

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY AUGUST 27, 2019
MESA PUBLIC LIBRARY, LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO**

Call to Order

Becky Shankland called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

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

Guest: Addie Jacobson - Special Projects

Minutes

The July minutes were filed as presented.

Treasurer's Report

For July 2019, Kathy reported having a checking account beginning book balance of \$5,504.99 and an ending balance of \$3,742.51, which includes total receipts of \$435; disbursements of \$2,197.53; and \$.05 interest. Receipts included dues and a donation. Disbursements included copies, a filing fee, and PMP. The savings account ending book balance was \$20,779.67, which includes \$.88 interest.

Kathy also noted that we received a large bill (approximately \$1,000) from Aspen Copies for "banners." This was not connected to convention expenses and all expenses for that event have been accounted for. No one quite knew what the bill was for so it was agreed that we would ask Barbara upon her return. [Note: it was later determined that the bill was for another organization and sent to us in error]. Kathy also expressed some concern that we are talking about spending money for the 100th anniversary but we do not have much money budgeted for such an event.

Membership Report

Becky reported that we currently have 92 members, including at least two new members. The 10 members who have not yet renewed will be approached again in September.

Our new Update editor will be JoAnn Lysne, who could not be with us today.

Student Dues

Last month we voted to have student dues at \$0. Jody and Ellen will advertise this through the schools. Jody noted that there is a club event next Wednesday where we can have a booth (in a later email Jody reported that this event would not be suitable for League invitations but we could set up at noon either alone or with Naomi, possible concurrent with voter registration). Ellen will check in with Margo Batha and others. Jody will bring our League poster to her Zero Waste events. Becky will revise our membership form to reflect the \$0 dues for students in honor of the 100th anniversary and will also write an article for the Update.

History Updates

The League history updates were reviewed a final time and no additional comments or corrections were made. Thanks to Barbara for her work.

BPU Observer Corps/Webmaster

Julie apologized for being behind and said she has not yet had time to make the website live. She is hoping to work on that this weekend. After it is live, she will add all the minutes, Updates, and history updates.

The BPU met on August 22. A motion to approve a Power Purchase Agreement for a 1.32-megawatt photovoltaic solar array to be installed on the landfill failed. The terms of the 25-year agreement with Los Alamos Solar proposed selling non-firm power from the array to DPU at \$0.0585 per kilowatt-hour. DPU informed the BPU that it is looking at other options including a combination solar/wind project that potentially could be less expensive "firm" power. Lynn objected to this issue being limited to economics. Kathy noted that the lab is still talking about building a solar array.

Lunch with a Leader

Karyl Ann reported that our speaker for September will be county engineer Eric Martinez. Our speaker in October will be Karl Braithwaite with the New Mexico Water Resource Plan. Jody recommended inviting someone from the Santa Fe Schools Sustainability program and Becky suggested inviting those County Councilors (Robinson, Schmidt, and Sheehey) who are on the plastic bag committee. They report their findings to the full Council at the first meeting in December. It was also suggested that a meeting with this team be held with the board during an

evening event before their report is due. Terry Foecke, who was hired by the lab to deal with environmental issues, is another possible speaker. He gave a very discouraging talk at PEEC regarding recycling of plastic and paper, but board members felt that we should be informed of the problems.

Redistricting Event

This event will be held at Rosmarie's home on September 4 and light refreshments will be served. Rosmarie will send out an email request soliciting food volunteers. All League members are invited. The newly hired outreach person for LWVNM will not be in attendance.

Voter Services

Lynn will reach out to Naomi Maestas about partnering during voter registration month in September. We are already planning to participate in training on September 23 at 11:00 to go over the most recent changes in the law. On September 24, Voter Registration Day, registrars will be on hand all day at PEEC. Joyce Nickols is coordinating this event and she is expected to send out an email to all League members soliciting volunteers. Lynn will find out from Naomi what other events might be planned. During the County Council meeting tonight, a proclamation recognizing September as Voter Registration Month is expected (and in fact occurred). Jody and Lynn will be in attendance.

Membership Meeting

It was learned that neither the Unitarian Church nor Rosmarie's home are available for this event scheduled for October 1. Amy will inquire with Janice Trujillo, Katie Sayre, and the community room at Oppenheimer Place (via Carroll Thomas). Rebecca volunteered to solicit volunteers to bring hearty hors d'oeuvres, beer, and wine. She will send out a solicitation to board members only in mid-September.

100th Anniversary

The LWVLA won third place in the rodeo parade and everyone agreed the white clothing, sashes, and buttons looked terrific. Ellen said she could purchase another pack of sashes and make up more with ribbon for future events. It was suggested that white sheets could be used to sew simple skirts for those members who want or need them. Jody moved to authorize Ellen to purchase and create more sashes and be reimbursed up to \$100. Rosmarie seconded this motion and all were in favor. The matter of sheets and skirts will be addressed at a later date.

Ellen will also write a short article for the Update.

Leslie noted that both the Democrats and Republicans are holding essay contests. The subcommittee on this contest decided it would be better to wait until those

events are over before announcing our event. It will be advertised between November and early February with a deadline of February 2. The committee met with Carter Payne, principal at the high school, and got names of teachers who could help facilitate the contest. The topic will be the history of voting rights and challenges since 1920.

Board Meeting with Brian Blalock

On August 6, several board members traveled to Santa Fe to meet with Brian Blalock, the new Secretary of Children, Youth, and Families Department. A summary of this meeting will be published in the next Update but Becky noted that Blalock recommended that we watch a screening of "The Shake-Up," a documentary about the behavioral health care debacle in New Mexico in 2013. Becky offered to have this event some evening at her house. Rebecca will look for a copy of the video to borrow or stream. (note - as of September 1 this search remains ongoing)

Judicial Selection Study

Addie is our representative on this study, which was approved by the State League. She and the other New Mexico League members will be having a lunch meeting with the UNM Law School Dean (Sergio Pareja) and State Bar of New Mexico President (Jerry Dixon) on November 14 from 11:30 to 1:00 at the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque. The cost is \$22 and board members are welcome to attend. It will be an introductory meeting.

According to the Study Plan for the Judicial Selection Study, the study process would serve to educate League members about the New Mexico court system. It would also enable the League to adopt a position to use for advocacy if there are legislative proposals regarding the judiciary. Addie will provide a write-up for the Update. Addie will also give us a presentation at some point on the status of the study.

Other News

Jody will write a piece for the Update detailing the preferred method and location of recycling flattened cardboard. Most board members were unaware that there were bins for flattened cardboard at all fire stations in town.

Volunteers are needed to report on County Council meetings. Lynn will send out a list of meetings and solicit volunteers. It was noted that the meetings could be attended in person or watched after the fact and the only items needing reporting on are related to League priorities.

The issue of having some Lunch with a Leader during evening hours was discussed. Someone suggested those events be renamed Libations with a Leader or Libations with the League. Leslie suggested that we try this perhaps twice per year. Some concern was expressed because so many evening events are coming up, including a

voter forum, which has yet to be scheduled. After some discussion about food, alcohol, and locale, Ellen moved that we continue to pursue the idea of an evening event along the lines of Lunch with a Leader in 2020. Julie seconded this motion and all voted in favor. When this is discussed further, Leslie would like us to think outside the box regarding both alcohol and locale.

A Candidate Forum needs to be held soon and possible dates are needed. The three dates board members selected, in order of preference, are October 3, October 10, and October 7. Amy will check with UNM-LA for availability. Snacks will be provided at 6:30 and the forum will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Important Dates

The deadline for the next newsletter is September 8.

The next board meeting will be September 24, 2019, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Mesa Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Submitted by Rebecca Chaiken