

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO
Board Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2013,
Socorro Public Library

Present: Barbara Calef, Chris Furlanetto, Diane Goldfarb, Cheryl Haaker, Lee Lockie, Meredith Machen, Dick Mason, Linda Moscarella, Andrea Targhetta, Carol Tucker Trelease, Judy Williams
Absent: Erika Graf-Webster, Donna Reynolds

President Machen called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed to approve the agenda with the addition of the topic of Reproductive Justice. The minutes of the board meeting of September 21, 2013 were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report Cheryl noted that Los Alamos has already paid its PMP. More income will appear as the other Leagues pay their PMP.

Membership and Leadership Development Linda Moscarella reminded the group that this mentorship program has national coaches, state coaches, and local coaches. Bonnie Burn and Linda Moscarella, who are each responsible for two local Leagues, do most of their coaching by telephone twice a month. The Las Cruces League had a retreat, which went well. Andrea reported that LWVCNM is active on Facebook, thanks to Karen Wentworth and Brenda McKenna. Brenda is also working closely with the media in the Albuquerque area. Meredith asked if Brenda might do some posting on the LWVNM Facebook page. Andrea reported that she Tweets, and Cheryl added that LWVNM information on Facebook also gets Tweeted. All of the local Leagues are using tips they learned from last summer's training, such as getting the names and contact information of event attendees and following up with them.

Action Dick reported the Lobbying Workshop will be held on December 7 at Sandia Preparatory School and that there is a lot of publicity taking place, so attendance should be good. LWVNM will do advocacy throughout the legislative session, so we need to start working on fact sheets. Meredith expressed concern that LWVNM does not have a specific position on ethics. Jo Porter and Kathy Campbell worked on ethics legislation in the past. (Meredith has been in touch with Fred Nathan of Think New Mexico regarding the possibility that they might push for an ethics commission again. He thinks such legislation will not pass if sponsored.) Dick reported that the New Mexico Municipal League is in favor of re-imposing the food and medical taxes on local levels to make up the loss of revenue generated by the "hold harmless" provision related to the Gross Receipts Tax on these items. The League opposes the imposition of these regressive taxes.

Communications and Outreach Articles for the Winter **La Palabra** are due on December 13, and most articles should be around 300 to 450 words. La Palabra is mostly distributed electronically and will come out right after the holidays. Print copies will be mailed by the end of December. Diane will write an article on the Respect ABQ Women Campaign. Dick will do the lead article on League priorities for the upcoming legislative session which focuses on financial/budget issues, including some financial issues that LWVNM will support and oppose. (Jason Harper from Rio Rancho is very sharp on fiscal issues and is a fiscal conservative. He is working closely with very liberal Bill McCamley of Las Cruces.) Meredith may write an article on marriage equality, especially if the Supreme Court has made its decision by that time. She has also asked Bonnie Burn to do an article on education since LWVGLC has such an active Education Committee. Jan Bray and Shelly Shepherd have written a general article on the Mental Health Services Study. Dick said he would write an article regarding the Affordable Care Act that “It’s a marathon, not a sprint.” Currently the deadline to apply has been extended to March 31, 2014, and it will probably be extended further. Young people tend to wait until the last minute to sign on. Dick is on the design team for the NM Health Insurance Exchange. Judy Williams will send out what she has developed for Position Review and Updating. Dick suggested that her La Palabra article might ask for people who have participated in study committees in the past to come forward.

Website --Cheryl reported on what still needs work. The current Program page only has five studies, so we need to make it more comprehensive. Cheryl doesn’t have anything yet from the Mental Health Services Study Committee. She has put up new information on the Activities page, and she does have LWVNM board minutes all the way back to 2007. Cheryl wants to add images to the website and keep it fresh.

Constant Contact--We will be sending out messages about the Legislative Reception on January 27 and League Day at the Legislature on January 28. Judy Williams agreed to send out these blasts if someone else writes them. Meredith and Dick will work on them. One reminder should be sent out around December 9; another one should be sent just after the first of the year; and the last one should go out just before League Day. Each message will link to the flier with the detail on the panelists for the Legislative Reception and for League Day. The Board decided that the Reception topic will be Tax Fairness. Meredith will contact Sen. Peter Wirth to see if we are able to get him since it is still early in the session. Bill Jordan, the Executive Director of New Mexico Voices for Children, will definitely participate. On League Day at the Legislature, Viki Harrison, Executive Director of Common Cause, will talk about voting, campaign finance, and ethics. Linda Siegle, lobbyist for several organizations, will speak about the behavioral health crisis. Constant Contact messages will also

include the information about the special hotel rate of \$59.00 per night and free parking, if one uses the term “Swing Vote” and makes reservations by December 27.

Reports

Reproductive Choice Diane reported on the Respect ABQ Women campaign. Diane is very glad that LWVNM joined the Coalition for Choice even though we sometimes lose members when we participate in such efforts. In the 1980’s, Diane was the Chair of the Board of the YWCA, which became part of the New Mexico Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights. The CNM and SFC Leagues have participated in Respect ABQ Women phone banks. Diane reported that the leaders of the Respect ABQ Women campaign are young and energetic but are not keeping us well informed. Judy Binder wrote a letter to the editor of the Albuquerque Journal about the Respect ABQ Women campaign on behalf of Julia White, under whose name it was published. Perhaps it would have been better if Andrea or Meredith had written the letter to the editor, but they found out about it after the fact. Mega-churches in the Albuquerque area as well as the Roman Catholic Church oppose abortion rights. We may see an attempt to ban abortion in Valencia County, but this effort is relatively meaningless since there is no abortion clinic there.

Natural Resources Lee Lockie has studied the Natural Resources positions of several state Leagues. Lee favors using Utah’s for concurrence as well as LWVUS’s position. She has found the website of the Utton Center at University of New Mexico particularly useful in addressing water quality and land use issues. Discussion ensued on how LWVNM might create a Natural Resources position through concurrence with statements in various states’ positions. Linda suggested that Lee contact Cheryl Graeve at LWVUS regarding concurrence with several Leagues. If Cheryl doesn’t have an answer, she will know the person we should contact. Lee plans to attend the Water Resources Coalition conference in Albuquerque next week. She also recommended an article in a recent Audubon magazine by Beth Bardwell. Lee said we need to include multi-regional planning, and we need to address environmental impacts.

LWVCNM Andrea reported on several items. She mentioned the meeting on climate change, in which Lora Lucero showed a graph indicating the acceleration as a “hockey stick” and a UNM graduate student reported on air pollutants. LWVCNM hosted a reception for City Council members, County Commissioners, and the Mayor. About seventy people attended.

LWVLA Barbara mentioned that the LWVLA had Lunch with a Leader with the head of the Charter Review Committee, which has focused on utilities. In October, they

had two consensus meetings: one on land use and one on alcohol. Their next Lunch with a Leader will be to discuss Common Core.

LWVSFC Chris Furlanetto gave the report for Donna Reynolds. The topic of their lunch meeting on October 22 was infant mental health and the impact of interventions, including therapy and counseling for infants and their parents. Their speakers were Jane Clarke, co-director of the Santa Fe County Infant Mental Health Team and Kathleen Benecke, a therapist and founder of the Community Infant program. They told attendees about the Santa Fe County Infant Mental Health Team, which is a collaborative demonstration program addressing the needs of babies and young children in protective custody. On November 12, LWVSFCC sponsored a public forum on the implementation of the ACA in New Mexico. The expert panel included J. R. Damron, M.D., Chair of the NM Health Insurance Exchange; Dorianne Mason, staff attorney with the NM Center on Law and Poverty; and Justina Trott, M.D., senior fellow and co-director of Women's Health Policy at the Robert Wood Johnson Center for Health Policy at UNM. Former NM Senator Dede Feldman moderated the panel. Attendees came away with a much clearer understanding of the law itself and progress to date on its implementation. Lynn Gary is coordinating voter registration in local high schools in preparation for the Santa Fe municipal elections. To date, they have sent teams into three schools: St. Michael's, Capital High School, and Santa Fe Prep. Lynn scheduled the sessions through senior government teachers who graciously allowed League members to come into their classrooms for a class period. (Approximately 80-90 percent of the seniors registered to vote this way—many more than through the assembly method.) Class presentations included information about LWV, the history and importance of voting, and the process for becoming a youth poll worker. Teams included League members, non-members who had experience in the election process, and representatives of the County Clerk's office. Santa Fe voters will be asked to vote on several amendments to the city charter next March. Several policy statements will be on the ballot. And, it appears that voters will also decide whether to change the structure of city government, specifically to make the mayor's position full-time with additional powers. Details of the so-called 'strong mayor' amendments are still being worked out. LWVSFC has weighed in on elements of all proposed amendments where they have a relevant position. The Santa Fe County Commission is in the final stage of public hearings before a December vote to adopt a Sustainable Land Development Code that will implement the Sustainable Growth Management Plan adopted three years ago. LWVSFC has actively participated in hearings and continues to advocate for the adoption of the code. On a lighter note, a group of LWVSFC members toured the Santa Fe film studios on October 15. Also, LWVSFC will hold its first book club meeting on November 21.

Meredith talked about the legislative reception, which will be on Monday evening, January 27, 2014 at 5:30 at Garrett's Desert Inn, 311 Old Santa Fe Trail. Board members will be asked to bring food. About 75 people attend last year. LWVNM will have a gathering on May 17 tentatively scheduled at the Hilton Hotel in Santa Fe. All board members will be expected to attend. The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. and run until 2:00 p.m. Cost will be about \$25.00 per person. Topics and speakers were solicited. One possibility is Paula Tackett, former head of the Legislative Council Service, talking about making the legislature more efficient.

Announcements, Initiatives, or Other Business

KSFR radio in Santa Fe recently had Jan Bray on a program discussing the alcohol study. It would be good if she could also get on a program on KUNM radio in Albuquerque). There was a press release at one point about the alcohol study. Linda suggested that in addition to the "What does the League of Women Voters do" statements there could be a section on "What can YOU do?" since being a citizen activist is so important.

There was a motion, which was seconded and unanimously passed, to adjourn the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Tucker Trelease, Secretary, November 27, 2013
