). The Education Committee is using this hybrid model, which was previously used by the Natural Resources Committee, as precedent.

Miscellaneous

In years past, we have placed an advertisement in the local papers thanking commercial donors for contributing towards the costs of our Voter Guides. This year, only the Delle Foundation and AAUW contributed. Barbara asked that we place the advertisement thanking these groups for their financial assistance. Becky made this motion, Akkana seconded, and all voted in favor.

The state League received a warning from LWVUS that some Leagues have been contacted by third-party firms claiming the Leagues are violating image licenses. They have been threatened with legal action if some payment is not made. JoAnn expressed a similar concern that the recordings we post on our website might violate the intellectual property of the speaker. Our speakers have not routinely been notified in advance that the event they are participating in will be recorded

and posted. Barbara suggested to Karyl Ann that she inform potential speakers that the event will be recorded. JoAnn has alerted our speakers that the event will be recorded but only right before the event begins. Julie has followed up with the speakers when she is posting the event online. The question remains whether we need a written release. The warning letter said that email acknowledgement is not good enough. Leslie suggested an attorney be consulted for legal advice and Addie added that because this is an issue affecting each local League that the state League should be responsible for providing advice. Barbara agreed to add this issue to the next agenda of the LWVNM board meeting.

Becky and Addie will write thank you letters to Naomi Maestas and Gloria Maestas, respectively, for their hard work during the election.

2021 Legislative Session

The 2021 legislative session begins on January 19, 2021. Barbara consulted with Christine Chandler about a possible date for our legislative preview and Christine suggested either January 6 or 7. Our group opted for January 7. Barbara will also invite Senators Leo Jaramillo and Bobby Gonzales, and she will ask Dick Mason to speak on redistricting and/or health care bills. The board did not have any interest in hearing about enabling legislation for the passage of the constitutional amendment that now requires the Governor to appoint members of the Public Regulation Commission.

There will be Zoom meetings on December 5 (Advocacy Workshop), December 9 (Reproductive Rights), and December 16 (Revenue and Tax Policy). On January 14 Dick will speak about League legislative priorities (Tax Reform and Revenue, Redistricting, and Reproductive Rights) and League Day will be held virtually on February 18. The Roundhouse will be closed to the public, but there has been some talk about renting the convention center to allow for some public participation. Barbara will send friendly reminders of each Zoom meeting.

Preparation for Annual Meeting

The Nominating Committee is made up of Ellen, Leslie, and JoAnn. Because of Rosmarie's transition to the position of Treasurer, we need a new Fundraising Director. Ellen volunteered for this position but also asked for an outline of responsibilities. The Nominating Committee needs to inquire with each board member to see if they want to remain in their position, change their position, or leave the board. Karyl Ann suggested that our members be asked if they want to participate and Barbara noted that this is always included in our newsletter but no one agrees to participate unless there is personal contact. The Nominating Committee needs to find out what holes we may need to fill and identify nominees to be elected at the annual meeting by early March 2021 to be elected at the annual meeting. Becky suggested we also identify members who will help cover the County Council meetings.

The annual program-planning meeting will be held virtually this year. At the local level and the state level our positions will be reviewed to determine if any changes are needed or if studies should be undertaken. It was agreed that the program-planning meeting will take place on February 22 at noon.

Our annual fundraising drive will also have to be held virtually. Ellen will take over the supplies (envelopes and stamps) from Rosmarie. The fundraising letter we use comes from Aspen Copies and Ellen will arrange for the needed supplies to be distributed. It was agreed that participating in this event could be a good way for new members to get their feet wet. Becky will identify members who listed fundraising as an area of interest.

The board agreed that there was no need to amend our bylaws.

The Budget Committee is made up of Julie, Ed Birnbaum, and Rosmarie (*ex officio*). Julie agreed to lead the group. The committee will look at PayPal and see if we have lost funds from its use and determine if our dues should be adjusted. Barbara asked for a draft budget by the end of February or beginning of March since it must be ready one month before the annual convention.

