

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO

Convention 2013 Minutes

Saturday, May 18, 2013

Hilton Garden Inn, 2550 Don Roser Drive, Las Cruces, N.M.

Call to Order

The 2013 Convention of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico was called to order at 2:18 p.m. by Linda Moscarella, member of the Leadership Team.

Welcome and Announcements

Moscarella welcomed the delegates and observers to the Convention (see attached list of attendees). Moscarella said that because LWVNM operates under a Leadership Team model until the end of the Convention, responsibilities for conducting the business of the Convention were being split up. The Leadership Team members for 2011-13 consisted of Dick Mason, Linda Moscarella, co-presidents, and Meredith Machen, vice president.

Before the activities of the Convention commenced, the Board welcomed Susan Wilson, LWVUS Board Member and the liaison to New Mexico, who came to Las Cruces from California to attend the proceedings. Susan Wilson spoke about the importance of the League's work and presented certificates of recognition to Moscarella, Mason, and Machen. She also said that she would be returning to New Mexico for the Membership and Leadership Development training set for July 9-10 in Albuquerque. She then asked members to contact Moscarella or their local League presidents for more information.

Appointments

Moscarella announced the following appointments for the Convention:

Credentials Committee Chair, Lynn Jones. Assisting Jones are Carol Jackson and Johnnie Aldrich.

Parliamentarian, William Little

Secretary, Chris Burroughs

Credentials Committee Report

Moscarella said the first item of business is the report of the credentials committee. Lynn Jones reported that 40 percent of the possible number of voting delegates, other than members of the state board, constitutes a quorum. Attendance at the start of the First Plenary Session of the Convention was 27 delegates. With 21 delegates other than the 6 board member delegates, the quorum was met. On behalf of the committee, Jones moved that the roll of delegates hereby submitted be the official

roll of the voting members for this session of the Convention. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adoption of Convention Rules

Moscarella pointed out that the Order of Business for the Convention was in the Convention folder. Mason moved the adoption of the Order of Business as presented. Moscarella asked if there were any changes to the order of business. Shelly Shepherd moved that the discussion of adopting the GLC Mental Health position by consensus be consolidated with the discussion of adopting a Mental Health Care Services Study. Mary Wilson seconded. Moscarella said the study and consensus are in different places in the agenda because the study had not been recommended by the Board at its 3/16 program setting meeting, and that the traditional League Order of Business format calls for dealing with "recommended" and "non-recommended" items separately. Jan Bray said the reason they were asking to do concurrence and the study at the same time was that they wanted to see if they could do both. She said the position recommended for consensus is non-specific. It is their thought that an analytical study of current services will result in having a more informed position specific to New Mexico rather than a general one, developed after study by the Greater Las Cruces League in concurrence with California's position. Christina Little said it was a timing issue. If we adopt the Mental Health position approved by the Board for adoption through concurrence now, we will have a position immediately. Machen said that today we must determine what we will be discussing in detail and voting on the next day. Judy Binder asked if the concurrence were to fail, would that impact the study. The answer was no. Moscarella said the delegates should vote on the amendment on the floor. The vote was 9 for and 16 against. The motion failed. The Order of Business was adopted.

Appointment of Committee to Approve the Minutes

Without objection Mason appointed Erika Graf-Webster of Las Cruces and Barbara Calef of Los Alamos to approve the minutes of the 2013 Convention.

Report of the Treasurer

Mason called for the LWVNM Treasurer Cheryl Haaker to present the Treasurer's Report. Haaker said that contributions are below expectations and declining. This applies to both the Operations and Education funds. LWVNM does not fundraise, so as not to cut into local Leagues' donor bases. However, as a result, nearly all income must come from the "per member payment" (PMP). Member numbers have suffered a constant decline in recent years. This year's PMP is \$858 less than in 2012. In the area of expenses she discussed *La Palabra*. Haaker said the board has done a great job in decreasing the costs of publishing *La Palabra* by drastically reducing the number of copies printed and mailed and using email (via Constant Contact) for most of the issues. The Convention issue of *La Palabra* was sent in hard copy only to those who did not have email addresses on file in the LWVUS database. Dropping our USPS bulk mail permit (about \$200/year) and piggybacking off LWV Central New Mexico's permit has provided further savings. The cost of Constant Contact offsets these savings, however, at \$252/year. Regarding Conventions and

Council, Haaker noted that nothing was budgeted for LWVUS Council this summer. New Mexico will not be represented. One of the state attendees refused reimbursement for his attendance at the 2012 LWVUS Convention. A new big expense (about \$1,000/year) is the Legislative Reception the night before League Day at the Legislature. This has been funded off the remnants of the PAVP grant. The Reception seems to have resulted in higher attendance at League Day and the panel presentations have provided a special opportunity to inform elected representatives in a congenial and social setting. Total liquid assets (the Wells Fargo checking and savings accounts) exceed \$10,000. This gives us some breathing room and makes it easy to avoid fees on these accounts. The CD is growing very slowly and has rolled over for another year. Contributions to the Education Fund continue to decline. The Ed Fund needs to collect \$1,600.00 over the course of two years to publish the *Voters' Key* every other year. We succeeded this year because of the large balance in the account at the end of FY2010-11. The Treasurer's Report will be filed as presented. Mason thanked Haaker for working hard to keep the books in good order.

Budget Report

Haaker gave the budget report. The Budget Committee consisted of Adair Waldenberg (LWVSFC), chair; Rosmarie Frederickson (LWV Los Alamos); and Erika Graf-Weber (LWVGLC). As treasurer, Haaker was an ex-officio member. **Income:** The Budget Committee initially assumed modest increases in membership, but after looking at the trends, felt this might be "irrational exuberance." The budget assumes no increase in membership and an increase in the State PMP in 2014-15, from \$12 to \$13/member and from \$6 to \$6.50 for second household members.

Expenses: There are limits to how far hard copy distribution costs of *La Palabra* can be reduced. When the distribution is less than 200, bulk rate mail must be replaced by first class postage, which is much higher. On the other hand, the hard copy *La Palabra* is a way of keeping certain key non-members (elected officials, libraries, etc.) informed of the League's work. **Conventions and Council:** Reimbursement rates for travel have been cut dramatically, although it may not look like it. Delegates will have to shoulder more of their own expenses, which will affect who is financially able to attend. **Legislative Reception:** If this is to be continued past 2014, LWVNM will need to raise money to support it. **Newspaper Ads** for online *LWVNM Voter Guide*, which covers statewide elections, bond issues, amendments, etc.: Small ads placed in outlying area newspapers have been very effective in leading people to the website. In 2012-13 ads were placed but were paid for by an "in-kind" contribution by the Voter Guide Editor. **Assets Balance:** Total liquid assets are expected to stay about the same or decline somewhat over the next few years. **Education Fund:** A smaller than usual print run of the *Voters' Key* was done in 2012-13 with the possibility of bringing out a second printing with any needed updates in 2013-14. It will be necessary to collect at least \$1,600 in contributions over the next two years to fund the 2014-15 issue. Clarifying questions were asked with discussion, debate, and adoption to occur during the Sunday session.

Nominating Committee Report

The report of the Nominating Committee was presented by Mary Wilson, Chair. Other members of this committee were Becky Shankland (LWVLA), Andrea Targhetta (LWVCNM), and Linda

Moscarella (MAL). She reminded delegates that our bylaws state that the Convention may elect up to six directors plus four officers to serve along with the four local League presidents on the LWVNM board (who are not elected). She read the proposed slate of officers: Meredith Machen, President; Richard Mason, Vice President & Action Chair; Chris Burroughs, Secretary; and Cheryl Haaker, Treasurer. The proposed directors were Judy Williams, Program; Linda Moscarella, Membership; Carol Tucker Trelease, Fundraising; and Lee Lockie, Natural Resources. The slate of officers and directors presented was to be voted upon on Sunday.

Bylaws Amendments

Moscarella told Convention attendees that the bylaws were exhaustively reviewed and revised in 2009. This year the Bylaws Committee proposed six changes to the bylaws, which the board has approved. Williams moved, Shankland seconded, to discuss and vote on proposed changes to the bylaws on Saturday. The vote was a unanimous yes. Discussion of the changes and votes on the proposed changes followed.

Proposed change number 1: in Article IV Officers add the following wording in Section 1. Enumeration, Election, and Duties of Officers – If the position of president is vacant, the board will function as a Leadership Team and shall possess all the powers and perform the duties of that office until that office is filled.

Proposed change number 2: in Article IV. Section 6 Add the following words in Section 6. The Leadership Team – When a president is not elected and the vice president is unable to assume the responsibilities of the president, the Board shall govern the organization as a Leadership Team. At the first Board meeting following the biennial Convention, officers and directors that were elected to serve on the board will volunteer, self-select or be nominated to accept the Leadership position(s) of president or vice president. Two or more individuals may serve in this capacity (co-president, co-vice president). The Leadership Team will identify the responsibilities of each member of the team, and have responsibility for the routine business activities of the League (e.g., calling meeting, preparing agendas, chairing meetings.)

It was noted that the reason these amendments were added was because the board needs to have an alternative way of working in case there is no president or vice president. Mary Wilson moved to amend the first proposed amendment to add “and the vice president is unable to assume the responsibilities of the president” after the word “vacant.” The amendment to the amendment passed unanimously. Amendment number 1 passed unanimously as amended.

Wilson moved to accept the amendment number 2 regarding the Leadership Team. The amendment passed unanimously.

Proposed change number 3: Article VIII. Convention. Section 4. Representation – a. The president and one delegate who shall be chosen by the ~~members through~~ board of each ~~the~~ local ~~Leagues~~ League; ~~the members in~~ each local ~~Leagues~~ League having more than 15 voting members shall be entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 25 voting members or a

major faction thereof, ~~belonging to said local League as established by the official count of said year sent to LWVUC for calculation of PMPs.~~

Amendment number 3 passed unanimously

Proposed change number 4: Article IX. Council. Section 1. Place, Date, and Call. A meeting of the Council shall be held in the interim year between Conventions, approximately twelve months after the preceding Convention, at a time and place to be determined by the state board. A formal call shall be sent to the presidents of the local Leagues and state MAL units of at least 30 days before a Council meeting. Special meetings may be called ~~in the event of an extreme emergency as needed.~~

Graf-Webster said the words “as needed” are superfluous. She said as needed does not mean anything. She moved to end with special meeting may be called. Binder seconded. Mary Wilson, amending the amendment, moved to substitute the following for the last sentence – “Special Council meetings may be called by the state board.” Shepherd seconded. Approved unanimously. Amendment number 4 was approved as amended.

Proposed change number 5: Article IX. Council. Section 3. Powers. a. The Council is authorized to change the program ~~only in the event of an emergency as needed,~~ provided: 1) notice of proposed changes shall have been sent to the presidents of the local Leagues at least 30 days in advance of the meeting of the Council and 2) the change is adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Council.

Mary Wilson spoke out against amendment, saying that the needed flexibility is already there because the bylaws allow updating in emergency situations. Williams moved to vote on the amendment. Moscarella seconded. Vote was 10 for and 14 against. The amendment was defeated.

Proposed change number 6: Article XI. Section 3. Program Action – b. The state board shall have power to ~~request emergency concurrence action~~ concur with the positions of other Leagues as needed. Requests for ~~emergency concurrence~~ may be initiated by local Leagues or by state board. State board shall establish procedures for ~~emergency concurrence action.~~

There was an extensive discussion about the League being able to adopt positions quickly when required to respond to legislation with a short window for responses. Susan Wilson, LWVUS liaison, reminded delegates that they can always use the national positions at the state level if they apply and offered to take the question of how to update state positions so they align with national positions more quickly than every two years at Convention. After discussion, Shepherd moved to call the question. Haaker seconded. The amendment was defeated.

Program for Study and Action

Mason said a report of the Legislative Action Committee’s work was in the last *La Palabra*. Most importantly, “bad things” were kept from happening. He said that he has had discussions on what to

support during the next session. Priorities will be the Ethics Commission and fixing some of the economic bills that passed during the last session.

Mason said that during the Saturday meeting they would be agreeing on what to vote on Sunday. Among programs discussed were the following:

Change in Apportionment and Redistricting Position: Judy Williams, Past President of the Santa Fe League, discussed Apportionment and Redistricting. She said, “As most of you know, during the recent legislative session, we supported Senate Joint Resolution 4 which called for an Independent Redistricting Commission to run totally independently of the Legislature. Following discussions with Cheryl Haaker, who chaired the study that resulted in our position, and other League members, we propose a change. We suggest that the last six words at the end of the position do not make sense, as they contradict the meaning of an independent commission and would land us right back where we are now. Therefore the Santa Fe League is recommending the removal of the last six words.” “The League supports having an independent commission or other independent group develop redistricting plans meeting these criteria **to be considered by the Legislature.**” This change was approved by the Leadership Team and was put on the agenda for the next day by a majority vote.

Change in the Public Regulation Commission Position: Mason said that the position was adopted by the LWVNM board in September 2012, following the completion of a very thorough study that was approved at the 2011 Convention. The new position was adopted in September 2012 in time for League to advocate for one of the three constitutional amendments on the PRC placed before voters in the General Election 2012. Before the 2013 Legislative Session, League was asked by ThinkNM to weigh in on proposed legislation, and during the session, League lobbied on legislation that specified the required qualifications for PRC candidates. The League’s new position was published in the fall *La Palabra*. Mason thanked Karen Heldmeyer, Jody Larson and Neva Van Peski from the Santa Fe League for their diligence in studying the PRC. Williams explained some wording changes the Santa Fe League recommended but which the LWVNM board chose not to recommend. Machen suggested we consider changing the title of the position. It was agreed to put the issue before the Convention the next day.

Proposed Concurrence

Mason said that in preparation for this year’s Convention, the state board at its March meeting voted to recommend two positions for adoption by concurrence. Both positions resulted from studies completed by the Greater Las Cruces League. The first is the Affordable Housing position recommended by LWVGLC for adoption by concurrence at the state level. The second is a position Mental Health, which the Leadership Team recommended for adoption by concurrence at the state. Christina Little explained the Affordable Housing position, which calls to

Increase housing options for households in New Mexico, including but not limited to seniors, the disabled and first-time home-buyers.

Promote a variety of housing styles and types for rent and for purchase that are integrated within communities.

Support strategies including public and private partnerships and grants, developmental agreements, rehabilitation, fee waivers, density bonuses and an affordable housing trust fund and land bank.

Mickey Curtis, delegate from Greater Las Cruces, briefly explained the scope of the GLC study and the formulation of the Mental Health position. The concurrence calls for support of

- 1) An adequately funded county mental health care system that provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically and seriously mentally ill of all ages; places emphasis on meeting the needs of children; seeks additional funds to provide preventive services; offers mental health services for the homeless; and maintains optimum mental health services for all clients
- 2) Implementation of a master plan that ensures there will be a network of integrated services, clearly defined and consistent with a community support model; advocates an awareness of and concern about the critical unmet needs within the country; emphasizes case management that includes assistance with housing, financial entitlements, rehabilitative and vocational programs.
- 3) Centers for the seriously and chronically mentally ill apart from the county system.
- 4) Regulations that provide an adequate length of time for evaluation and treatment of involuntary holds.
- 5) Model mandatory outpatient care program with adequate supervisory staff.

Both concurrences were recommended to come before the delegates on Sunday.

Recommended Studies

Mason said the board is recommending continuation of the two studies that are not yet complete. The first to be continued is the Alcohol Study. Jan Bray briefly updated the Convention on the time line of completed the Reducing Death and Harm from Alcohol study.

The second study recommended for extension was the Land Use study. The study evolved from the evaluation of LWVNM existing Natural Resources position, which is very detailed in some areas and lacking in others. Calef gave a brief report on the progress of the study.

Non-recommended Studies

Two non-recommended studies were discussed to come up for vote on Sunday. They were a Mental Health Care Services study and Judiciary Position update. Shepherd briefly explained the rationale and scope of the proposed study, which involves examination of the mental health services provided by counties in the state. Andrea Targhetta explained that the Judiciary Position update would review the outdated, anachronistic language of the LWVNM Government/Judiciary position last revised in 1987 to expand the scope of the position beyond the current limited focus on adequately funding personnel only for juvenile courts and to determine the history of and current existence of an advisory judicial Council. It was agreed that both would be discussed at the Sunday meeting

Meeting adjournment 5:30 p.m.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO

Convention 2013 Minutes

Sunday, May 19, 2013

Hilton Garden Inn, 2550 Don Roser Drive, Las Cruces, N.M.

Call to Order

The second day of the 2013 Convention of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico was called to order Sunday, May 19 at 8:30 a.m. by Machen, member of the Leadership Team.

Credentials Committee

Machen called on Jones, credentials chair, to give the report of the credentials committee. Jones said a quorum was present at the start: there were 16 delegates and 6 state board members, plus observers. Several more delegates arrived after she made her report.

Adoption of Budget

The next item of business was the adoption of the two-year budget for 2014-2015. Machen recognized Haaker to present the budget, which includes an increase of the PMP from \$12 to \$13/per member and \$6 to \$6.50 for the second household member. Motion: By direction of the Board, Haaker moved the adoption of the budget as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of New Position

Williams moved the adoption of the Public Regulation Commission position. Machen said that since this motion is being made at the direction of the board, no second is required. A vote was called, and the position was officially adopted by unanimous vote.

Amendments of Positions

Williams moved to amend the Apportionment and Redistricting position by removing the six words in bold: “The League supports having an independent commission or other independent group develop redistricting plans meeting these criteria **to be considered by the Legislature.**”

The Leadership Team approves of this recommendation. Since Williams was unable to attend the March 16 meeting to present the arguments for amending the position, the board did not vote on it. Therefore, amending the position requires a 2/3 majority to pass. Williams made a motion to remove the six words, seconded by Mary Wilson. Members voted unanimously to amend the position.

Williams made a motion to amend the PRC position as follows. Again since Williams was unable to attend the March 16 meeting to present the arguments for amending the position, the board did not vote on it. Therefore, amending the position requires a 2/3 majority to pass.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports the following with respect to the Public Regulation Commission (PRC) and the entity regulating insurance. (*Add the underlined words.*)

3. The PRC should be funded by assessments on the industries that it regulates and those funds should be sequestered from the general fund.

4. The legislature should approve a budget sufficient to enable the PRC to carry out its allotted duties successfully. (*Break this sentence off from #3 into a separate item-- #4*)

Calef seconded. Concerns were expressed in the discussion about putting the PRC and insurance in same position. There were 19 yeas and 6 opposed. The PRC position was amended.

Graf-Webster asked why our Drug Policy position states that LWVNM supports "strong and equitable penalties for all offenders-including first offenders" and "strict and prompt enforcement." She explained that for many years professionals have advised that first-offenders, especially juveniles be given alternative penalties and second chances because, otherwise, the system can turn them into hardened criminals or more serious repeat offenders. A fair amount of discussion ensued. Susan Wilson stated that the harsh sentencing provisions of this position are contrary to the LWVUS position on sentencing guidelines. Machen commented that this is just one example of how all of our positions need to be examined in light of LWVUS positions and current thinking on issues. This is one reason we will be updating many of our positions. The bylaws change that was recommended but not approved by delegates was intended to help the board to consider updates at Council. (Our current process requires suggested position amendments and study proposals to be considered only at the board's March Convention Program Planning meeting and then published in the Convention issue of *La Palabra*.) Susan Wilson offered to advise the LWVNM board on a process whereby proposed updating can occur more easily. Members might be asked for suggested changes to state positions at their local League Program Planning meetings each year rather than just in Convention years.

Adoption of State Board-Approved Positions by Concurrence

The next item of business was the proposed adoption of two positions by concurrence. The board recommended concurring with LWVGLC's Affordable Housing position. Graf-Webster moved to adopt the position. There was no need for a second as it was recommended by the board. The motion was unanimously approved.

Next discussed was concurrence with LWVGLC's Mental Health position. Mickey Curtis came to the podium to take questions. Barbara Goedecke moved to adopt the GLC Mental Health position by concurrence. No second was needed as it was recommended by the board. Mason moved to amend some of the wording as follows: "This position offers support for

1. Adequately funded mental health care systems that" (with the plural form of the verbs in the subsequent bullets).

Christina Little seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Wilson moved to amend the motion to concur with the LWVGLC Mental Health position as shown on page 12 of the Study of Mental Health Services in Dona Ana County by adding 1 b as adopted by the LWVGLC position. Curtis seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Machen said LWVNM has a full slate of positions on sustainability, government, natural resources, and social policy that needed to be readopted. Jan Bray made a motion to adopt all positions. There was no need for a second. The motion was approved with 1 opposed.

Adoption of Studies

Moscarella moved to continue the Alcohol Study for up to two years. There was no need for a second. Motion passed unanimously. Becky Shankland moved to extend the Land Use Study for two years. There was no need for a second. Motion passed unanimously.

Jan Bray moved to adopt a study of Mental Health Care Services in New Mexico to address the problems addressed in the concurrence. Wilson seconded. Calef said she thought the study should be delayed until it was known how the Affordable Health Care Act would impact the provision of mental health care services. Shepherd said there are not a lot of services currently available in New Mexico and that it is important to educate policy makers and the public about the needs. The study was adopted unanimously.

Adoption of Updates

Targhetta moved that the Judiciary position be updated. Because this update was not presented at the March 16 meeting and therefore not voted upon, the proposal required a 2/3 majority to pass. Jan Bray seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Procedures for Updating of Positions

Machen said the next item of business was a discussion on the procedure for updating of positions. Since no brand new studies were being recommended for 2013-2015, this period provides an excellent opportunity for us to begin updating our positions. Machen asked attendees to identify other positions that need updating and to notify the board. Mary Wilson said that LWVNM needs to revise bylaws to mirror national's to make updating easier.

Election of Officers

Mary Wilson read the list of nominees. Each officer was elected separately; directors were elected as a group. Officers and directors elected included Meredith Machen, President; Richard Mason, Vice President & Action Chair; Chris Burroughs, Secretary; and Cheryl Haaker, Treasurer. Directors include Judy Williams, Program Chair; Linda Moscarella, Membership Chair; Carol Tucker Trelease, Fundraising Chair; Lee Lockie, Natural Resources Director.

Privilege of President

Machen thanked all of the outgoing and incoming board members for their commitment and service. She asked the board members from the last two years to stand and said, "Speaking as a member of the Leadership Team over these past two years, I especially appreciate everyone's willingness to cooperate with this shared governance model." She thanked the officers for their excellent service to the League: Linda Moscarella as co-president, Dick Mason for his hard work on the Action Committee, which has become more effective and better organized; Cheryl Haaker, who in addition to serving as Treasurer serves as LWVNM Webmaster, and Chris Burroughs, for her excellent work as Secretary and *La Palabra* editor.

Directions to the Board

The following directions were given to the board:

Because of the great partisan divide in the country, the board is urged to put an emphasis on an open primary.

Because the Secretary of State banned our *Voter Guides* from the polls as "electioneering," we must work harder to promote our *Voter Guide*.

LWVNM must get out and do more public education activities.

LWVNM needs to encourage members to go in pairs and talk to legislators.

Adjournment The Convention was adjourned at 12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Burroughs, Secretary; Revised by Meredith Machen, LWVNM President; Official Readers: Barbara Calef, LWVLA President, and Erika Graf-Webster, LWGLC President. Finalized 6/29/13 to be published in Spring 2015 Convention *La Palabra*.