

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO
Electronic Board of Directors Meeting
July 10-19, 2009

Members present: Bonnie Burn, Barbara Calef, Katherine Campbell, Jennice Fishburn, Cheryl Haaker, Caroline Jackson, Lora Lucero, Dick Mason, Linda Moscarella, Vicki Simons

Others: Barbara Goedecke, Christina Little, Molly Seibel, Andrea Targhetta

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Katherine Campbell on Friday, July 10, 2009, by email to LWVNMJul09 listserv.

Approval of Agenda: The proposed agenda was accepted with the addition of one item, LWV 90th Anniversary.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of May 17, 2009, were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: An annotated treasurer's report for the period of May 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009, and an updated reimbursement request form were provided by Cheryl Haaker. In response to a question about donations received as a result of the Window of Opportunity donation letter sent in May, Haaker and Campbell reported that a total of \$310 has been received from six contributors so far.

Membership Report: Caroline Jackson, membership director, submitted a summary as follows: members at large, 19; LWVCNM, 349; LWVLA, 59; LWVSF, 161; and LWVGLC, 88.

Questions from board members included: How does our total of 676 today compare with the LWVNM membership last year, five years ago, 10 years ago, e.g., what is the general trend in terms of increasing or decreasing membership? How does the LWVNM membership total compare to other state Leagues of a similar size? Do we have specific numerical goals for increasing membership? Would there be a benefit in producing a single directory of LWVNM members to distribute to each member? Do we have new member recruitment materials that are available for distribution at the August 21st climate change forum? Discussion: Jackson will research the question about membership trends and comparisons. In terms of a member directory, issues discussed were 1) how quickly rosters are out of date; 2) whether or not to place the directory on the LWVNM website in a "members only" section; 3) if there is really a high demand for a statewide membership list; 4) individual League's policies related to privacy and list maintenance; and 5) the fact that LWVUS has the entire membership roll on a password protection section of their website.

Other: Lists of local League boards of directors were posted by Campbell as part of this board meeting's attachments.

President's Report: A watered down cap-and-trade bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives with the support of all three of New Mexico's representatives. Although it fails to meet many of the criteria that LWVUS set forth in its initial lobbying, LWVUS continues to support the cap-and-trade approach. In regard to the health care debate in Congress, LWVUS refuses to support the single payer option despite resolutions passed by several state conventions, including LWVNM's. However, LWVUS is now willing to take a position in support of the "public option", so LWVNM has sent letters to the editors of local and state newspapers and to the NM Congressional delegation reflecting that position. At the end of May, the LWV Education Fund, through its PAVP (Public Advocacy for Voter Protection) program, granted LWVNM \$1,000 to be used "for administrative support related to voter protection advocacy" in New Mexico. Support was also guaranteed for LWVNM's use of the Capwiz system that LWVUS uses to

allow members to send emails to their Congressional representatives in response to Action Alerts. Carolie Mullan, LWVUS liaison, responded to a question that had come up at the LWVNM convention as follows: when responding to LWVUS action alerts, you are responding as an individual, not as a representative at any level of League; LWVUS contacts League presidents separately and asks them to contact elected officials in the name of the League when appropriate. Other activities by the president included drafting a procedure for dealing with resolutions at Conventions, revising bylaws per Convention action, and sending letters with copies of the LWVNM “Voters’ Key” to approximately 80 donors to LWVUS who reside in New Mexico (names provided by the LWVUS “Window of Opportunity” program). The 90th anniversary of the League of Women Voters will provide an opportunity to raise the visibility of LWVNM in our state, as will the August climate change forum being organized by Lora Lucero.

New Business

Resolutions: After review of two documents sent by Campbell – a July 3, 2009 draft of a LWVNM procedure for dealing with resolutions at Convention, and background information from the LWVUS Ad Hoc Committee on Resolutions regarding LWVUS procedures – the board addressed this agenda item during the July 17th phone conference call that was held as part of this electronic meeting. Action: The draft LWVNM resolutions procedure was adopted unanimously without change (motion: Dick Mason; second, Meredith Machen).

Bylaws: Revised bylaws per the 2009 Convention and subsequent suggestions by Barbara Calef for editorial changes were provided to the board and discussed online, with action taken during the July 17th phone conference call. Action: The board accepted the proposed bylaws changes with the following editorial revision to Article XI, Section 3, b (second sentence): *Requests for emergency concurrence also may be initiated by local Leagues.*

Financial Policy Committee: LWVNM’s financial policy and procedures document (adopted 1/12/08) and fundraising policy (adopted 11/17/07) were reviewed by the board in light of several relevant directions to the board during the 2009 Convention. The primary focus for this meeting was on creating a financial policy committee and discussing if the fund raising component should be handled by a separate committee or be a defined function under the umbrella of the financial policy committee. It was understood that all the issues brought up at Convention could not be addressed at this single meeting and that the discussion would continue at the September board meeting. Action: During the conference call portion of this meeting, it was agreed that a “Finance Committee” would to be formed. Campbell and Haaker will represent the board, and Campbell will invite Adair Waldenberg, Eileen Longsworth, and Terry Quinn to join the committee. Information about the Finance Committee appear in the forthcoming *La Palabra* as part of the President’s Report, which will also encourage participation by other interested members. Further discussion of a possible fundraising committee will be continued at the September board meeting. Linda Moscarella expressed her willingness to serve on a fundraising committee.

PAVP Grant: Board members received a copy of the contract between the LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) and LWVNM (see President’s Report) that will enable the LWVNM to “undertake a program of state-based advocacy that aims to prevent the disenfranchisement of eligible citizens, particularly underserved populations such as minorities, the poor and the elderly.” There are five focus areas as part of this PAVP project, and the LWVNM received \$1,000 from the LWVEF to implement activities related to these areas. Further discussion of the PAVP project was placed on the agenda for the September 2009 board meeting.

Coalitions: The primary focus was review of the LWVNM Coalition Guidelines (adopted January 12, 2008). Discussion will continue at September board meeting, especially in terms of ways to amplify the League's voice. Mason suggested that the question of joining the America Votes coalition be placed under the PAVP discussion instead of the Coalitions agenda item. During the discussion period, board members were updated on current coalition involvement and future possibilities, provided they fall within the LWVNM's guidelines.

LWV 90th Birthday: The board preferred combining recognition of the LWV's 90th birthday with League Day at the Legislature (Jan. 26th), rather than have a separate event on the actual birthday, Feb. 14 (a Sunday). The Action Committee will work out arrangements with a focus on League Day and the previous day (Jan. 25-26), and the item will be discussed again at the September board meeting.

Water Study: The purpose of today's action was to approve the primary consensus questions submitted to the board by Calef. Other background materials, bulleted items, etc., are still being developed. Action: questions adopted as presented (motion, Mason; second, Machen).

Capwiz: Molly Seibel of LWVSF submitted a report on Capwiz, the software system mentioned in the President's Report, and shared encouraging information she had received from the Florida LWV regarding their use of Capwiz. Seibel expressed her willingness to coordinate a pilot project for LWVNM, and it was decided that she will develop a pilot project over the next month that will focus on the August climate change forum. Lora Lucero will assist with content-related input.

Summer *La Palabra*: A draft listing possible contents and authors was provided, and additional items were added during the board meeting discussion. Deadline for article submission is July 19, 2009.

Other Reports:

Action Committee: In regard to national issues, calls were generated on the energy bill that passed, and alerts were sent out in support of a public health care plan. In regard to state issues, League Day was set for Tuesday, January 26, 2010, the LWVCNM will conduct a lobbying training on December 5, 2009, and discussion of the LWV 90th birthday began. (Report submitted by Mason.)

Natural Resources: The primary focus has been on three items: 1) Tax Increment Development Districts (TIDDs); 2) the informal climate change coalition's activities focused on federal legislation; and 3) the climate change forum scheduled for August 21, 2009. Lora Lucero, LWVNM Natural Resources Director, is playing a key role in organizing the event. The forum, "Climate Change in New Mexico: Seizing the Opportunities," is funded in part by the LWV Education Fund, Oxfam of America, and the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club. It has changed from a half-day event to a full-day event, and they should be able to provide a catered lunch at a cost of \$10 per person. Lucero requested board approval to charge a \$20 registration fee that would include lunch. Action: Board unanimously approved charging a \$20 registration fee (motion, Lucero; second, Mason).

September Meeting Agenda: Moscarella submitted a draft agenda for the September board meeting, which will focus on strategic planning – goals and objectives, activities supporting those goals, administrative/institutional changes that could contribute to effectiveness in meeting the goals, and prioritizing of goals and objectives for the next two years. Haaker requested that the following topics also be discussed: Census 2010, redistricting, and the League's 90th birthday. During the board meeting PAVP was identified as a topic for the September meeting. The next board meeting will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., September 12, 2009, at the Manzano Multigenerational Center, 501 Elizabeth SE, Albuquerque.

Adjournment: The electronic board meeting was adjourned on July 20, 2009.

Submitted by:

Jennice Fishburn
Secretary

List of Electronic Attachments:

LWVNM board/committee reports

- Action
- Membership
- Natural Resources
- President
- Treasurer

LWVNM policies/procedures/guidelines

- Coalition guidelines
- Convention resolutions procedures (draft)
- Electronic meeting procedures (draft)
- Financial policies and procedures
- Fundraising policy

Other

- Agendas for 7/09 electronic board meeting and conference call
- Agenda for September board meeting (draft)
- Board minutes of 5/17/09
- Board contact information
- Board calendar 2009-2010
- Board member lists for CNM, GLC, LA, and SF
- Capwiz report
- LWVEF/LWVNM contract for PAVP funding
- LWVNM revised bylaws and suggested editorial changes
- LWVNM reimbursement form
- LWVNM proposed consensus questions for water study
- LWVUS Ad Hoc Resolutions Committee report
- LWVUS Council summary
- Summer *La Palabra*: draft contents and possible authors
- Summer *La Palabra*: submissions by Burn and Haaker