

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2019
MESA PUBLIC LIBRARY, LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO**

Call to Order

Barbara Calef called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

Barbara Calef, Co-President
Becky Shankland, Co-President
Ellen Mills, First Vice President
Leslie Wallstrom, Second Vice President
Kathy Taylor, Treasurer
Rebecca Chaiken, Secretary
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
JoAnn Lysne, Newsletter

Minutes

The August minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report

For August 2019, Kathy reported having a checking account beginning book balance of \$3,742.51 and an ending balance of \$3,685.60, which includes total receipts of \$65; disbursements of \$121.94; and \$.03 interest. Receipts included dues. Disbursements included copies and reimbursement to Ellen for vintage posters. The savings account ending book balance was \$20,780.55, which includes \$.88 interest.

For next month's meeting, Becky will present an estimate of what we anticipate spending for the 100th anniversary for inclusion in the budget.

Barbara reported receiving a message from Jeffrey Howell, president of the Delle Foundation suggesting we apply for another grant for community outreach efforts such as the voter's guide. She will ask Jeffrey for further guidance and Leslie will help write the grant application.

Membership Report

Becky had no news to report. She will attempt contact with the 5 or so members who have not yet renewed their memberships.

Student Dues

Barbara reported that she has been in contact with Eleanor Henderson, the president of iVote, a high school club. She and her group offered to help with the candidate forums. While we were unsure of what the group could help with, everyone agreed that they were welcome to participate and join the League for free. The group was also invited to attend the membership party on October 1.

BPU Observer Corps/Webmaster

Julie reported that the website is live! She is still working through some things including uploading the history and getting a PayPal donation button to work. The new website has the ability to post lots of pictures. Barbara emphasized that it needs to be user friendly. Julie said she can easily pull information from other pages for posting on the front page as needed.

On September 17 there was a joint County Council/BPU meeting during which the DPU briefed the county about generating electricity as our resources, like San Juan, come off line. California has created an energy imbalance market to allow markets to buy and sell power as needed. PNM wants to join that market. Regarding the problem of the fluctuation in renewable energy production, Kathy added that one solution would be to make hydrogen when the energy is available and then burn it when needed.

The BPU met on September 18 during which they had preliminary discussions about rate increases. The proposal will be for a three-year rate increase for water (5 percent, 4.25 percent, and 4 percent). For wastewater the proposal will also be a three-year rate increase (6 percent, 3 percent, and 2 percent). Two public meetings will be held on October 7 and October 10.

The County also purchased a documentary on the poor condition of infrastructure nationwide (Los Alamos, conversely, is in pretty good shape). Julie will inquire about how this documentary can be shown to the board.

Lunch with a Leader

Karyl Ann reported that our speaker for October will be Shane Woolbright with the Sierra Club. Other proposed speakers include Terry Foecke; the Santa Fe sustainability person; representatives from the proposed homeless shelter in Española; the iVote high school students; and the pairing of the chair of the Los Alamos Historic Preservation Board (Leslie Linke) and the new director of the Los Alamos Historical Society (Liz Martineau). Christine Chandler is going to be scheduled for November or December, depending on her availability and whether

she will have enough information to report on the upcoming legislative session. It was suggested that the iVote team may be appropriate for an evening event if that gets established. Other ideas included someone to talk about the new gun laws, someone to talk about the proposed pit production, and someone to talk about redistricting.

Voter Services

Barbara reported that the State League favors participation in Vote 411. There will be a webinar on October 4 at 1:00 during which we will learn more about what Vote 411 will do to help us cover the 2020 election.

During the redistricting meeting with Dick Mason, Ed Birnbaum asked a good question - what does fair redistricting mean? While he did not get a clear answer, Barbara said that the League has two goals when it comes to redistricting - educate the public on the importance of redistricting and convince legislators not to draw lines in order to preserve incumbents. Akkana created a redistricting website and it can be found at FairDistrictNM.org.

Dick will be presenting to Courts and Corrections in Albuquerque on October 10 and the National Conference of State Legislators (NCLC) will also be there to present their report comparing redistricting in seven states. That organization as well as New Mexico In Depth (NMID) received grants from the Thornburg Foundation. Gwyneth Doland of NMID has written a history of redistricting in New Mexico and will produce an executive summary. The League has hired a project manager to get the message out. The ultimate goal is a constitutional amendment to create an independent commission. Our current goal is to get the public to put pressure on legislators to do something. We are asking for the appointment of a redistricting task force (as it is too late to have a constitutional amendment on the next ballot). Brian Egolf specifically needs to be pushed.

Membership Meeting

Barbara invited the iVote team from the high school to participate, as well as the staff from the County Clerk's Office. Rebecca will check with Wendy Swanson to see what items will be needed for the event (e.g., plates, napkins). The program will involve a few words from six or seven former League leaders about what they did during their time in the League. There will also be a statement about the 100th anniversary.

Candidate Forum

The forum is scheduled for October 3. All five of the school board candidates (representing three districts) are planning to participate and at least four of the five UNM-LA Advisory Board candidates plan to attend. Dr. Steinhaus will speak about

the bond issue on the ballot. Karyl Ann will send out a request for light appetizers/finger food.

Several lines of questioning for the candidates were discussed. Topics for school board candidates included district lines, a charter school, how best to handle congestion and the environment stemming from the influx of new families. Topics for UNM-LA Advisory Board candidates included free tuition, the expansion of technical certificates training programs, and the balance between academic and vocational programming. Barbara will work on wording and send out proposed questions via email.

The Shake Up

Rebecca reported that she has been in contact with the producer of The Shake Up. He is happy to help us show the film but they do ask for a minimal fee of \$300 because it is still in theatrical release. It was agreed that this event would have to take place after January 1 and it was suggested that the library might be willing to host the event. We would like to know if we could share the film with the community and with the other state leagues. Rebecca will pose these questions to the producer.

Becky moved that we spend \$300 to purchase the film for show at a future date. Lynn seconded this motion and all voted in favor.

100th Anniversary

Leslie will announce the essay contest in late October/early November for submissions due in early February. She will advertise in the local papers and post the information on our website.

Ellen bought patterns and material for suffragist skirts as well as more sashes and ribbon. She will do an in-kind donation for what she paid for the sashes. Those who want a skirt can pay Ellen directly for the material. It is anticipated that they will next be worn during League Day at the Roundhouse on February 6.

The 100 Year Minute - minute-long statements about the 100th anniversary - have been sent out to libraries across the state and our middle school drama coach is having students read them over the loudspeaker.

Becky proposed that we plan a big anniversary bash for the community next year. We will begin to discuss this at a later meeting.

Zero Waste Update

Jody reported the following:

- The LAHS Eco Club spoke in the open comment period at the County Council showing the petition with 160 signatures against the bag.
- The 7th grade LAMS environment club (no name yet) wants to remake some of the gravel spaces at LAMS into a wildlife habitat. Club sponsor Megan Rains is a true science teacher supportive of their inquiries. No 8th grade group formed yet.
- Zero Waste team met with both restaurants and Smiths.
- Restaurants—We learned that Rose Chocolatier has tried for paper straws, but paper doesn't come individually wrapped, and customers (kids) claw through the dispenser destroying her inventory. She goes green when she can, but the cost for even paper over Styrofoam starts at 5 X more. The other restaurants tell us the same. We discussed small grants, but restaurants told us that a grant of \$100 won't even cover a case of recyclable carry-out containers.
- The Restaurant Team is also planning a presentation for business owners at the Chamber Breakfast to see how we can help them go green.
- Tom Udall is unrolling a plastics-limit bill. He needs public comment and support.
- The Smiths Team learned that there's not much communication between the departments and the general manager about food waste and where to send it for charity.

Other News

Volunteers are needed to help the County with the census. The Governor has asked for a census committee in every county.

Barbara participated in a very good parliamentary workshop during which she learned two things: Robert's Rules no longer says you need an annual audit (a financial review is sufficient) and there is no longer a need for a motion to adjourn.

Jody reported that the County and LANL have tentatively scheduled a joint meeting on October 15 about the proposed pit production. The County also approved continuing their agreement with Friedman Recycling.

Leslie is taking a course on how to be a better board member from the Santa Fe Community Foundation. She will share with us lessons learned. Leslie also invited board members to attend the Self Help Gala on October 5.

Barbara announced that the LWVNM Board voted to change the dates for the convention from mid-May to the last weekend in April.

Important Dates

The deadline for the next newsletter is October 6.

The next board meeting will be October 22, 2019, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Mesa Public Library.

League Day at the Roundhouse is February 6, 2020, from 12:30 to 2:30. The reception will be held the evening before at Rio Chama from 5:30 to 7:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Submitted by Rebecca Chaiken