

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY OCTOBER 22, 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
Rebecca Chaiken, Secretary
Akkana Peck, Director at Large
Jody Benson, Publicity
Amy Birnbaum, Reservations
Lynn Jones, Voter Services
Julie Williams-Hill, Webmaster and BPU Observer Corps

Guest: JoAnn Lysne, Newsletter

Minutes

The September minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Kathy was absent but provided the treasurer's report. For September 2019, she reported having a checking account beginning book balance of \$3,685.60 and an ending balance of \$4,274.27, which includes total receipts of \$600; disbursements of \$11.36; and \$.03 interest. Receipts included donations. Disbursements included copies. The savings account ending book balance was \$20,781.40, which includes \$.85 interest.

Becky was going to present an estimate of what we anticipate spending for the 100th anniversary for inclusion in the budget. However, we do not have an official committee formed (other than those who have unofficially volunteered). It is therefore premature to propose a budget at this time. The matter will be deferred until the next board meeting. As of this writing, those who have volunteered to serve on the 100th anniversary committee include Becky, Ellen, Leslie, Jody, and Amy. Becky will communicate with those members prior to the next meeting.

Barbara communicated with Jeffrey Howell, president of the Delle Foundation, who encouraged the League to apply for a grant focused on community education and/or early childhood development and education. Their next board meeting is December

19, so the grant application should be submitted before that date for consideration. Three possible events, which would require funding, include voter guides for the primary and general elections in 2020 and a forum on the new Early Childhood Education and Care Department. At the September board meeting, Leslie volunteered to write the grant application.

Membership Report

Becky reported that we presently have 96 paid members. Four members who have not responded to friendly reminders to renew will not be pursued. A fifth member, Shelby Redondo, will be contacted telephonically. Becky will subsequently submit an updated membership report to Lynn so all members will receive State League correspondence.

Barbara asked JoAnn Lysne to serve as a board member but she deferred a decision until spring 2020.

BPU Observer Corps/Webmaster

Julie reported that she recently added our bylaws to the website. She has not yet been able to coordinate with PayPal, Wild Apricot, and Kathy to get donations delivered to our bank account.

The BPU met on October 16. Danny Katzman from N3B presented on the chromium plume. The good news is that it appears that the interim method of extract, treat, and inject is effective. Thus far the plume has receded from the San Ildefonso border sooner than they anticipated. They continue to look for a permanent solution.

The BPU approved two ordinances for multi-year water and sewer rate increases. The ordinances will go to the Council for consideration on November 26. Specifically, water will increase 5 percent on November 27, 2019; 4.5 percent on October 1, 2020; and 5 percent on October 21, 2021. Sewer will increase 6 percent on November 27, 2019; 3 percent October 1, 2020; and 2 percent October 1, 2021.

DPU is applying for a grant to install electric vehicle charging stations in Los Alamos. The grant is funded through the Volkswagen 2015 settlement. Proposed locations include Mesa Public Library, the golf course, municipal building, and White Rock Visitor Center. They hope to install dual-port level 2 chargers at three locations (library, golf course, and visitor center) and DC fast chargers at two locations (municipal building and visitor center). The rate to be charged is to be determined. Akkana said there are issues with different networks and slow/fast charges. Julie said that out of town guests are the main targets. She also reported that the American Public Power Association is offering rebates on Nissan electric vehicles.

Lunch with a Leader

Although Karyl Ann was absent, Barbara reported that the November 19 event will include the chair of the Los Alamos Historic Preservation Board (Leslie Linke) and the new director of the Los Alamos Historical Society (Liz Martineau). The final Lunch with a Leader event for 2019 will feature Christine Chandler who will review the legislative session.

Jody suggested that January's meeting could feature Ryn Herrmann, Chamber of Commerce director and a dynamic speaker. February could feature Kelly Beierschmitt, LANL's deputy director of operations, who could discuss the proposed bypass road, bridge over White Rock Canyon, and pit production.

Voter Services

On October 10 Dick Mason presented on redistricting to Courts and Corrections in Albuquerque. The response was enthusiastic. At another event, a legislator suggested that a bill could be drafted if the Governor put redistricting reform on her call. Barbara also wrote an op-ed in support of fair redistricting. LWV members are encouraged to write to legislators and the Governor to encourage a redistricting bill for the 2020 legislature.

Membership Meeting

Becky reported that 25 past and present League members attended the membership event at Janice Trujillo's home on October 1. While everyone considered the party a success, it was unfortunate that some of the older members either did not or could not attend. It was agreed that a complete list of LWVLA presidents is needed. Barbara and Addie have completed a review of 1947 to 1951 but thereafter there is a gap in our knowledge. Once the list is complete, it will be posted on our new website.

Candidate Forum

The forum on October 3 was a great success with at least 80 community members present. Advertisements and/or press releases were published in the Los Alamos Daily Post and Los Alamos Reporter. Because the Monitor has published very little about LWV in 2019, a letter of inquiry will be sent. The podium position in the lecture hall at UNM-LA will be improved at our next forum.

The Shake Up

Barbara sent an inquiry to the other Leagues in the state to see if they were interested in partnering in sharing The Shake Up. Santa Fe is interested, perhaps as a fundraiser. Barbara will bring this up again at her next State board meeting on November 16. Rebecca will confirm with the producer who needs to be present to show the film. Rebecca will inquire with Eileen Sullivan about partnering with the

library in showing the film. (Rebecca will also ask Eileen about having a 100th anniversary showing in the library gallery.)

Jody moved that we ask the LWVNM to buy the film to make it available to all League members and, if necessary, the LWVLA would pay up to \$300. Rebecca seconded and all voted in favor.

100th Anniversary

Liz Martineau, the new director of the Los Alamos Historical Society, is planning an event commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment at Fuller Lodge sometime next year and asked if we were interested in partnering. All agreed that this was a good idea and Becky will communicate with her and schedule a meeting.

Zero Waste Update

Jody said that the team met with Ryn Herrmann and they continue to work on reducing waste, including food waste. In the short term they will focus on developing a "green restaurant certificate" and will present this idea at the February 2020 Chamber of Commerce breakfast. All restaurant owners will be invited to attend. It is hoped that the operators of Blue Window and Sirphey will help to persuade the other restaurants to participate. It is further hoped that the County Council will be persuaded to support green businesses. The high school eco club is still going forward with their bag ban petition.

Laurence Peña, assistant director of Chartwell's Food Service in charge of our school cafeterias, is planning on doing away with Styrofoam in favor of permanent trays and cutlery. He found that Amazon offered these products cheaper than Cisco. All school cafeterias are ready for this change except for Piñon, which is an anomaly.

Jody has spoken, individually, with the members of the Council subcommittee in charge of the proposed bag ban. Their deadline to report to the full council is December 1. She is not optimistic. She will write up a summary for the next newsletter.

Other News

Addie provided a two-page report on the most recent Council meeting.

The Census Complete Count Committee is still in the works. The advertisements for this committee need to be clear as to what serving on the committee entails and what volunteers are expected to do.

The new hotel proposed for 20th street has been approved. The parking issue has not yet been resolved. The Canyon Rim Trail has apparently been relocated to

accommodate the project. In order to get the definitive answer on this issue, Barbara will communicate with Sara Scott.

Important Dates

The deadline for the next newsletter is November 3.

The next board meeting will be December 3, 2019, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Mesa Public Library (no meeting in November) and the final Lunch with a Leader for 2019 will be December 10.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Submitted by Rebecca Chaiken