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

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday September 28, 2023**

**Via Zoom**

**Call to Order**

Felicia Orth called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

**Board Members Present**

Felicia Orth, President

Ellen Mills, Second Vice President

Barbara Calef, Past President

Addie Jacobson, Treasurer

Rebecca Chaiken, Secretary

Akkana Peck, Director at Large

Becky Shankland, Director at Large

Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader

Jody Benson, Publicity

Amy Birnbaum, Reservations

**Guest** – Leslie Wallstrom

**Minutes**

Jody moved that we approve the August board meeting minutes, and this motion was seconded by Becky. All voted in favor.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for August 2023 showed a checking account bank balance of $8,410.20 and an ending balance of $8,206.26, which includes total receipts of $386.24 and disbursements of $590.18. Receipts included donations, dues, and interest. Disbursements were to Aspen Copies, LWVC, the Secretary of State, and Enterprise Bank. The savings account ending bank balance was $26,830.07, which includes $1.82 interest.

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

Next month, Addie will begin reporting the checkbook balance, rather than the bank balance. Furthermore, Addie said that regarding our savings account, the report will always reflect the bank balance, and that we need activity in that account every six months.

**Lunch with a Leader**

Before Karyl Ann’s arrival, Felicia said that the event last week with Karl Braithwaite was excellent. He discussed his personal experience, his time in New Mexico, and provided information on the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. She recorded his talk on her phone and will provide that file to Eduardo for posting on our website.

Karyl Ann reported that she has secured Eric Peterson for our event in October. He is to send her his biography for publication in the *Update*, and she provided him a list of topics to discuss which was prepared by Barbara. The event in November will feature a representative from the Food Depot, in time for the fall and winter holidays. Karyl Ann read through our ongoing list of possible speakers for December, but no decision was made. Barbara reminded the group that the December event was supposed to feature Steve Lynne, and that it is to take place in the evening. Despite his pending retirement, he can discuss his accomplishments and thoughts about the future for the County.

**Fund Drive**

Ellen applied for an $800 grant for this year’s Voter Guide from Enterprise Bank, which was approved. She was helped in this process by Donovan Price at Enterprise. Next year, our Voter Guide will be much more expensive to publish, and Ms. Price sounded positive about an increase in grant monies for that project. Ellen will send a formal thank you note to Ms. Price and Enterprise Bank.

The Fundraising Committee met recently and discussed outreach to the Delle Foundation. The Committee is in the beginning stages of asking for a generous contribution from them. While the Delle Foundation plans to cease its existence, Barbara noted that the foundation should be around for another few years. Its president, Jeffrey Howell, has encouraged the League to ask for funds to cover the two Voter Guides we will publish next year.

Addie noted that we received $100 from AAUW. Ellen will send a thank you note.

**Report on the Pit Study Committee Formation**

Jody had nothing new to report.

**Membership**

Jean submitted her report electronically. We currently have 124 members. Twelve members renewed their membership after the August 11 reminder. We still have 13 members who have not renewed. Jean included the list of names and asked if we know any of them to reach out to them personally. This list of names was discussed.

Jean and Addie met recently and discussed membership renewals and donations. If it is not clear from the financial record, we could look at the membership spreadsheet to see if the monies came from a member to help clarify the deposit to our bank account.

Next year, Jean will send out an email to members asking them to renew in mid-April. She will send a reminder email on May 1 and a final email in mid-May.

Our membership event is scheduled for October 20 and will take place at Ellen’s home. She said that an invitation needs to be sent and she would appreciate an RSVP. Barbara will write up something for the *Update*. Members will be encouraged, but not required, to bring a dish to share. Rebecca will bring a box of red wine. Jody offered to give a brief presentation of her time as a “Donut Dollie” during her wartime service with the American Red Cross.

**National Voter Registration Day and Bandelier Naturalization Ceremony**

Barbara, Lynn, and Charlie Sartor were staged at the Co-Op and were able to change registrations for two individuals who had moved. One had mobility issues, so it was helpful registrars were there. It was also good for the League to be seen in the community. Jody participated with the clerk’s office at the high school. She said that the draw for the kids was cookies and cupcakes. Jody also printed out how to register online, and she provided that information to the students who did not know their social security numbers.

Barbara and Lynn were present for the naturalization ceremony. According to Barbara, the clerk’s office registered six of the eight new citizens. Furthermore, she learned that the name you use for registering to vote does not need to be the same as the name on your passport.

**Voter Guide and Candidate Forum**

Jody sent in advertisements to the LA Daily Post and the Los Alamos Reporter. She and Lynn spoke with Carol Clark to make sure the Voter Guide will be printed on October 5. There will be a banner on the front page, reminding readers that the Voter Guide is inside the paper. Publicity for the candidate forum will also be printed in that edition of the paper. Becky will send a reminder to our members about the candidate forum and the Voter Guide. Barbara has secured two or three students from the Hilltalkers to act as timekeepers for the forum.

Karyl Ann has secured the space at UNM-LA for the forum, but she noted that the space only holds 55 people. Furthermore, she was told that there is only one microphone available. She will reach out to her contact again regarding the need for microphones. She will also see if we can get a larger venue, so no one is turned away.

Felicia will reach out to Jean Gindreau to ask Pac 8 to film the event. In the past we have paid a fee for this and received a video. Barbara would like us to get a digital link for posting on our website.

Akkana noted that Vote411 is moving along smoothly with the new LWVNM Voter Services chair, Edwina Jaramillo. GIS data continues to be a problem, however, but she hopes that the kinks will be worked out before next year’s Presidential election.

**Chamber of Commerce**

Felicia suggested that the League join the local Chamber of Commerce as a non-profit member. For the $115 annual fee, our organization and events will receive excellent publicity. Felicia noted that the current head of this organization, Ryn Hermann, has vastly increased promotion and Felicia feels this is consistent with our mission.

Addie expressed some concern that the Chamber is traditionally not a progressive organization, and she asked if LWVUS or LWVNM had a position on this. Barbara asked if a board member would be required to attend Chamber meetings. Jody supported our joining this group. She added that our events would be publicized and that the Chamber is not a partisan organization.

Felicia will investigate the concerns and get back to the board electronically.

**Miscellaneous**

It was noted that the candidate forum is not posted on our website. Jody said that she sent the information to the LA Daily Post and the Los Alamos Reporter. She will send this same information to our website volunteers.

Wendy Swanson is seeking refreshments for the forum. Felicia will let her know that Ellen, Becky, and Jody all volunteered to bring treats. Felicia offered to do the coffee/tea service if that has not already been organized.

Karyl Ann will reach out to Jennifer Guy and Barbara will contact Naomi Maestas about their presence and brief presentations at the forum.

After a brief discussion, it was decided that candidates cannot bring yard signs to the event, but they can bring printed information.

Leslie Wallstrom asked if the League would consider participating in the annual scarecrow event on main street. Our old scarecrow, Vicki the Voter, is in Rebecca’s garage attic. Rebecca offered to bring Vicki to Leslie, and Leslie offered to fix her up. Becky also offered to help. Leslie will also submit the form and make the $25 payment. Barbara moved that we approve the $25 fee and Akkana seconded this motion. All voted in favor.

Leslie also wants to write an article on our former essay winner, Phillipa Fong. She will send the article and a scanned picture to Barbara.

**Important Dates**

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

The next board meeting will be October 26, 2023, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., at the Unitarian Church Fellowship Hall. Note the time change because Barbara will be working at the polls in the morning. Addie asked for some assistance after the next meeting to go through some treasurer materials to see what needs to be retained.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Rebecca Chaiken*