

**MINUTES OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/LOS ALAMOS BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY JANUARY 28, 2020  
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 (via telephone)  
Leslie Wallstrom, Second Vice-President  
Kathy Taylor, Treasurer  
Rebecca Chaiken, Secretary  
Akkana Peck, Director at Large  
Jody Benson, Publicity  
Amy Birnbaum, Reservations  
Lynn Jones, Voter Services  
Rosmarie Frederickson, Fundraising

**Guests:** JoAnn Lysne, Newsletter  
Addie Jacobson, Special Projects  
Wendy Swanson, Arrangements and P&Z Observer

**Minutes**

The December minutes were accepted as presented.

**Treasurer's Report**

For December 2019, Kathy reported having a checking account beginning book balance of \$3,196.62 and an ending balance of \$3,779.65, which includes total receipts of \$285; disbursements of \$298; and \$.03 interest. Receipts included donations. Disbursements included copies and post office box rental. The savings account ending book balance was \$20,783.93, which includes approximately \$.80 interest.

Barbara reported that the Delle Foundation provided the grant money we applied for but gave us \$15,000 instead of the \$12,000 requested. They require a letter at the end of the year explaining how the money was used.

## **Website**

Julie was absent but via Barbara she reported that she has still been unable to work on the website and sent her apologies.

## **Lunch with a Leader**

Although Karyl Ann was absent, Barbara reported that the February event will feature representatives from New Mexicans for Money Out of Politics. Maire O'Neill will be our speaker in March.

The April Lunch with a Leader will precede our annual meeting. Several names were suggested including Chris Chandler (who could cover the legislative session); Karl Braithwaite (who could discuss either politics or water); Patrick Moore (who is the director of New Mexico Historic Sites); Robert Gibson (who could discuss how the county works); and Paul Andrus (who could discuss building codes). In the end it was decided that Harry Burgess, Los Alamos County Manager, would be invited for this event.

## **Voter Services**

Barbara reported that the State board voted to spend \$5,000 on Vote 411, which will allow us (and other local Leagues) to pose questions to all candidates for any races we want. We need to decide what questions will be posed to the candidates. We will officially know within a few days what offices are open but we will not know who is running for each office until March 17 at which time all potential candidates (including write-ins) will have filed their intent. Vote 411 will include the questions and answers along with candidate contact information, photographs, and social media applications. Lynn explained that the information in Vote 411 will be exported to create our printed voter guides, which may take some pressure off her and those assisting her. Leslie volunteered to help with the editing. JoAnn has also offered her assistance with the project.

The number of candidates will complicate the candidate forums this year. Some thought we should hold two forums for the Congressional District 3 race but others objected to this approach. It was decided that we discuss this further at our March meeting when we will know how many candidates there will be.

Barbara received the following email from Pete Sheehey: We on the Los Alamos Committee on Arms Control and International Security ([lacacis.org](http://lacacis.org)) were thinking about having a candidates forum for Congressional and Senate candidates to hear their views on the role of Los Alamos National Lab, arms control, and international security issues. But there are so many primary candidates (at least 16) that it seems impractical. I know the LWV holds fora for local and state candidates, and also publishes a questionnaire with candidates' answers. Would you consider adding questions to the questionnaire for the Congressional and

Senate primary candidates? We at LACACIS would be happy to help with the outreach, and since this would add pages to the flyer, we would help pay the added publication cost. Let me know what you think. Thanks. We discussed this request at length. Akkana thought one question might be appropriate but Leslie was concerned that it would set a precedent if we allowed a group to ask a question. Because any League member can submit a question and Pete is a League member, it was agreed that he can send suggested questions. He needs to be advised that perhaps only one question (or even none) might be selected and the State League has to agree on any questions for state-wide races.

Lynn provided the following time-line for producing the voter guide:

February 3, Monday, 1 pm - Meet with Carol Clark and Bonnie Gordon at LA Daily Post

February 25, Tuesday - Board meeting finalizes questions for local candidates

March 10, Tuesday - Deadline for candidate filing at Clerk's office

March 12, Thursday - Send the questions to candidates

March 20, Friday - Call to verify that questions were received if no contact yet

March 26, Thursday - Deadline for candidate responses to questions

April 16 Thursday or April 20, Monday - Get VG info to Bonnie at LA Daily Post

April 30, Thursday - LA Daily Post sends VG to all residential and commercial sites

May 5, Tuesday - Absentee/Early voting begins

June 2, Tuesday - Election Day (Primary)

### **The Shake Up**

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico paid for the rights to show The Shake Up and the link has been received. Rebecca advised that the library has declined to collaborate with us in showing this film. Leslie offered to show the film at her house and she will send us a list of possible dates.

### **LWV Centennial**

The County Council will issue its proclamation honoring the League of Women Voters centennial on February 4, likely at 6:00 p.m. Ellen will be there with 52 sashes. It was agreed that Barbara or Becky may say a few words about the centennial, library gallery, and community event.

