

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO
Board of Directors Meeting
March 19, 2011, 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Skeen Library, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro

Members Present: Jan Bray, Olin Bray, Bonnie Burn, Barbara Calef, Kathy Campbell, Jennice Fishburn, Cheryl Haaker, Lora Lucero, Dick Mason, Linda Moscarella

Others: Sharon Burbano, GLC Vice President, Jody Larson (SFC), representing Meredith Machen per her request at LWVNM January board meeting

Absent: Caroline Jackson

Call to Order: President Kathy Campbell called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of January 8, 2011, were accepted and will be filed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Cheryl Haaker reported that the operations fund will be reimbursed for the *Voters Key* expenses when the Education Fund reimbursement is received from LWVUS. Dick Mason will submit reimbursement requests for League Day expenses, position support, and use of the SFC League's office. The one-year certificate of deposit at the Los Alamos National Bank will mature on April 30, 2011, so board direction was needed as to its disposition. Action: Motion by Bonnie Burn, second by Jody Larson to roll over the CD on April 30, 2011, for another year at the Los Alamos National Bank. Motion passed unanimously. Haaker reviewed LWVNM's balance sheet and performance against budget through March 17, 2011.

Membership: No report was presented. Campbell shared the final membership totals that will be used for Per Member Payments: LWVNM, 14; CNM, 259; LA, 69; SFC, 142; and GLC, 100.

President's Report: Campbell reviewed the highlights of her written report: she edited and distributed the *Voters Key* to approximately 95 outlying libraries (32 copies per library); participated in a LWVUS advocacy conference call February 25th (advocacy priorities for 2011 are health care, Campaign Finance Reform, and election administration); and provided input to the LWVNM Budget and Nominating Committees in preparation for our Convention. Dick Mason has led League Day and advocacy efforts during this legislative session. Burn requested that all papers distributed at board meetings include a title and date.

Policy on Candidates' Forums: The final draft of this new policy was reviewed and the following action taken: Motion by Barbara Calef, second by Mason to adopt the policy as presented. Motion passed unanimously, with thanks expressed to Calef, Burn, and Erika Graf-Webster (GLC) for their work in drafting the policy.

Convention 2011

Program Proposals: Using the LWVNM Process for Conducting State Studies (adopted January 10, 2009), the board reviewed program proposals presented by representatives of local Leagues as follows:

1. Possible concurrence with the LWVSFC Transparency Position: Larson presented a draft of a possible concurrence along and a written report on concurrence-related activities that have

occurred since 2010 Council, which included her analysis of the pros and cons of recommending this concurrence and three options for today's board action . In addition, Mason suggested a fourth option, which is using the LWVUS position on Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation, rather than recommending concurrence with the SFC position. The LWVUS position has been used in the past for issues related to open government/transparency. Campbell noted that concurrence with the LWVUS position means that we also accept the entire LWVUS interpretation of the position. Following discussion, the board decided that the more general terms used in the concurrence draft, "state and local governments," apply to both the legislative and executive branches, and if adopted at Convention, will appear as a sub-category in the Government section.

Action: Motion by Calef, second by Jan Bray to recommend that the LWVNM Convention adopt the transparency in state and local governments position as presented to the LWVNM Board on March 19, 2011.

Vote: Motion passed with one vote in opposition (Burn).

2. Proposal of study on the New Mexico Public Regulatory Commission (PRC): Larson presented SFC's proposal that the LWVNM conduct a study that would focus on the PRC's organization and regulatory functions. Preliminary work has already been done on the project, and two members of the SFC are very willing to lead the study. It is anticipated that the study will take two years to complete.

Action: Motion by Mason, second by Larson, that the board recommend adoption of the PRC study by LWVNM Convention.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

3. Proposal of study on the use and abuse of alcohol in New Mexico: J. Bray presented CNM's proposal to study alcohol-related damage in New Mexico. There are six CNM members already studying this topic who also are willing to lead the state study. In regard to study time frame, they propose either a one-year study with two meetings or a two-year study with one meeting per year.

Action: Motion by Mason, second by Larson, that the board recommend adoption of the use and abuse of alcohol study by LWVNM Convention.

Vote: Motion passed with five "yes" votes (Bray, Burn, Mason, Larson, Haaker), two "no" votes (Lucero, Moscarella), and one abstention (Fishburn).

4. Update of LWVNM Natural Resources Position/Land Use Study: A committee convened by Lucero to review the Natural Resources position and make recommendations for updating (topics and process). Twelve specific areas of the current position were found to be need of updating. Instead of tackling updating of the entire position at one time, Calef presented a proposal from the Los Alamos League to begin with a study of land use that would address issues such as human needs vs. environmental quality, open space, wetlands, facility siting, and transportation. At least two of their local members are willing to lead the state study, and there are members from other local Leagues who have expressed interest in natural resource matters. Calef also requested that the current LWVNM Sustainability Position be moved from the bottom of the positions list to the top of the list to increase its visibility.

Action: Motion by Calef, second by Lucero, that the board recommend a two-year study on land use to the LWVNM Convention.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Motion by Mason, second by Lucero, to move the Sustainability Position to be first in the list of LWVNM positions.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

5. Non-Readoption of Position Stating Opposition to Term Limitations for State Legislators (Adopted 1992; Revised 1995): Calef presented the LA League's reasons for opposing this position and a proposal for two possible options for action by LWVNM Convention: (1) a resolution stating that the term limits position will not be used as the basis for League action pending further study; and (2) non-readoption of the term limitations position. Following discussion of both sides of the issue, Campbell proposed we have two unbiased board members review the resolution procedure and serve as a resolution committee for the Convention, given the LA League's intent to present the two options to Convention when re-adoption of state program positions is discussed. Lucero and Fishburn volunteered to serve on the resolutions committee for the Convention.

Nominating Committee Report: Lucero presented the Nominating Committee's report on behalf of Rebecca Shankland. There are nominees or off-board volunteers for all positions except for president, vice president, and the Public Relations Coordinator. Following a discussion of possible options for board leadership structure, it was decided to publish the list of nominees as it stands on the deadline date for *La Palabra* submissions and include a statement written by Campbell in regard to the role of the state League and leadership needs.

Budget Committee Report: Burn reviewed the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 budgets prepared by the LWVNM Budget Committee. In addition, she noted that local Leagues would like to continue to receive funding from LWVNM for a portion of their *Voters' Guide* expenses (2012 election). The second year of the budget anticipates having *La Palabra* electronically distributed as much as possible. Given the possibility of two or three state studies being adopted at Convention, the proposed budget was reviewed to see if the line item for studies (F. Program Expenses, State Studies) would provide an appropriate level of support.

Action: Motion by Calef, second by Larson to increase the budgeted amount for F. Program Expenses, State Studies from \$300 to \$450 per budget year.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Action: Motion by Burn, second by Lucero, to recommend adoption of the proposed budget with the change to the amount for state studies by Convention.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Campbell will write an introduction to the budget for *La Palabra*.

Afternoon Workshop: Campbell asked for board advice regarding two ideas for the Convention's afternoon workshop: (1) a discussion of deliberative democracy, based in part on an American Speaks presentation on "Infrastructure Needs in a Democracy" (Campbell and Mason would be responsible for handling this workshop); and (2) leadership development (haven't been able to find a speaker(s)). Board members advised proceeding with development of the America Speaks/deliberative forms of democracy workshop.

Delegates (MAL representative): Lee Sonne, a MAL member from Truth or Consequences is interested in being the MAL representative at Convention and has asked if there was a possibility LWVNM could reimburse her for some of the expenses.

Action: Motion by J. Bray, second by Larson, to authorize a reimbursement amount of up to \$150 to cover registration and some of the MAL representative's other expenses.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Burn will contact Sonne to inform her of the board's decision as well as Linda Moscarella's offer to share a hotel room.

Awards: The board agreed that nothing will be done this year, especially given the number of proposals on the agenda.

Parliamentarian: Campbell hasn't been able to find a registered parliamentarian outside the Albuquerque area, so the board agreed to ask Karen Heldmeyer (SFC), who has served as parliamentarian for the SFC League, to be parliamentarian. Campbell will contact Heldmeyer. [Note: Heldmeyer declined, but Elliott Stern, husband of incoming SFC president Judy Williams, has agreed to serve as parliamentarian.]

New Business

LWVNM Listserv Policy: The posting of action alerts on LWVNM Topics as well as on the LWVNM Action listserv was discussed in light of a recent issue on LWVNM Topics regarding debate of an alert when alerts are intended for immediate action. Several of the board members thought action alerts should only be posted on the Action listserv. The issue may solve itself if the "Constant Contact" electronic communication system is used in the future for action alerts since the system doesn't allow for dialogue. Action: Haaker will send the current rules related to the listservs to board members for review (they are on the LWVNM website). One suggestion is to have a brief version of the rules appear as a footer in all listserv communications.

Women's Health Week: Haaker will send information about Women's Health Week to local Leagues.

PAVP Grant Application from LWVUS: Moscarella will send the PAVP grant application information to Steve Allen (Common Cause), with a copy to Meredith Machen, to see if there is interest in developing a proposal.

Delegates to National Council, June 17-20, 2011: Mason indicated his interest in serving as one of LWVNM's two delegates. The board decided to leave the second delegate slot for the new LWVNM board to fill after Convention. Action: Motion by Calef, second by Haaker to appoint Mason as a LWVNM delegate and keep the other seat open for the moment. Motion passed unanimously.

LWVUS Vote 411: The recent message from LWVUS regarding payment for use of the Vote411 voters' guide software was discussed and further discussion/action deferred to the 2011-2013 LWVNM board.

Constant Contact Trial: Haaker did a 60-day trial usage for CNM and liked the Constant Contact system. Not only can it be used for electronic communication of action alerts, it also can be used for formatting newsletters. The board deferred further discussion/action to the 2011-2013 board.

La Palabra Extra Copies: Campbell provided names to local Leagues of non-members receiving courtesy copies of *La Palabra* per their request so the list can be checked for accuracy.

LWVNM Tablecloth for Events: Mason recommended that LWVNM purchase a tablecloth similar to ones other organizations use to increase visibility of their organization. CNM has purchased a similar

cloth for less than \$200. Action: Motion by Burn, second by Calef to authorize up to \$300 for purchase of a tablecloth with the generic LWV logo. Motion passed unanimously.

La Palabra Contents: There were no additions to the list of possible articles from Campbell. The submission deadline is March 22.

Reports

Natural Resources: Lucero reported on four items:

- (1) LWVNM has been asked to submit an *amicus curiae* brief in support of greenhouse gas regulations by the Environmental Improvement Board (EIB). Action: Motion by Calef, second by Larson for LWVNM to participate as an *amicus* in support of greenhouse gas regulation by the EIB. Motion passed unanimously.
- (2) Lucero filed a letter to the regional EPA from the LWVNM in support of their rule requiring the San Juan Power Generating Station in the Four Corners area to comply with new technology requirements.
- (3) The LWV of La Plata County, CO, has asked us to sign onto their letter intended for presentation at a March 31, 2011, EPA hearing regarding a proposal related to another Four Corners area power plant. The letter urges the use of more efficient sources of energy and lower carbon emissions. Campbell will review the letter and decide whether to sign onto it.
- (4) Beth Bardwell, Las Cruces Audubon Society, has asked LWVNM to sign onto a letter that asks the U.S. Corps of Engineers to implement the Rio Grande Basin Management Plan (authorized by federal law). One letter would go to the Army Corps of Engineers and a similar letter would be sent to the Congressional delegation from the Rio Grande Basin area. Campbell will review the letter and decide whether to sign it. Lucero attended the board meeting of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District where Diane Goldfarb spoke as the LWVNM's representative on a task force (see LWVNM board meeting minutes of 1/8/11). Lucero followed up by attending the 3/14/11 meeting of the District and speaking about the importance of MRGCF board member candidates participating in campaign finance reporting. Mason suggested that LWVNM work with State Representative Miguel Garcia on proposing legislation requiring campaign finance reporting on the part of MRGCD board members.

Local League Reports:

CNM: J. Bray shared a binder illustrating their participation in the National Association of Social Workers' state conference in February in Albuquerque. CNM presented a workshop on developing personal advocacy skills and also had a table for the three days of the conference that spotlighted membership opportunities in the LWV. Information from all four local Leagues and MAL forms were distributed.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennice Fishburn, Secretary