

League of Women Voters of New Mexico

July 21, 2012 Board Minutes

North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center Community Room

7521 Carmel Ave NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87113

Members Present: Joe Keefe, Cheryl Haaker, Richard Mason, Chris Burroughs, Meredith Machen, Bonnie Burn, Shelly Shepherd, Barbara Calef, Lynn Jones

Absent: Sandra Browne, Linda Moscarella

Nonmember present: Jan Bray

Meeting convened at 10 a.m.

Review and Approval of Agenda: Board approved the agenda as amended.

Approval of Minutes: Shepherd moved to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2012 meeting; Burn seconded. The board unanimously approved the meeting minutes.

Leadership Team Report: Mason briefly discussed the June Leadership Team phone conference where the agenda for the July 21 meeting was determined.

Treasurer's Report: Haaker listed current balances, including \$7,101.72 in a Wells Fargo saving's account and \$2,104.43 in a checking account, for a total of \$9,206.15 in liquid assets. The reserve balance is \$4,086.99. She also reported that the PMP figures have been updated in the spreadsheet to reflect the actual membership figures as of Jan. 31, 2012. The LWVUS convention reimbursement total has been increased to \$2,400, per the decision at Council. IRS form 990-N was filed online, with updates of officers and contacts. The PRC Nonprofit Corporation report was filed online. Dick Mason was added to the Wells Fargo account for backup when Haaker is unavailable. She provided to the entire board a draft Treasurer's Calendar and to the Leadership Team a list of passwords for the many online functions. She said the Education Fund has a balance of \$1,536,42. Burn moved to accept the treasurer's report; Keefe seconded. The board unanimously approved.

Membership: Jones said there are 14 at-large members. Mason said LWVNM has about 650 members.

Presentations:

Deliberative Democracy: Representatives of the organization "What's Next New Mexico" told board members about an event they are planning for 2013. The representatives included Douglas Alde, Angela Merkert and Rob Thomson. What's Next New Mexico operates under the year-old citizens action group "We Are People Here." It has two agendas – promote civility in politics and

remove the influence of money in politics. What's Next New Mexico is planning a weekend meeting for a representative sample of the state, about 200-300 people, to discuss several topics. An out-of-state polling organization will select the individuals, who will be paid for their participation. In advance of the weekend meeting, the participants will be provided information on the issues to be discussed, which may include reviving education, economic development, and election reform. Weekend activities will include large plenary sessions and small group sessions. Subject matter experts and facilitators will be on hand. The three organization representatives said they are seeking from the League endorsement of the project and possibly help in research. Following the presentations, the LWVNM board agreed they would be willing to stay in touch with What's Next New Mexico but were not prepared to endorse the project at this time, in part because no League member has volunteered to act as liaison.

Protocol for LWVNM documents in development: The board discussed a new Advocacy/Action Request Form that includes these areas: topic/issue, desired outcomes, LWV position that supports this request, coalition partners and amount of funding being requested, if appropriate.

Updated Leadership Team document (model and processes): The board reviewed the updated Leadership Team model and processes. Mason moved to adopt pages 1-4 as amended; Keefe seconded. The board agreed unanimously.

Leadership Team Model - Advocacy/Action Request Form: Keefe moved to accept the form as revised; Shepherd seconded. The board unanimously approved Machen will revise the form as instructed and send it to the entire board.

State Convention: Burn presented a proposed schedule for the LWVNM Convention in 2013, as approved by the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces. They propose an abbreviated convention that would involve a one-night hotel stay. The Las Cruces League wanted to start it on Friday, May 17, 2013 and conclude on Saturday, May 18. There would be no workshops. Friday events would include check-in from 1-1:30 p.m. or 12:30- 1 p.m., plenary session from 1:30-5 p.m., 5:30 no host cash bar, 6:30 p.m. banquet. The Saturday event would include a morning plenary session. Because this schedule might be difficult for members who work, Mason suggested following the same schedule but starting the conference on Saturday instead of Friday. It was also suggested that the event begin with lunch and a speaker. Burn said she was instructed by her board to withdraw the invitation if the LWVNM board did not agree to the schedule as proposed. The LWVNM board asked her to return to her board and see if they would be willing to change the date and start on Saturday. Burn agreed to make the request at the next Las Cruces League meeting scheduled for Aug. 2.

Consensus Questions for PRC Study: The board reviewed proposed consensus questions for the PRC. They narrowed the questions down to the following:

What is the best approach to regulating the insurance industry in New Mexico?

What qualifications and/or experiences should be required for candidates for the PRC?

Should the League support the selection of commissioners through a process that evaluates them on the basis of qualifications and the participation of the governor and state legislature?

How can consumer interests be better protected by the PRC?

How should the PRC be funded

Should the League support the state-level deregulation of market entry and rates for all private intrastate modes of transportation (such as taxis, limousines, buses, shuttles, towing companies, and moving companies?)

Machen moved to accept the questions as revised; Burn seconded. The board voted to accept unanimously.

Because there are constitutional amendments on the November General Election and in anticipation of the 2013 NM legislative session where LWVNM needs a position on PRC to take action, Machen and Calef asked that the consensus process for this study be accelerated in order to have a position approved by the board at its Sept. 22 meeting. To meet the Sept. 22 meeting deadline, unit meetings would have to be held during August or the first part of September.

Calef will convey the revised questions to the PRC Study Committee (Van Peski, Heldmeyer, Larson) and ask the chair to send an email requesting local Presidents to determine a date for their unit meetings.

Voter Mobilization: Keefe presented two ideas of how to get people out to the polls in November -- a 5-K "Race to the Poll" (a run/walk event ending at an open polling location) and a get out and vote bus. It would provide transportation to the polls. No action was taken on the matter.

Partnerships/Coalitions:

Common Cause: Mason moved to join the Common Cause Polling Place Participation and Protection Campaign and use PAVP funds for signs; Machen seconded. The board unanimously approved.

Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice: Board members were concerned about the religious aspect of the organization. The board agreed not to join a coalition with the group.

Possible use of PAVP funds for League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces video project: Burn said her group is working with a NMSU class on developing a five-minute video designed to show new voters how to vote. The board agreed that such a project falls in the purview of the

PAVP grant. Grant money was neither requested by Burn nor available for this project from the PAVP grant.

Use of remaining PAVP funds: Machen said there will be roughly \$1,000 left of the PAVP grant after the expenses for the 2013 legislative reception are accounted for. She suggested that LWVNM eliminate publication of *Voters' Key* because the State of New Mexico already has a similar publication. There appeared to be consensus from board members that the *Voters' Key* was useful in NM locations outside of Santa Fe, and the *Voters' Key* would continue to be produced. The current budget contains money for the production of the *Voters' Key*.

The discussion then centered around using the remaining \$1,000 in the PAVP. Machen moved to make available from the PAVP grant fund \$600 for the ads in the local Leagues' *Voters' Guides* (\$150 for each league), \$350 for the Common Cause signage initiative and \$50 for ads in some newspapers in the state that do not have local leagues. (The ads would encourage people to look to the LWVNM website *Voters' Guide*.) Burn seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Burn then moved that the board consider a revenue sharing plan for any remaining PAVP funds or for funds available from the LWVNM budget for the four local leagues' *Voters' Guides* based on a per member allocation. Machen seconded. Board approved. It was agreed that the board will review the budget in March, 2013 to see if any funding is available. If so, the revenue sharing idea will be reconsidered.

U.S. Senate Candidate Forums: Haaker said she would find out when all the U.S. Senate Candidate forums will be held and get back to the board. (She later sent the following: Oct 11, 6-7 p.m. at KRQE studios; Oct 21, 6-7 p.m. at KOAT studios; Oct 25, 7-8 hosted by KOB at a venue to be determined)

Voters' Guide questions reviewed: Machen presented proposed questions for the LWVNM *Voters' Guide* as prepared by the Voters' Guide question committee. The board pared the questions to the following:

New Mexico General Election 2012 Candidate Questions

Approved by LWVNM Board 7/21/12

U.S. House of Representatives and Senate

- 1) Describe your specific experience and abilities that prepare you for the office of United States Representative/Senator. (75 words)
- 2) What should the federal government do to strengthen the national economy and create jobs? (75 words)
- 3) What, if anything, should the federal government do to improve affordability and access to quality health care? (75 words)
- 4) What can the federal government do to ensure America's energy needs are met while preserving the environment? What, if anything, should the federal government do to slow climate change?

Justice of the Supreme Court: (Retention)

- 1) What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current New Mexico Supreme Court Justice? (65 words)
- 2) What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence? (65 words)
- 3) What programs and changes to improve the New Mexico Supreme Court would you like to see implemented? (65 words)

Judge of the Court of Appeals: (Retention)

- 1) What attributes and experience do you bring to your service as a current Judge of the Court of Appeals? (65 words)
- 2) What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence? (65 words)
- 3) Given your experience as a Judge of the Court of Appeals, what improvements are needed in the Court of Appeals and how could those improvements be implemented? (65 words)

Judge of the Court of Appeals: (Partisan)

- 1) How have your training, professional experience, and interests prepared you to serve on the New Mexico Court of Appeals? (65 words)
- 2) What improvements are needed in the Court of Appeals and how could those improvements be implemented? (65 words)
- 3) What ethical practices are critical in keeping the judiciary independent from political influence? (65 words)

NM Public Regulation Commissioner

- 1) The Public Regulation Commission (PRC) is responsible for regulating telephone and utility rates, insurance, corporations, pipelines, public transportation, trucking, and water works. What specific qualifications and experiences have you had in these fields or any other which qualify you to be a Public Regulation Commissioner? (65 words)
- 2) When evaluating requests for insurance and utility rate increases, what factors should be taken into account to ensure fairness to both the public and the companies involved? (65 words)
- 3) What do you see as the most significant issues, short-term and long-term, for the PRC? (65 words)

Calef moved to accept the *Voters' Guide* questions as amended; Haaker seconded. The board approved unanimously.

Reports

Convention Reports: People who attended the national convention gave brief reports.

Action Committee: Mason said the issues the Action Committee will probably focus on in 2013 include: Voter ID, driver's licenses and health insurance.

Natural Resources: Calef gave a brief Natural Resources Committee report. Judy Williams presented a written Natural Resources report.

Local League reports: There was not time for local league reports from the presidents. However most presidents presented their reports to the secretary in written form.

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Study: Jan Bray, chair of the LWVNM Alcohol and Substance Abuse Study, came to the board meeting to gain approval for the study consensus questions. The study goes beyond DWI. Study members will present the major points at local league unit meetings. Study Committee members will travel to local leagues to make presentations. The board revised and subsequently approved the following questions:

- 1) Is alcohol abuse a public health issue? Explain your answer.
- 2) If you do believe alcohol abuse is a public health issue, what policy changes are needed to alleviate the problem in New Mexico?
- 3) Would any of these changes cause undesirable outcomes?
- 4) How should the League prioritize any proposed changes?

La Palabra: Chris Burroughs announced that the deadline for the summer issue of *La Palabra* is July 26.

Adjournment: The LWVNM Board adjourned at 3 p.m.

Submitted by:

Chris Burroughs, LWVNM Secretary