League Day at the Roundhouse is February 6. Tables for local Leagues and other supporting organizations will be set up from 8 to 3 and the formal program will take place from 12:30 to 2:30. Volunteers are needed to staff the table. Please wear white!

## **Library Gallery**

The LWV Los Alamos has secured the library gallery space for May/June with set up beginning May 18. Becky viewed the gallery space and she, Barbara, and Addie are reviewing the archives. The library manager has offered some funding to enlarge posters/articles. This project will need to be discussed at another meeting but we need a committee to work on this. Becky will request Deborah Blanche to do her Chautauqua of Nina Otero Warren and the board agreed it should take place on June 13 - the date of the community-wide events.

## **Redistricting Report**

Barbara reported that the state League is pushing for House Memorial 8, which calls for the appointment of a task force looking at this issue. She learned, however, that the Republicans plan to oppose this measure. Another bill (Senate Bill 134) calls for a study of an independent commission but she is not sure if it will pass.

## **LWVUS Convention**

Ellen and Karyl Ann have volunteered to be our delegates to the national convention in Washington D.C. June 25 to June 28. Ellen said that they have already booked their flights using points so there would be no airfare reimbursement needed. Leslie said she would also like to attend. Barbara said that we have two slots to fill but it is likely that another League will not fill their slots and we can send a third delegate. There is a line item in our budget for Convention expenses and Barbara will work on the financial details. Rebecca moved to send three representatives to the national convention at the end of June. Akkana seconded this motion and all voted in favor.

## **BPU Observer Corps**

Julie electronically submitted the following BPU report:

### **Board of Public Utilities meeting: 2020-01-15**

Kathy Taylor was voted BPU Chair, Carrie Walker was voted BPU Vice Chair. Randall Ryti (Council Vice Chair) is therefore the Council Liaison for the BPU. Jack Richardson, DPU Deputy Manager, gave an update on the water utility condition. Lastly, BPU members voted to recommend to council a Purchase Power Agreement with Uniper Global Commodities North America for 15 megawatts of firm wind and solar energy for 15 years. The wind and solar facilities will be located throughout New Mexico. This energy is anticipated to come online in December 2021. (The Purchase Power Agreement will go to council for approval on January 28).

DPU Seeking Volunteers Note: DPU is updating its Energy and Water Conservation Plan this year to meet state and federal requirements. As part of this process DPU is seeking volunteers to sit on a conservation committee. The committee will be tasked to develop initiatives to realize

energy and water conservation goals. These initiatives will be recommended to the BPU, and if adopted, incorporated into the new energy and water conservation plan. More information is available on the [DPU webpage](#). If anyone is interested or knows of anyone who would be interested in volunteering, there is a one-minute survey online to express interest. It closes on Monday, Feb. 3, at 10 a.m. (Survey Link for citizens: <https://ladpu.com/Citizen-InterestSurvey> and businesses: <https://ladpu.com/Business-InterestSurvey>). DPU staff will notify those that were selected and not selected by Feb. 14.

Kathy has asked Chick Keller to apply for the conservation committee. There are 10 slots to fill and Becky will send a friendly reminder to League members encouraging them to apply.

### **County Council meetings**

Addie has viewed one full and one partial County Council meeting for January and she will write up her summary soon. The meetings covered 2020 priorities including housing, development codes, transportation, and parking. Board members reminded Addie and the other members who will report on these meetings that we only need to report on issues on which the League has a position. Volunteers were secured for the next few months of meetings.

### **P&Z**

Wendy agreed to continue to observe the P&Z meetings even though her husband is no longer the Council liaison.

### **Other News**

The Program Planning meeting was scheduled for February 11 from 4:30 to 6:00 at Rebecca's house located at 20 Bonito Place (approximately 1 mile down Los Pueblos from Barranca).

The Fund Drive party is tentatively scheduled for March 9 at Rosmarie's house located at 1372 47th Street.

Our annual meeting will be held on April 21 following Lunch with a Leader where Harry Burgess will be invited to speak. We will ask Ed Birnbaum, Julie Williams-Hill, and Shelly Wiemann to sit on the budget committee and Ellen Mills, JoAnn Lysne, and Felicia Orth to sit on the nominating committee. All seats on the board are open.

It was decided that the list of members will be published in the February update but the list will not include email addresses.

The turnout for the legislative preview on January 8 was lower than expected but the food was great.

We have an opportunity to nominate a high school teacher to attend the Harvard Civics Program in August 2020. It was largely agreed that Margo Batha would be an excellent choice for this event but Ellen reminded the group that teachers are due back at school on August 5. Becky will get more information about this workshop (dates and finances) before we move forward with a nomination.

JoAnn asked how we pick the deadline date for the newsletter. It was learned that Barbara picks the date based on other important dates. JoAnn may request a set schedule for future newsletter deadlines.

Leslie reported that the deadline for the essay contest is February 16. She will make and distribute more posters advertising the event.

### **Important Dates**

The deadline for the next newsletter is February 1.

The next board meeting will be February 25, 2020, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Mesa Public Library.

League Days at the Capitol are scheduled for February 5 (reception) and February 6.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

*Submitted by Rebecca Chaiken*