Lynn wrote a letter to the Delle Foundation reporting on our expenditures for the Voter Guides. During communication with the president, Lynn learned that the foundation has continuing respect for us and we were told to let them know what future funding we may need. Delle was told that we will not be requesting COVID funding.

Digital Privacy Study

The Digital Privacy Study committee has drafted initial findings, which Akkana noted are basic enough to allow us to advocate should we need to and possibly get the County to think more about privacy issues when making decisions. The following three consensus questions identified by the Digital Privacy Study group were discussed:

Proposed Consensus Questions 11/27/20

1. Do you believe your relationship with the local government is different from your relationship with a business or other group that you may join or patronize? Explain.
2. Is concern for your privacy a factor in determining whether you sign up for services or feedback platforms provided by the County? Why or why not?
 - a. Would you prefer that the County inform you if the service they are using will be tracking you? Is a link to a privacy agreement enough?
 - b. Would you prefer the County use a digital platform that does not track personal information even if it is more expensive?

- c. Should citizen privacy be a factor when the County chooses software or digital services?
- 3. Do you have a privacy threshold beyond which you would no longer be willing to interact with the County?
 - a. Should residents be expected to participate in social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) in order to receive County announcements?
 - b. If the County conducted a survey that, in the background, collected and sold demographic information about you, how passionate would you have to be about the survey topic in order to participate?
 - c. How would you react if your attendance at a council meeting generated advertising in your mailbox or robocalls to your home?

Lynn asked about the reasoning behind question #1. JoAnn and Akkana explained that it is a largely a question about choice. We do not have a choice in our utilities or library, for example, and if we do not like what our local government is doing, there are few options. We are, essentially, a captive audience. Barbara added that unless the League has a position on the issue, we cannot advocate for the County to act in a certain way. Akkana confirmed that the questions presented incorporated suggested language from Ed Birnbaum. Rebecca moved that the questions as presented be approved. Rosmarie seconded this motion and, other than Julie who abstained, all voted in favor.

The board agreed to schedule the consensus meeting for January 4, 2021, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

BPU Observer Corps

Julie said the last BPU meeting was held on November 18, during which they discussed what kind of program the board would like the utilities department to follow (e.g., Malcolm Baldrige, J.D. Powers). The discussion was tabled.

The BPU has jurisdiction over the utilities department and the County Council has jurisdiction over the other county departments. A citizen petition was submitted to the County Council to create a committee to take action on certain environmental issues within six months.

Council Reports

Addie covered the November 10 meeting. The meeting was very lengthy and largely was devoted to hearing an appeal of the decision of the Planning and Zoning Board granting two special use permits in La Senda to open an in-home day care facility and a special use permit for the in-home day care facility to employ more than one non-family member. Of special import to our League and its positions, the Council approved Resolution 20-18 calling on Congress to enact a Campaign Finance Regulation Amendment. Councilor Pete Sheehy introduced the resolution and the

letter in support on behalf our League, written by Barbara, was read during public comment.

Lynn covered the November 17 meeting. Her written report will be included in the next newsletter.

Jody agreed to cover the meeting scheduled for this evening (December 1). Rebecca will cover December 15; Lynn will cover January 5; and Leslie will cover January 19. As previously noted, Becky will solicit volunteers for this task from our membership.

Becky agreed to act as a liaison with the newly created Racial Justice Action Advisory Council (R-Jack for short).

Important Dates

The deadline for the next newsletter is December 2.

The Advocacy Workshop will be held on December 5.

The Reproductive Rights webinar will be held on December 9.

The Revenue and Tax Policy webinar will be held on December 16.

The consensus meeting for the Digital Privacy Study is set for January 4.

The legislative preview is scheduled for January 7.

On January 14 Dick will speak about our legislative priorities.

The legislative session begins on January 19.

The next board meeting will be January 28, 2021, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

League Day will be held on February 18.

The Program Planning meeting will take place on February 22.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken