

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO

Board of Directors Meeting

November 17, 2007 – 12:30 – 5:30 p.m.

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
Skeen Library, Don Trip Conference Room 212

Call to Order: President Campbell called the meeting to order at 12:50 p.m.

Members present: Diane Albert, Johnnie Aldrich, Bonnie Burn, Katherine Campbell, Jane Gaziano, Diane Goldfarb, Cheryl Haaker, Jody Larson, Lora Lucero, Richard Mason, and Linda Moscarella.

Absent: Christine Chandler, Cathy Mathews

Approval of Agenda – Addition of information to Membership Report.

Approval of Electronic Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the September 9/8-16/2007 meeting were approved with changes that Lora Lucero will send by email to Bonnie Burn.

Comments on the electronic meeting were that it was generally a good experience. Some members of the Board did not participate, and there was some confusion about motions. The proposed January electronic meeting was changed to an “in person” meeting. Another electronic meeting may be held in July.

Treasurer’s Report: It was suggested that the Treasurer’s report be expanded to include revenue received and expenses paid so that Board members may understand the cash flow of the organization.

Additional information was provided about the Certificate of Deposit that now resides outside of the state. It matures on January 20, and is automatically renewed. Albert’s indicated that Wells Fargo may be able to get a better interest rate and should be brought into the NM banking system. The CD will be on the January agenda.

LWVNM now has its own EIN IRS number. The previous treasurer had used personal information for tax purposes, which puts the organization and the individual at risk.

PMP for national and state members-at-large were discussed. LWVNM received a refund for overpayment of PMP to LWVUS. LWVUS shows that LWVNM has 70 national members. No one could understand that number. It was determined that the LWVUS invoice for state Leagues includes a total number of national members and local Leagues invoices reflect the number assigned to their particular League. LWVUS subtracts \$5/individual from state and local PMP invoices to pay for services provided to national members by state and local Leagues. Diane Albert and Johnnie Aldrich, Membership Director, will work together to determine the exact number of members for each local League based on January 31, 2007 figures. They will also identify national or members-at-large for which LWVNM have PMP responsibility.

State Convention and LWVUS Council expenses. Expenses for State Convention and LWVUS Council can still be submitted because they occurred in May and June 2007 and fall within this budget year. LWVUS Council budget was for \$1,500 and included air fare and hotel room. Registration is budgeted in one year and air fare and hotel the next year.

Unfinished Business

Adoption of policies

Coalition Guidelines: Secretary Burn apologizes for attaching the incorrect Coalition Guidelines Policy. The correct copy was included in the September Meeting Minutes, p. 8. That version and the suggested changes made this meeting are attached.

Motion: Diane Albert moved approval of acceptance of guidelines with suggested revision. Johnnie Aldrich seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Fund Raising Policy: This policy was actually approved at the September electronic board meeting. Concerns were raised about competition when state and local Leagues are soliciting from the same community businesses. Reporting solicitation of \$2,500 and more by local Leagues to state Leagues was discussed and thought to be too high.

Motion: Dick Mason moved item 2 of the policy be amended to make the amount *more than \$1,000* rather than \$2,500. Jody Larson seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

League Day Plans: Garrett Desert Inn (\$79 government rate/night) and Sage Inn (\$55/ night) were selected to accommodate League members attending League Day. LWVNM will have a table on the first floor of the Round House. Johnnie Aldrich and Lora Lucero will staff the table. Board members will determine what kind of information is needed for the table. Stuart Bluestone will be one of the speakers. The second speaker will address health care reform. At December 7 Action Committee teleconference, drafts of facts sheets should be ready and flyer information should also be available. It was suggested that packets be made up and personally distributed to individual legislatives. The idea was recognized as beneficial for increasing the League visibility but may not be practical for the upcoming 30-day Legislative Session.

Action: Kathy Campbell will put accommodation information on LWVNMTopics.

Cheryl Haacker will invite all Board members to join LWVNMTopics who now do not have access.

Dick Mason will invite a speaker to address health care reform.

New Business

Membership Information: Johnnie Aldrich reported that 78 more members have been added to the official count of February 2007. Congratulations were extended to the local League directors of membership who have made this happen. The largest increase was in Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

Grassroots ethics/election reform lobbying letter: Action committee suggested the Los Alamos letter regarding the topic and discussed in the Background for Miscellaneous Agenda Items, be sent from LWVNM rather than LWV Los Alamos only. Common Cause may want to be involved as well and this letter may be sent jointly from both organizations. Several good revisions were suggested. There was agreement that this will come from the state or state and Common Cause.

Lobbying for Metro Court: Past precedents indicates that Action Committee gives approval. The lobbying effort should not conflict with anything the state League is lobbying. A policy about lobbying should be developed. Dick Mason volunteered to compose a draft that would be sent to Action Committee first and then Board for final approval.

Name Change for LWVABC: Diane Goldfarb outlined the process for receiving local membership and ABC Board approval. The final steps for changing the name is to have LWVNM Board approval and then LWVUS approval. Growth of membership outside of Bernalillo County is the major reason for the suggested name change. Sandoval and Valencia countries are included in voter service activities of the ABC League. The suggested new name is LWV of Central New Mexico. All published material would include "Serving Bernalillo, Sandoval, Tarrant, and Valencia Counties" beneath the new name. Motion: Johnnie Aldrich moved approval of the name change. Linda Moscarella seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Opportunity to share office with LWVSFC: Jane Gaziano presented a potential opportunity to have LWVNM again have office space in Santa Fe. Traditionally, state Leagues have located their offices in the state capitals. Rent for office space in Santa Fe was a costly budget item for a number of years

(\$280/month for a total of \$3,360 per year). Rent for office space in Santa Fe is higher than in other cities of New Mexico. When the rent for the former Santa Fe office was raised, a decision was reached to close the office in Santa Fe and contract with ABC League to provide certain services to the state League. These services are provided at a rate of \$600 for the fiscal year and are contracted through a memo of understanding.

Currently LWV Santa Fe shares an office with Cedar Mountain Solar and Llama Rescue. Cedar Mountain Solar is moving out and Llama Rescue and LWV Santa Fe are offering to share this space with LWVNM at a rate of \$225/month (annually \$2,700). When the space would become available is not known at present. There was much discussion about this potential arrangement: how would future presidents of the League be affected by an office so far away from their home destination; does the state League need a presence in Santa Fe; how would an office in Santa Fe affect the visibility of the League, who would staff the office. After discussion, there was general agreement among the Board members that the current arrangement between LWVNM and LWVABC was the least costly, the most effective, and should be continued.

There was further discussion about having a separate telephone number for LWVNM that would be attached to a voice mail box located at the telephone company. Callers would leave a message and someone from the board would respond.

Motion: Bonnie Burn moved that LWVNM keep the current service arrangement with Albuquerque League and explore the possibility of having a separate Santa Fe telephone number with voice mail for the State League. Lora Lucerno seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Portfolio Development: LWVNM is following the Kalamazoo portfolio models. Current agenda had attached copies of portfolio description for the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Election Issues chair. There was general agreement that a generic portfolio description for Program Directors would be appropriate. Adding an item that involves any legislative action related to their area is appropriate. Each of the directors could attach an Activity Schedule that would apply to their area of interest. Draft portfolio description should be sent to the Secretary to be put into final form. **A final decision was made that Program Directors will collaborate to develop one generic description.** Presidents of local Leagues will be exempt from this activity but should have descriptions appropriate for their local Leagues. **Portfolio descriptions are needed from Treasurer, Action Chair, web manager, newsletter, and state's Voter's Guide editor.**

Campbell raised the issue that we need a state *Voter's Guide* editor, a 2-3 month assignment. Diane Goldfarb may be able to find a member who could work in this capacity. Cheryl Haaker wants to get involved with the committee because of the web involvement.

Strategic Planning: Replacement pages were distributed for the Goals Visibility and Election Process. Determining current status and responsibility were the major action items.

Visibility, Strategy #3 – Using Advocacy to increase visibility was suggested as an immediate focus because of the upcoming Legislative Session. Suggestions that were put forth included:

- Press releases and pictures of members who go to Santa Fe to lobby legislators.
- Press release advertising League Day at the Legislature
- Send Fact Sheets about issues to legislators and have local presidents write letters to the editors of local papers to emphasize advocacy action of state League.
- All public relations should have one or two sentences that describe the League in the same way—branding.
- Publicity about voter registration and provide state League revenue sharing to local Leagues to help with purchase of advertisements.

Visibility, Strategy #1a – Internal changes to promote visibility – Form communications committee.

- Use local public relations committee, La Palabra editor, and web master to form committee. Lora Lucero volunteered to pull this group together. **Each local League president will send contact information about public relations directors to Lora.**
- **Kathy Campbell will work with Los Alamos public relations person to send newspaper for Northern New Mexico to Lora Lucero.**
- Editorial Boards of newspapers: It was suggested that public relations directors become familiar with the group and the person in charge and develop a relationship with them. Remember that the editorial boards are interested in issues and appreciate background information. Op Ed editors may be helpful in publishing articles about specific issues. Background information is helpful here, also.

Linda Moscarella and Kathy Campbell will work together to produce another draft of the Strategic Plan, which will be a continuing agenda item.

La Palabra: Today's deadline for the Winter issue will be extended for a few days to accommodate pending reports. The issue will be a 10-pages, and Bonnie Burn will be helping with it.

Next Scheduled Meetings:

- January 12th, Albuquerque, 10-3 p.m. **(Action: Diane Goldfarb needs to check on availability of clubhouse. Kathy Campbell will contact Joanne Ramponi about lunch.)**
- March 8th, NMT, Skeen Library, Socorro, 12:30-5:30 p.m. **(Action: Bonnie burn will follow up with NMT.)**

Announcements:

Education: Because the legislators are going to review the education formula, the state League's position review study is suspended.

Archives: Dick Mason volunteered to send out information about accessing the archives on-line at UNM

Future agenda items:

- Certificate of Deposit (maturity date is January 20)
- Fund Drive
- Strategic Plan

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Submitted by: Bonnie Burn, Secretary

Attachment:

- Coalition Guidelines



League of Women Voters of New Mexico

COALITION GUIDELINES

(Adopted November 17, 2007)

Mission: The League of Women Voters of New Mexico (LWVNM), a nonpartisan organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. *As a membership organization, collaborating and sharing power to effect change is part of the foundation of what makes our vision of democracy work.* In that spirit, the LWVNM shall seek to join and to participate actively in coalitions. So long as any advocacy or coalition partnerships are consistent with League principles, positions, and policies, the LWVNM shall consider its full participation in coalition-related activities according to the following guidelines.

Guidelines

1. Joining or withdrawing from a coalition shall be the decision of the LWVNM Board of Directors;
2. Participation is a temporary alliance that brings together organizations towards a limited and defined goal. *The goal may be long- or short-term;*
3. LWVNM shall join only coalitions that are nonpartisan;
4. *The aims of any coalition LWVNM joins must be to educate the public, to share, power, and to give input and to hold decision makers accountable*
5. The League shall join and participate in coalitions that are strictly limited to issue-related advocacy, education of the public, and/or facilitation;
6. An LWVNM member shall be approved by the full board as a designated representative to any coalition after the board has fully consented to join or participate in that coalition;
7. A board-designated coalition representative may serve in a leadership position in the coalition to which they have been approved;
8. (Deleted) The Board shall vote, with the explicit consent of the President, that the coalition designate be allowed to publicly speak only to the League-approved positions on the issue represented by coalition participation, and

(Replaced with) The coalition designate, with the explicit consent of the President, shall be allowed to publicly speak only to the League-approved positions on the issue represented by coalition participation; and

9. To ensure the full effectiveness of LWVNM participation in any coalition, the coalition representative must be available to do the required work within a coalition, to report (monthly changed to) *regularly* to the Board on coalition activity and actively to engage LWVNM membership in that coalition-related activity.

A FUNDRAISING POLICY FOR LWVNM

(Adopted September 15, 2007)

(Amended November 17, 2007)

The intent of this policy is to maximize the fundraising capabilities of all the Leagues in New Mexico.

The LWVNM's policy on soliciting contributions is as follows:

Local Leagues should solicit funding from individuals, businesses, corporations, civic and other groups who give financial support within their geographic boundaries. If any League feels there is an overriding need to go beyond their geographic boundaries, please inform the state Board and adhere to the relevant parts of the following policy:

1. All fundraising on behalf of LWVNM should be authorized by the Board of Directors.
2. *If any League is soliciting funds of \$1,000 or more from ANY foundation or corporate program located in New Mexico, report your plans to the President of the LWVNM.*
3. LWVNM will report to the local Leagues on fundraising solicitations made of New Mexico corporations and foundations.
4. Collaboration and cooperation among Leagues is encouraged. When planning major fundraising efforts, the local League and the state League should consider joint approached to foundations or corporate giving programs.

Before LWVNM approaches a corporate/business, civic, or other group located where there is a local League chapter, the local League president will be consulted.

League of Women Voters Albuquerque/Bernalillo County
Report to LWVNM November 17, 2007 – Diane Goldfarb, President

The October 2 Albuquerque Municipal Election involved election of four city councilors, ten bond issues and five amendments to the city charter. ABC published and distributed 20,000 copies of a *Voters Guide*, moderated four forums and spoke before several organizations before the election. We have found that we are able to reduce the number of guides printed since people are increasingly accessing the information from our website.

