

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY OCTOBER 27, 2022
VIA ZOOM DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

Call to Order

Barbara Calef called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. She asked for a few additions to the agenda.

Board Members Present

Barbara Calef, Co-President
Becky Shankland, Co-President
Felicia Orth, First Vice President
Ellen Mills, Second Vice President
Rebecca Chaiken, Secretary
Lynn Jones, Voter Services
Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader
Akkana Peck, Director at Large
Bob Williams, Newsletter

Guest: Jean Dewart, Membership

Minutes

One minor correction was needed to the September minutes. The amended September minutes were accepted as presented.

Zoom

Barbara asked if it was time to resume meeting in person. Ellen said that Los Alamos County has been downgraded by the New York Times and she suggested that meeting in person was premature. Akkana and Lynn both agreed. We will continue meeting via Zoom for the time being. However, Barbara, Becky, and Felicia recently met, and they believe that there should be some in-person programming for the public. The Legislative Preview in January should be held in person and that event can also be recorded.

Lunch with a Leader

After several exchanges with Thom Mason's secretary, Karyl Ann learned that he has a standing meeting during our Thursday lunch events, but he is willing to participate during an evening event. Everyone agreed that this was a good idea, and he has been secured for our next event, which will now be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on November 17. Karyl Ann communicated Jody's list of topics he should discuss to his secretary. Barbara read that message, as follows: "We would be interested in

hearing about LANL's non weapons science and contributions as well as on the nuclear-weapons trigger mission. We would like him to explain the mission as per the federal mandate as well as what LANL/TRIAD is doing to mitigate the cultural and environmental issues related to the LANL expansion." Furthermore, our group decided that we would like to hear about plans for growth of the Lab, including the number of new employees over the next five years. Karyl Ann wants a balance of questions and Becky wants him to cover the environmental issues on which the Lab has done well. Ellen suggested that Jody's phrase "non-nuclear" be replaced with "basic research."

Teresa Leger Fernandez has been confirmed for our meeting on December 15. A speaker for January 19, 2023, has not yet been decided and Karyl Ann asked for suggestions. Jean suggested that we invite the County Councilor who serves as liaison to the Board or Commission we are most interested in. Specifically, she is interested in the Councilors assigned to the BPU and the Planning and Zoning Commission. Jean frequently cannot get answers to her questions from county staff. Furthermore, Randy Ryti has a deep knowledge of the issues surrounding the land transfer of Rendija Canyon, and it would be helpful to talk to him directly. Karyl Ann added that we could invite David Izraelevitz and Sara Scott, both of whom are leaving the Council at the end of the year. Because the assignments will change after the first of the year, Jean will find out who the liaisons were in 2022.

Membership

Jean advised that we now have 120 individual members. She reported that there was a little confusion about a member who wanted to join as a Friend of the League but filled out the form as a member. Hence, Jean has delayed sending the membership data to Lynn. In the future, Jean suggested we modify our membership form to make it a little more obvious.

The question arose why a person would not want to be a member but was willing to become a Friend. Jean was sad that the person she referenced thought they could not join because they were unable to participate as a volunteer. Lynn said that a member will get mailings from LWVUS and LWVNM, but a Friend of the League will not. Barbara knows of someone who did not want to join as a member because it would be too stressful. Answering Bob's question about our various lists, Karyl Ann said that her list does not distinguish between member and friend, but Becky's list does. Bob suggested that this topic could use further discussion at some point in the future.

Jean will provide Becky a list of those members who have not renewed over the last 1.5 years.

Retreat

Because Felicia will be taking over the presidency following our Annual meeting on April 20, Barbara would like to have another retreat soon so we can discuss our various roles, who would like to continue, and whom we might draft. Ellen offered her home for this event. After several dates were discussed, it was agreed that the retreat will be held on November 16 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Felicia would like to develop a master calendar detailing what each of us does for the League.

