

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO

Board of Directors Meeting

January 7, 2012, 10:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

University of New Mexico Law School

Albuquerque, NM

Members Present: Sandra Browne, Barbara Calef, Joe Keefe, Meredith Machen, Cheryl Haaker, Richard Mason, Chris Burroughs, Judy Williams, Lynn Jones, Linda Moscarella, Lora Lucero

Absent: Mona Blaber, Bonnie Burn, Shelly Shepherd

Guest: Carol Tucker Trelease

Meeting convened at 10:35 a.m.

Approval of Agenda: The board approved the agenda with revisions.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the November 19, 2011 meeting were accepted and will be filed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Haaker presented the Treasurer's report. She said there was a total of \$13,647.26 in the bank accounts, including \$9,495.28 in the Wells Fargo savings account and \$4,151.98 in the Wells Fargo checking account.

Membership Report: Lynn Jones reported that there are 15 members at large. She sent out 12 renewal letters in December and heard from six. Nine members are “absolutely current.”

Old Business:

* **Constant Contact:** Mason said that he would use Constant Contact for legislative updates and alerts during the upcoming legislative session.

* **January 24 – League Day at the Legislature:** Mason said that League Day at the Legislature will be January 24, 2012. League Day will start at the Capitol. Members can pick up their information packets from 7:30 a.m. on at the LWV table in the West or East Lobby. Members are encouraged to attend sessions in the House and Senate and/or committee hearings before 10:30 a.m. when they will head a few doors toward the Plaza to the State Land Office at 311 Old Santa Fe Trail to hear from:

Alicia Manzano, M.P.A, Outreach Director, New Mexico Voices for Children. She will speak on budget issues being considered in the session.

Marcela Diaz (B.A., Columbia University), Executive Director of Somos Un Pueblo Unido, a statewide immigrants’ rights organization in New Mexico. She will be speaking on why we should be supporting driver’s licenses for the undocumented.

It was agreed that Denise Lamb, Director of the Elections Bureau for Santa Fe County, would be asked to serve as the keynote speaker at the luncheon. She would talk about voting issues in New Mexico.

Discussion centered around whether LWVNM should rent the room at the Desert Inn for the morning speakers as well as the lunch. Mason said he would check into it.

*** *January 23 Legislative Educational Forum/Reception at Desert Inn:*** Legislators will be invited to the educational forum/reception to be held at the Desert Inn. There will be a panel of experts who will discuss the facts that counter the generalizations and distortions regarding voter fraud as well the problems/successes with various ID forms, particularly issues with mandatory photo voter ID, which the League opposes because it has been shown to disenfranchise eligible voters, especially minorities, the elderly, individuals with disabilities and low-income people. The panelists are Maggie Toulouse Oliver, Bernalillo County Clerk; Dr. Gabriel Sanchez, Associate Professor and researcher, UNM Political Science Department; Laurie Weahkee, Executive Director, Native American Voting Alliance, and Steve Allen, Director of Public Policy, ACLU-NM (formerly Executive Director of Common Cause NM). Josephine Porter, LWVNM past president, will moderate the panel.

This event has been coordinated with the New Mexico Election Administration Coalition and is being paid for by a competitive grant the LWVNM received from the national League of Women Voters Education Fund to educate the public and legislators about Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA) provided under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002. Funds from PAVP will be used to pay for room rental and refreshments. Money from the grant will also be used to pay for an ad in the Disability Day pamphlet.

*** *Immigrant Drivers' Licenses Fact Sheet:*** Machen said the Immigrant drivers' Licenses Fact Sheet was still being finalized, but would be ready to include in *La Palabra*.

New Business

*** *Review Board Policies:***

Responsibilities of Board Members – The Responsibilities of Board Members policy, initially adopted May 17, 2009, was unanimously readopted January 7, 2012 during the board meeting.

Electronic Board Meetings – The Electronic Board Meetings policy, initially adopted as a draft in May 2009, was reviewed and approved January 7, 2012 during the board meeting.

*** *La Palabra logo on front page:*** It was agreed that the LWV official logo would be used on the front page of *La Palabra* instead of the *La Palabra* logo previously used.

*** *Location of next meeting:*** The board agreed to hold the next LWVNM board meeting in Santa Fe on March 17 from 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The location still needs to be decided.

*** *Requests to Albuquerque office regarding state matters:*** It was noted that occasionally questions/requests are called in to the LWVNM office about state matters. The board agreed that a list of state leadership team members should be posted at the office so that people in the office will know to whom to refer the calls.

Reports and Discussion

* ***Salute to New Mexico's Centennial/Silent Auction:*** Carol Tucker Trelease, co-chair of the Salute event, said that Dan Lopez, President of New Mexico Tech, will be the main speaker at the April 21 fundraising gala of 2012, Salute to New Mexico -- First 100 Years and Beyond. Tickets will be \$80 a single seat and \$750 for a table. She said they are seeking high-end of the line items for the silent auction and raffle.

* ***Natural Resources/Land Study:*** Lora Lucero presented her report that listed activities she has or will be involved in. They included attending an informational meeting of the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Authority to learn its plans to implement the Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program; participation in a panel in Santa Fe on the topic of Water Policies: Priorities for Scarce Resources; attending an Albuquerque City Council meeting at which the final decision was made to roll-back the city's energy conservation code; and attending a PRC meeting where she spoke briefly on the matter of PNM's procurement plan for renewable energy.

She suggested that the board send a letter to the White House encouraging President Obama not to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. The deadline for his decision was Feb. 20. Williams moved the motion and Machen seconded. The board unanimously approved. The board also agreed to put the letter on the National Resource List Serve. Lora agreed to write the letter.

That was followed by a discussion on whether the state league could support the Move to Amend movement. It was decided by the board that at least for now – the LWVNM will not participate.

* ***Legislative Update & Action Committee:*** Mason provided a list of bills the LWVNM will be watching over the course of the legislative session. Among them are Mandatory Combined Tax Reporting; Create NM Health Insurance Exchange; Create a Basic Health Plan; Study Creating a Basic Health Plan; Corporate Tax Rates & Combined Reporting; Eliminate Licenses for the Undocumented; Guest Worker Program; Memorial Campaign; Supporting U.S. Constitutional Amendment that Would Negate the Citizens United Decision; Reporting Definitions, Rule Making Requirements; and No Promotion to 4th Grade Without Passing Proficiency Test.

* ***Partisanship on League lists:*** The use of Republican and Democrat in League list serves in regards to concern that LWVNM might appear to be partisan. It was decided on some occasions there is no choice but to use party affiliations. Moscarella agreed to write a policy about what is acceptable in the state list serve regarding mention of parties. She will share it with the board.

* ***Redistricting:*** Haaker said she is planning to work with Mary Wilson to have an independent redistricting commission proposed to the next 60-day legislative session. She would like this to be offered as constitutional amendment. Lucero moved that Wilson write an op-ed piece about the need for an independent commission, tying it to current events. Calef seconded. The board unanimously approved.

* ***Communications:*** Keefe said things are moving along smoothly, and he had nothing new to report.

* ***Local League Reports:*** Presidents from each of the local Leagues gave reports.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Submitted by:

Christine Burroughs, Secretary