A salad luncheon for prospective members was held in mid-September and is expected to be an annual event. Membership renewal time for ABC was in October, and a new member handbook is in progress.

Terry Brunner, State Director for Senator Jeff Bingaman, was our August general meeting speaker. The September units were devoted to some excellent speakers on water issues in New Mexico, and the national consensus on immigration was the topic for our October and November units.

We are looking forward to a very busy calendar year end with program planning, a reception for city councilors and county commissioners, a lobbying workshop and a general meeting at which the new president of the University of New Mexico will speak.

League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces
Report to the Board – November 17, 2007 – Cathy Mathews, President

This fall LWVGLC was busy with program, voter services and other activities. On September 12, consensus on a Metro Court for Doña Ana County was reached at a general meeting and a position was approved at the October 1 Board Meeting. The Behavior Health Study Group is organized with goals of researching the services available in Doña Ana County and of identifying services that are needed.

The Election Process Study Group developed a voter satisfaction survey for use in the 2008 general election. On November 14, we conducted an Immigration Study consensus meeting. Volunteers conducted voter registration drives at various locations including the American Legion Auxiliary's Second Annual Women's Information fair (Sept. 2007). We held Candidates' Forums for the Las Cruces City council, mayor and municipal judge races and published a *Voter's Guide* for the Las Cruces City Election.

LWVGLC is part of a United Way of Las Cruces comprehensive social service and community database about agencies, programs and volunteer opportunities developed by Christina Little. In October, Johnnie Aldrich was guest speaker at Kiwanis International. On October 13, GLC League members staffed the KRWG public radio telethon.

**League of Women Voters of Las Alamos
Report to the Board – November 17, 2007 - Chris Chandler, President**

It has been a busy few months for the Los Alamos League. The League held its annual membership meeting on October 23, 2007. The speaker, Los Alamos County Transportation Director, Mike Davis, outlined county plans for implementation of a county run transit system. Davis discussed the structure of routes, schedules and long-term plans. Los Alamos County is working hard to create a public transit that will address community needs.

In November, we hosted a unit meeting on the Immigration Study presently underway through the League of Women Voters United States. Kathy Campbell, Becky Shankland and Barbara Calef summarized the briefing papers for members participating in the unit meeting and led the group through the consensus questions issued by National.

The local water study continues to move forward. The committee has been following the activities of the Jemez y Sangre Water Planning Council and attending State League unit meetings on the its water study. Committee members also participated in a New Mexico First forum sponsored by the Office to the State Engineer on the impact of climate change on the New Mexico water supply.

The Election Reform Committee has been focusing on developing a better understanding of Ethics and Campaign Reform. Members of the committee recently attended the second meeting of the Ethics Subcommittee of the Legislative Council. The Ethics Subcommittee heard recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on Ethics Reform. Those recommendations included the establishment of an ethics commission; campaign contribution limits; and voluntary public financing of campaigns and compensation for legislators.

The Los Alamos League and the American Association of University Women will be hosting the annual Legislative Preview forum on January 10 in advance of the 2008 legislative session.

**League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County
Report to LWVNM November 17, 2007 – Jody Larsen, President**

Santa Fe County League members enjoyed several activities over the late summer, including a July picnic featuring an update on municipal trails; an August Breakfast with a Leader with our police chief; and an elegant member recruitment reception at the Governor's Mansion, and a productive courtyard sale.

This fall our action and advocacy efforts have included successful support of the Santa Fe Community College Bond election and written and oral comments in support of moving proposed amendments to our Home Rule Charter to the March ballot. We will support at least some of the Charter amendments through editorials and fliers. We are also following highly contentious proposed oil drilling in the county, and will submit comments on a proposed county ordinance in December.

Our first units featured DWI from both law enforcement and health services perspectives. Our main focus has been on immigration, including units on local and national immigration-related issues. Our local study committee members led these as well as our national consensus general meeting in October. Our general meeting provided information and analysis of recent changes to state election laws.

Our Voter Services chair has guided the board in approving candidates' questions for our Voter Guide for the municipal election next March, and is working on explanations of the myriad issues on the ballot. We are also planning voter registration drives in advance of the election. Our Membership Committee has updated our member booklet, and our recently-revised Who's Who is available in print and at our website, <http://santafeco.nm.lwvnet.org>.