Legislative Preview

Barbara will ask Chris Chandler if she can participate in our annual Legislative Preview on January 5, 2023. Usually, the AAUW works on this event with us, and it is traditionally held at Fuller Lodge. Sometimes, another guest or two is invited as well. AAUW pays for part of the rental fee and provides the food. When Amy returns, Barbara will ask her to book Fuller Lodge. The Unitarian Church can be our Plan B.

Club Express

During the last LWVNM meeting, Barbara secured permission for Akkana to investigate Club Express further through the free trial period they offer. Akkana has not yet had an opportunity to do this.

Voter Services

Lynn reported that the last bundle of the Voter Guides has been taken to the Clerk's Office. They distribute the Guides to our polling locations and libraries. To ensure an adequate supply, poll workers are asking for the Voter Guides to be returned, if they have not been marked. Lynn was assisted with this year's Voter Guide by Rosmarie, Akkana, and Elizabeth Auden.

Everyone agreed that the candidate forums went well. Barbara said the first forum, for the Council candidates, was attended by over 100 people. About 57 attended the second forum.

We recently received a request for our Voter Guide from Australia. Becky received some letters of praise for our Voter Guide as well as one complaint.

Judy Williams has organized the Voter Guide in the past but has advised LWVNM that she will not continue in this role. Akkana said this may be largely due to numerous technical problems with Vote411 and repeated issues with the Secretary of State office not providing the correct data.

Karyl Ann wants the political parties and/or the County to purchase and distribute signs encouraging people to vote. She has already discussed this with Paul Andrus.

Observer Corps

June Fabryka-Martin and Craig Martin are still traveling but plan to report on the County Council and Planning and Zoning meetings. Barbara attended recent meetings on topics of interest to the League. Briefly, the County Council heard from golfers who objected to the four plans submitted by staff, and they instead asked for a fifth option which had a smaller footprint than the plan recommended by staff. The golfers are mainly concerned that the golf course be better maintained. The Council will decide this issue on November 15. No action has been taken on the Pueblo Canyon issue because the County has decided to hire a biologist to advise on threatened and endangered species. The County also has hired a consultant to advise on the proposed tennis complex either on North Mesa or in Overlook Park. Neither scenario will occupy open space. Whether or not to close parks and trails when a fire threatens was also discussed at a recent meeting. Barbara learned that the Fire Chief prefers to issue advisory notices rather than close the trails. Currently there are no ordinances to allow for enforcement of any fire-related restrictions. No decision has been made on this issue. During the recent Planning and Zoning meeting, there was a lot of discussion about parking. Stephanie Nakhleh wanted a reversal on the issue of mandatory parking downtown. Barbara suggested that only drought-tolerant grass be planted in new developments. The issue of sidewalks being required everywhere except for parcels over an acre was also discussed. Surprisingly, no one has heard of any outrage over the Kroger decision to start charging for plastic bags at the Smith's in White Rock.

2023 Convention

The 2023 LWVNM Convention is to be held in Los Alamos over the weekend of April 28 to April 30. Barbara asked for volunteers to help plan this event. There was consensus that the Holiday Inn was a good venue for the last convention held here, and the food provided by the Co-Op was also praised. Ellen volunteered her home for the Friday night reception. Rebecca agreed to contact the Holiday Inn about securing rooms for approximately 40 delegates as well as meeting room space. Barbara will compose an email which will be sent to our membership seeking volunteers for organizing this event.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for September 2022 showed a checking account beginning book balance of \$1,300.48 and an ending balance of \$1,672.53, which includes total receipts of \$780.04 and disbursements of \$407.99. Receipts included donations, dues, a contribution from AAUW, and interest. Disbursements were to Enterprise Bank and for PayPal charges. The savings account ending book balance was \$33,313.27, which includes \$.82 interest.

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

Important Dates

The deadline for the next newsletter is November 1, 2022.

The next board meeting will be December 8, 2022, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The Legislative Preview will be held at Fuller Lodge on January 5, 2023.

The LWVLA Annual Meeting will be held following Lunch with a Leader on April 20, 2023.

The LWVNM Convention will be held in Los Alamos April 28-30, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken