

**League of Women Voters of New Mexico**

**March 16, 2013 Board Minutes**

Home of Meredith Machen, Leadership Team, and Meeting Facilitator  
613 Webber St., Santa Fe, NM

**Members Present:** Bonnie Burn, Richard Mason, Chris Burroughs, Meredith Machen, Barbara Calef, Cheryl Haaker, Linda Moscarella,

**Absent:** Shelly Shepherd, Sandra Browne, Judy Williams, Lynn Jones

**Guests:** Jan Bray, Olin Bray, Chris Furlanetto, Adair Waldenberg

**Meeting convened at 11:15 a.m.**

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

**Approval of Minutes:** The Board approved the Jan. 5, 2013 meeting minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Haaker reported that she will soon be sending letters to local League presidents advising them of their 2013-2014 Per Member Payment (PMP) assessment. She also noted that the total liabilities and equity for the period between May, 2012 and April, 2013 was \$14,474.33. She said that she withdrew \$1,168.71 from the Ed Fund to pay for printing of the *Voters' Key*. The Board voted to approve the treasurer's report.

**Membership:** Calef reported there are currently 9 active members-at-large.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Mary Wilson, chair of the Nominating Committee, did not attend the meeting. Machen read the report Mary emailed to her. Nominees include President – Meredith Machen; Vice President – Richard Mason; Secretary – Chris Burroughs; Treasurer – Cheryl Haaker; Director (Fundraising) -- Carol Tucker Trelease; and Director (Program) – Judy Williams. Off-Board volunteers include Facebook/Twitter – Karen Wentworth; Natural Resources – Barbara Calef (who will be on the Board as Los Alamos President) ; and *Voters' Guide* – Andrea Targhetta (if there are no other volunteers). The officers and directors will be elected at the Convention. The Nominating committee consisted of Mary Wilson (chair), Rebecca Shankland, Linda Moscarella, and Andrea Targhetta. At the meeting, Moscarella agreed that if Lynn Jones would continue to carry out the technical duties, she would fulfill the other responsibilities of the Director of Membership.

**Advocacy Report:** Mason reported that the legislative session was generally productive. The main success was that the Legislature did not vote to approve legislation that the League opposed, such as anti-choice laws and tax breaks. They did approve some good natural resource legislation and a

health insurance exchange. He said that the League will work to establish a state ethics commission, an independent redistricting commission, and an election accountability commission.

**Use of icons on ballots:** It was decided that Moscarella will send a letter to the Secretary of State stating the League's displeasure in the use of icons on ballots. She will also email it to the presidents of all the New Mexico local Leagues, urging them to send it to the media and other influential parties.

**Studies and Positions:** The Board discussed proposed changes to the policy on State Studies and Positions. The Board generally agreed that the proposed changes clarified problem areas of the policy adopted in January, 2009. Mason moved to adopt the revised policy; Machen seconded. The board unanimously approved. They also agreed to rework number 15 in the policy to tighten it up. Number 15 reads "In following League procedure only the President of the local, state, and national Leagues may speak in the name of the League unless the President delegates this authority. As individuals, members may always speak about an issue of personal interest to them. Burn said she would draft up a final version of number 15 and that she will send it out electronically to the Board. The change can be accepted by the Board electronically.

**Convention:** Burn updated the Board on convention planning. She said a contact person was needed to be appointed to serve as the convention liaison. Moscarella was named the contact person. Burn reminded the Board that April 30 is the deadline for conference registration. LWVNM will pay the \$65 registration fee for State Board officers, but they will have to pay for the banquet and for the lunch after the convention. The Board approved the registration form. Also, Burroughs reminded the group that she needs the conference information for *La Palabra*.

**Program:**

**Mental Health:** The Board discussed whether to conduct a study on mental health issues in New Mexico or recommend concurrence. The boards of the Santa Fe and Los Alamos Leagues had proposed that LWVNM concur with the position adopted by the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces in 2010. After a thorough study of services available through local and state funding and through examination of League studies in other states, LWVGLC concurred with a position developed by the League of Women Voters of California in 1998. Olin Bray of the Central New Mexico League argued for a new study, saying that the California study is outdated, and the Las Cruces study focused on their area. Bonnie Burn explained the scope of the LWVGLC study further. Calef moved for concurrence; seconded by Mason. The Board voted to recommend concurrence at convention.

**Affordable Housing:** The Board discussed whether to recommend concurrence on the affordable housing position developed by LWVGLC, which had proposed this action. Chris Little of Las Cruces summarized the study and presented the case for concurrence. Mason moved to recommend adoption by concurrence of the affordable housing position developed by LWVGLC as a state position. Calef seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

**PRC:** The Board decided to keep the PRC position as it stands. No revision is necessary.

**Education:** The Board decided that it is not necessary to establish a state position on the need for providing suitable services for infants and children from birth to three years of age and their parents because LWVUS already has a position on it.

**Bylaws Changes:** The Board discussed making changes to the bylaws. The following changes were made. They were approved by the Board and will be submitted for approval at Convention. Underlined material is new. [~~Bracketed text~~] is to be deleted.

## **Article IV. OFFICERS**

**Section I. Enumeration, Election, and Duties of Officers.** The officers of the LWVNM shall be president, a vice president, a secretary and a treasurer. They shall be elected at the Convention and shall take office immediately after the Convention. They shall hold office until the election at the next biennial Convention or until their successors have been elected and qualified. 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.

**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).

## **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~~] board of each local League; each local League having more than 15 voting members shall be entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 25 voting members or a major fraction thereof [~~, belonging to said local League as established by the official count of said year sent to LWVUS for calculation of PMPs].~~

## **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 at least 30 days before a council meeting. Special meetings may be called [~~in the event of an extreme emergency~~] as needed.

**Section 3. Powers.** The Council shall give guidance to the board on program and methods of work.

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

## **Article XI. PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAMS**

### **Section 3. Program Action**

a. League members may act on national and state program only in conformity with League positions. Members may act in the name of the League only when authorized to do so by the appropriate board.

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.

**2013-2015 Budget:** LWVNM Budget Chair Adair Waldenberg presented the 2013-2015 budget to the Board. The Board accepted the recommendation of the Budget Committee to increase the local League per member payment (PMP) assessment by one dollar. The increase is \$13 from \$12 for individual members and \$7 from \$6 for second household members. PMP has not been increased since 2006. As a printing, mailing and postage cost saving measure, the board also accepted the Budget Committee's recommendation to increase the percentage of members receiving the newsletter, *La Palabra*, electronically. Local Leagues are asked to update their members' email addresses in the LWVUS membership database. Burn moved to accept the two-year budget; Mason seconded. Board approved. Budget Committee members included Waldenberg (chair) and members Erika Graf-Webster, Rosemarie Frederickson and ex-officio Cheryl Haaker.

**Local League Reports:** Presidents from the local New Mexico Leagues gave reports of their activities. (See spring *La Palabra* for details.)

**Membership and Leadership Development:** Moscarella asked the Board to consider participating in the national LWV Membership and Leadership Development program. If LWVNM agrees, it will have to appoint an MLD state-level coach who will work with local League contacts via telephone. Board members asked Moscarella to contact national and (1) clarify the responsibilities of the coaches and local League contacts, (2) ask about concrete examples that were used to increase membership, and (3) ask about success rate among those states who have already implemented the program.

**Adjournment:** The LWVNM Board adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Chris Burroughs, LWVNM Secretary

Edited by Meredith Machen, Leadership Team, 4/9/13

Reviewed by Bonnie Burn, LWVGLC and Barbara Calef, LWVLA, 4/10/13.