

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY OCTOBER 28, 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
Rebecca Chaiken, Secretary
Rosmarie Frederickson, Treasurer
Akkana Peck, Director at Large
Addie Jacobson, Director at Large
Jody Benson, Publicity
Julie Williams-Hill, Webmaster
Felicia Orth, Director at Large

Guests: JoAnn Lysne, Newsletter
Jean Dewart, Membership
Wendy Swanson, Arrangements

Minutes

The September minutes were accepted as presented.

Suffrage Exhibit

Becky advised the group that our suffrage exhibit will be traveling to a public library in Santa Fe and it is also sought by a group in Farmington. Furthermore, all three videos of the suffrage speakers have been posted to our YouTube channel. Becky will send out a Friendly Reminder to our membership. Jody noted that one link did not function as intended.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for September 2021 reported a checking account beginning book balance of \$7,391.44 and an ending balance of \$6,819.97, which includes total receipts of \$323.03 and disbursements of \$894.53. Receipts included dues (Gisler), donations (Historical Society and Forrest), and \$.06 interest. Disbursements were to Addie Jacobson, Hedy Dunn, Aspen Copies, Becky Shankland, and for PayPal expenses. The savings account ending book balance was \$33,303.27, which includes \$.82 interest.

Rosmarie is still waiting for the final bills to come in for the Voter Guide and she does not believe we will need to pay GRT, hence the total expenditures for the Voter Guide remain pending. Rosmarie paid the PMP today, which totaled \$3,056. She wrote thank you notes to Liddie Martinez and to Enterprise Bank for the \$600 grant we received for which Barbara had applied. Rosmarie forgot about the Amazon Smile application but will take care of that after the meeting.

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

Membership

Jean sent the most recent membership report that reflects 104 individual members, via email. She credited Becky and Dotty for prodding some long time members who finally sent in their dues. Jean reminded the group that the spreadsheet is sortable and she offered to help anyone interested.

Jean also shared an idea she had about using the membership spreadsheet. Areas of interest are included as part of the membership application and for renewals. She adds this information into the sortable spreadsheet. Jean suggested that we could make use of this information by making targeted contacts with our members who have expressed interest in certain areas. This would allow our members to volunteer for concrete tasks to support and learn about the League. Jean suggested one way to utilize this information would be to appoint a subcommittee made up of members to develop the questions we pose in the Voter Guides and for the candidate forums. These questions would then be brought to the board for approval. The board was enthusiastic about this idea and Barbara asked Jean to sort the spreadsheet accordingly.

Jean added that the public input that is received by county committees (her experience is with P and Z) is powerful. Very few people do provide input and those who do are listened to. Addie suggested that we use the information contained in our spreadsheet to request our members to step up and volunteer. She used coverage of the County Council meetings as a good example of how this information could be utilized.

Concurrence with California on Criminal Justice Position

With respect to the November 8 meeting for all League members to discuss the proposed LWVNM concurrence with California, Felicia has secured attorneys Rebecca Mnuk-Herrmann (public defender) and Dorie Biagianti-Smith (municipal court prosecutor) to help us frame the topic. They have been provided with the necessary materials and will be asked to give us their impressions of the California position. Barbara noted that the California position may be too detailed and any position just needs to allow the League to lobby. Our members will be provided with the document created by LWVNM Program Chair Kathy Brook, which compares

the California position with what currently exists in various New Mexico positions. The speakers secured by Felicia will each be given five minutes to share their impressions of the position. This will be followed by any input our members may wish to provide. Barbara added that CNM will be having a similar meeting with multiple speakers on November 9. She will send out a Zoom link for that meeting but only CNM members will be allowed to ask questions.

Zoom, Candidate Forums, and Voter Guides for 2022 Elections

Our most recent candidate forum did not have the capacity for the number of persons wishing to participate via Zoom. Barbara suggested that we pay extra next year for a Zoom webinar in order to allow everyone who is interested to participate. JoAnn noted that we had more than enough space until about one-half hour before the event was to begin. There was no way for us to have anticipated the issue. JoAnn added that a webinar format will allow for more participants and allows for better security. Julie noted that it is possible to stream such events live on Facebook or YouTube through Open Broadcast Studios, but there are issues with that method too. It was agreed that we will pay for webinars as needed.

As in years past, the League paid for the Voter Guide to be published and distributed with the LA Daily Post, along with 300 extra copies to be distributed to locations around the county. Those extra copies are already gone, well before Election Day. Barbara suggested that next year we pay for additional Voter Guides. Akkana noted that we could also heavily advertise Vote411, which includes the information contained in the printed Voter Guides.

Lunch with a Leader

Barbara reported briefly in Karyl Ann's absence. The new superintendent of Bandelier National Monument, Patrick Suddath, will be our speaker in December. Steve Lynne cannot participate because he has a standing meeting at the same time as our lunch events. For November, Barbara suggested we invite Katie Leonard who is the chair of the Los Alamos Resiliency Energy and Sustainability (LARES) Taskforce. This was agreed upon and Barbara will communicate this to Karyl Ann.

BPU Report

Julie reported that the Board of Public Utilities met last Wednesday. The board was advised that gas prices are expected to be high this year, despite La Niña weather, which tends to be warm and dry. Factors outside of New Mexico are impacting the prices we will be paying. The other important issue that arose during the board meeting was the bid put out for the "water resource recovery" plant in White Rock. The New Mexico Environmental Department provided Los Alamos with a \$17 million loan with a great interest rate, but all of the bids came in much higher than that. As a result, the loan has been converted to \$30 million, which was approved by both the BPU and the County Council. Sewer rates may need to increase in order to

pay for this higher loan. The next BPU meeting is expected to include a discussion incorporating input from the LARES taskforce with the replacement of the San Juan power plant.

Council Reports

Addie covered the October 5 County Council meeting during which Module 1 of the draft of the Development Code was presented and discussed. Her written report will be printed in the next *Update*. Lynn covered the October 19 meeting but she is currently out of town. Her written report will also be printed in the next *Update*. Barbara covered the October 26 meeting during which representatives of two boards, the Personnel Board and the Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board, gave the Council overviews of their roles. Also, members of the Planning Department explained issues associated with short-term rentals (such as AirBnB), which currently are not regulated despite dozens being listed in Los Alamos. The County plans to hire a consultant to advise on this issue.

Volunteers were solicited for future meetings. Rebecca will cover October 29; Julie will cover November 9; Jody will cover November 16; and Ellen will cover December 7.

Soliciting volunteers from the membership for County Council coverage was again discussed. Barbara suggested that we utilize Jean's targeted spreadsheet based on their interests and possibly the agenda. Addie expressed the concern that if only certain people are contacted, others who may be interested could be left out. Barbara was concerned that if the request goes to everyone, some members will stop reading our email communications. Becky said she could send a Friendly Reminder to everyone and then targeted emails could be sent as needed.

Important Dates

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

The next board meeting will be December 9, 2021, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken