

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2020  
VIA ZOOM DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

**Call to Order**

Barbara Calef called the meeting to order at 12:04 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

**Guests:** Addie Jacobson, Special Projects

**Minutes**

The August minutes were accepted as presented.

**Treasurer's Report**

According to the treasurer's report for August 2020, Rosmarie reported a checking account beginning book balance of \$4,653.49 and an ending balance of \$4,907.71, which includes total receipts of \$308.43; disbursements of \$54.21; and \$.04 interest. Receipts included dues and donations. Disbursements included payments to the Secretary of State and Aspen Copies. The savings account ending book balance was \$35,792.31, which includes \$.91 interest.

Barbara said that earlier this year we asked local businesses to buy an advertisement in our Voter Guide, but none responded. This month AAUW asked about purchasing an advertisement. Barbara approached Liddie Martinez of Enterprise Bank soliciting a donation but Ms. Martinez indicated that it was too late for a 2020 donation. There is a deadline of August 30, 2021, to request a donation for 2022. Barbara asked for a volunteer to solicit donations from the other banks operating in Los Alamos and Rosmarie agreed to do so.

Regarding the solicitation of funds from other local businesses, Barbara noted that we have done it in the past only during presidential election years. Becky initially thought we should make this request every year, but it was noted that businesses are struggling because of the pandemic and we have a substantial financial cushion. For this reason it was decided to place this item on a later agenda.

### **Lunch with a Leader**

The October Lunch with a Leader will feature Liddie Martinez from Enterprise Bank and in November we will hear from Megan Green, a representative of the Racial Justice Action Advisory Council. Ellen reported that she has a verbal commitment for December from speakers on the Health Security Act. Karyl Ann suggested we take advantage of the need to Zoom by inviting speakers from further afield and Becky suggested Dede Feldman. Barbara agreed she would be an excellent speaker but a topic would need to be identified. Addie thought she could speak on her views on the legislative session after it concludes, possibly in April. Ellen reminded the group that LWVNM will be preparing for the annual convention during the last weekend in April.

Karyl Ann brought up the idea of moving our Lunch with a Leader from Tuesday to Thursday. In the past these events were held on Thursdays but they were moved because the Rotary Club could guarantee more participants at the restaurant we used. Currently, both the Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club meet on Tuesdays so none of those members can participate in our Lunch with a Leader events. One complication with moving to Thursday could be parking at the library if the Farmers Market will be returning to that venue. It was agreed that Barbara will inquire with the Farmer's Market to see where it will be held in the future before we take a vote on moving our events beginning in January 2021.

### **Membership**

Becky was pleased to report that our membership is now up to 101 including five new members (Megan Green, Maxine McReynolds, Heather Quinn and spouse, and Elizabeth Weisbrod).

### **Voter Services**

Lynn also had good news - Vote411 is live! All of the Voter Guide information has been turned over to Bonnie Gordon at the Los Alamos Daily Post for publication in the October 1 edition of the paper. Karyl Ann said she hopes there will be some alert that the Voter Guide will be in the print version of the October 1 paper so it does not end up in the recycling bin. Barbara asked Jody if we planned an advertisement or a press release. Jody checked and found out for the primary election we just did a press release. She did say that Sandra West has created nice graphics we could use in an advertisement but she was not happy with the copy. Akkana added that the color graphics Sandra created can be shared on social media.

Barbara asked Jody and Leslie to place an advertisement right away. Jody agreed and indicated both Vote411 and the October 1 Voter Guide will be included in the advertisement.

Regarding the advertisement created by LWVNM, neither Jody, Leslie, nor Akkana was happy with the outcome. They agreed that Leslie would contact the PR group responsible for the advertisement and offer her assistance in revising it.

Barbara reported that Teresa Leger Fernandez would not participate in the October 1 forum so that forum will be limited to the races for PRC and PEC, and two of the three candidates for Senate District 5. The Republican candidate will not be participating but she will write a letter that will be read by the moderator. When JoAnn sets up the webinar, Barbara will send the link to the candidates. To ensure security, the forums will be open by invitation to our League members, the Santa Fe League, and local members of AAUW. The events will be recorded at which time press releases can be disseminated.

Prior to this meeting, the board members voted to approve the purchase of the webinar needed for the forums. Our bylaws require that we vote again during the meeting. Becky moved that we purchase the webinar for October and Akkana seconded this motion. All voted in favor.

We produced a flyer with information on voter registration, absentee ballots, and completing the census, which was passed out to LA Cares clients. Jody was going to provide the extras to the residents of Aspen Ridge but she said the president of the member's council did not think it would be useful since the residents are largely registered and have completed the census. Barbara said that because the flyer also includes information about the absentee ballots, they should be provided the flyers. Jody agreed to bring them to Aspen Ridge.

We then discussed the request made by Bernadette Lauritzen for members to be present, dressed in suffragist garb, on October 8 from 11 to 12:30 while seniors receive their lunch. Jody said that Bernadette did not want any materials to be handed out, she just wanted the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage to be celebrated. Leslie, Jody, and Addie volunteered. Karyl Ann expressed concern that these senior voters might not know to submit an absentee ballot request. Barbara reminded us that our county clerk hired a vendor to mail the absentee ballot applications to every "mailable" voter in the county. Jody will check with Aspen Ridge to make sure the residents received them.

As soon as sample ballots are available, we will obtain a supply that can be distributed to the seniors. Jody thought that Bernadette's concern was that there be no contact with the seniors. She will check to see if we can at least provide a supply for them to pick up if they wish.

Because the ballots will include all the races, from President to County Council, as well as two constitutional amendments and three bond questions, they will be two pages in length. Because we previously agreed not to include the pros and cons of these issues during our forums, there will be no opportunity to ask questions. Lynn said that both Vote411 and the printed Voter Guide include the pros and cons for the Constitutional Amendments. Karyl Ann suggested we hold a webinar to discuss constitutional amendments.

Barbara advised the group that she will be working as a poll worker for half-days on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning on October 6 through Election Day. She will also be processing ballots and serving on the canvassing board.

### **Local Studies**

JoAnn could not be present during the meeting. Akkana said that the study is on hold for a while because of all the work being done leading up to the election, but added that she and JoAnn will write consensus questions.

### **LWVNM Education Committee**

Ellen attended her second meeting of this committee last week. Members have been assigned various education topics to research. Their primary mission is to review the LWVNM state education position, which they are in the process of editing and refining. They are preparing for the 2021 legislative session. After the next meeting in October, Ellen will write a report for the board. She is also planning to listen to as much of the Legislative Education Study Committee meeting as she can. She noted that it is an all-day session.

Ellen also told the group that she has been in contact with Whitney Holland who is the president of the teacher's union. In-person small group instruction has begun and the method of selecting what students get into these groups has been controversial. It is possible that the students participating will spread the virus. Ellen added that the school district is doing the best they can in an impossible situation. There is no question that students are losing valuable learning time.

Ellen is working on scheduling a private meeting between the board and Whitney, the assistant school superintendent, and school board members. Ellen would like to provide the panelists with focus questions in advance to make better use of their valuable time. Barbara suggested one question could focus on how virtual learning is taking place with students of different ages. Karyl Ann noted that teachers are being required to plan for both in-person and virtual instruction.

### **Council Reports**

Rebecca is reporting on the September 8 council session but was absent for this part of the meeting. Ellen volunteered to cover the session tonight and Leslie is covering

the session on September 29. Volunteers will be needed for the Council sessions in October.

### **Gallery Exhibit Planning**

Becky said the draft version of the work done by the committee has been completed and is under review by the editor. There is still no time frame for the exhibit since it remains unknown when the library will reopen. Becky praised the articles written by J.J. and hopes that they will be used in some way beyond being printed in the newspaper. Barbara noted that there will be links to the articles in the upcoming edition of *La Palabra*. Ellen suggested that the articles could also be re-run as a lead up to the exhibit. Becky thinks the *Pasatiempo* insert to the *Santa Fe New Mexican* may consider profiling our exhibit and print at least a portion of what J.J. has written.

Barbara suggested that we hold a special event with the historical society and invite Deborah Blanche, the Nina Otero Warren impersonator, to participate via Zoom. Leslie thought it would be better to wait until the event could be held in person and Jody thought a Zoom event would at least keep women's issues in the forefront. Becky understands both positions. She will inquire with Ms. Blanche to see if she would even entertain the idea of a Zoom event and will also check with our co-sponsor, the Los Alamos Historical Society for their input.

### **Important Dates**

The deadline for the next newsletter is October 2.

Because of scheduling conflicts, the next board meeting will be MONDAY October 26, 2020, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken*