**League of Women Voters of New Mexico**

[**www.lwvnm.org**](http://www.lwvnm.org)[**leaders@lwvnm.org**](mailto:leaders@lwvnm.org)

**Board Minutes**

**July 16, 2016, 11:00 am - 2:45 pm**

**North Domingo Baca Center, Albuquerque**

Board Members Present: Barbara Calef, Karen Douglas, Diane Goldfarb, Gwen Hanson, Meredith Machen, Dick Mason, Akkana Peck, Suzanne Schmidt, Judy Williams

President Machen called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. The agenda was approved. The minutes of the May 21 meeting were approved as presented. There was discussion of how to handle preparing the minutes since Carol Tucker Trelease, Secretary, has been absent. Judy Williams agreed to take minutes at this meeting; Diane Goldfarb will contact Carol to see if she is able to continue as Secretary.

**Council Follow-Up**

The minutes of Council 2016 were accepted.

Judy Williams presented a brief summary of the directions to the board submitted by members. Members felt the legislative activities and issues information were highlights of the year. Members said they would like to see the League do more outreach to younger potential members, more PR and public awareness, and encourage more members to get involved in League activities. Judy urged board members to read the full survey results.

Meredith presented information on what came out of the LWVUS Convention 2016. Speakers said the League should have a bias toward action, and that new wording had been developed to help Leagues handle questions about the 2016 presidential election. If we are asked about having a woman as a presidential candidate, we can say “**It’s an historic moment for our country to have the first woman nominated for president.” And we can tie it to our roots in the woman’s suffrage effort.**

The League is now also recommending that we should drop the “non-partisan” wording in our mission statement, as it confuses people. We should say, **“The League never endorses or opposes candidates or parties. We advocate for policies based on our positions on issues.”**

The board also discussed the immigration caucus at the Convention. Some people present expressed disappointment about the presentation, which they felt could have been better focused. Meredith raised the issue of Operation Streamline. Gwen Hanson said that there is concern about the immigration prosecution rates by the New Mexico 's U.S. Attorney Martinez's office compared to other districts.  A letter to the U.S. Attorney's office is being discussed.

**Treasurer’s Report**

There was none, as Wendee Brunish was not present, and she does not yet have access to all of the League’s banking information.

**LWVNM Bylaws Changes –**Barbara

It was moved and approved to change Article III Section 2a. of the Bylaws according to the LWVUS Bylaws changes voted in at the Convention.

Voting Members. [~~Citizens~~] Persons of at least [~~18]~~ 16 years of age, residing within New Mexico who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues or state member-at- large (MAL) units, and of LWVNM and LWVUS.

The question arose as to whether bylaws amendments conforming changes made at the LWVUS Convention require a vote at the LWVNM Convention. It was agreed to add wording to our bylaws saying that there is no such requirement. Barbara will present the change at the September board meeting.

It was moved and approved to amend the LWVNM Bylaws Article XI Section 3b. as follows:

After the LWVNM board approves a new or amended position for inclusion in the program, it becomes LWVNM’s position and basis for action on the issue. Changes to the position may be made by the Convention according to the procedures described above in Section 2. [~~in Article XIV~~.]

**Voter Guide Questions**

Board members discussed the draft list of candidate questions developed by the Voter Services Committee. The questions are for candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, NM Secretary of State, NM Supreme Court, and NM Court of Appeals. The board voted on a final set of questions for each office. They will now be sent to the candidates.

**Action and Advocacy**

**Candidate Forums for Secretary of State-** Dick Mason

There has been no response from the Republican candidate for Secretary of State. Dick will try to get a better email address, and will also follow up with the state Republican Party. Local Leagues are working to schedule other candidate forums. GLC is working with the local PBS station on the Secretary of State forum. Local leagues are having difficulty eliciting responses from some candidates.

**Advocacy**

* Meredith pointed out that the Sunshine Portal is not being kept up, making it impossible to know what contracts are being let, etc. She suggested the League should ask for a memorial for the LFC to study whether and how well the system is being kept up.
* Dick mentioned that automatic voter registration at DMV offices is going to be a big issue. The Elections Administration Coalition is taking the lead.
* Regarding ethics and redistricting, LWVNM is not in a position to lead.
* The League is also part of the Fairness Coalition, which looks at new revenue sources. The League doesn’t support earmarks.
* Dick mentioned that Judy has been appointed to the Hospital Information Systems Advisory Committee; this group has the potential of increasing medical care cost transparency.
* Dick is working with Health Action NM on drug pricing, and a transparency portal. Perhaps drug pricing would become part of the hospital data portal.

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Charter School Consensus Questions - Meredith

Meredith reviewed some of the issues, and reported on the LESC Charter Overview and Report as well as their meeting during the week. She said both parties and both houses of the Legislature appear to be united on finding solutions to the identified problems.

Board members said they are not ready to vote on the questions. They cited a lack of focus, the sheer number of questions and the lack of criteria for selecting issues. Barbara suggested a framework might be equity, transparency and public accountability. There was a suggestion that LWVNM’s study focus on the state issues, including the state-chartered schools, since the local charters are a local issue.

Barbara suggested Meredith prepare an article for La Palabra, making clear the organization, structure and goals of the study. The board also discussed the League’s 2015 request for a moratorium, suggesting we make it formal.

Meredith plans to meet with Barbara, Karyl Ann Armbruster and Akkana Peck.

**Local League Reports**

Local League presidents gave brief reports on their recent activities. More complete reports will appear in La Palabra.

**Announcements, Initiatives, and Other Business**

The next meeting, scheduled for September 17, will be on September 24 to accommodate travel schedules. The meeting will be at Higher Education Center, Santa Fe, 10:30 or 11.

**The meeting adjourned at 3 PM.**