

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO
Board Meeting Minutes
April 5, 2014

Montezuma Lodge, 431 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe

Present: Barbara Calef, Cheryl Haaker, Lee Lockie, Meredith Machen, Dick Mason, Linda Moscarella, Donna Reynolds, Andrea Targhetta, Carol Tucker Trelease,
Absent: Diane Goldfarb and Erika Graf-Webster
Guests: Jan Bray and Olin Bray (Alcohol Study), Adair Waldenberg (Budget Committee Chair)

President Machen called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the agenda, amended to spend more time on the budget. Minutes of the January meeting were approved as edited by Meredith Machen and Barbara Calef. Donna Reynolds abstained from voting on the minutes.

President's Report: Meredith reported that she had been working on a number of Education Committee items since the Legislative Session, especially privatization issues. She also mentioned that Bonnie Burn is facing serious health challenges and would no longer be able to do *La Palabra*.

Treasurer's Report: Cheryl reported that very little had changed regarding finances. She requested that reimbursement requests be sent in. She reported that we are paying out more in PMP to national than we are receiving. Cheryl wondered if perhaps she was not receiving all of the checks and credit card information. Donna asked if we have student memberships, and Cheryl responded in the affirmative.

Membership and Leadership Development: Linda reported that there is no written report because not much is happening at this time. Andrea mentioned that the national NOW conference that is being held in Albuquerque this summer could be included in Membership and Leadership Development.

Program Report: Judy said that she has been working on the history of League positions, and that it is challenging. The report will end up being long and interesting. She was looking at the Judiciary position, which is archaic and needs to be updated. Mary Henry-Smith was going to chair the update committee, but she backed out. Judy had hoped that Merri Rudd would help, but then Merri's mother died, which took her out of commission, at least for a while. Judy suggested checking the archives to see if there is anything useful there. Judy will examine our Juvenile Concerns position for statements that are directed at youth but could also be directed at adults, and she will make a specific proposal.

Alcohol Position Adoption: Jan reported that the Study Committee met with all the Leagues to obtain consensus, and she presented the proposed position reflecting areas of agreement. Enforcing hours of serving alcohol, raising the price of alcohol, and having good treatment programs for people who abuse alcohol are all important factors in reducing alcohol abuse. Much discussion ensued about the role of parents in allowing underage drinking. Dick noted that other countries, such as France and Italy, have alcohol as a regular part of the culture, and there

is little abuse. Barbara noted that some states allow wine to be served to people under twenty-one in some circumstances. Jan reported that the real targets are adults who let their children drink irresponsibly. Dick moved that we accept the position with the exception that parents take responsibility for the drinking of their minor children. Andrea seconded. The position was approved. Because of the Alcohol position, we need to revise our State Finance position. “The tax system in New Mexico should be progressive.” Barbara moved to make an exception for a regressive tax when there is a socially desirable objective, Linda seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mental Health Services Study: Shelly Shepherd and Jan Bray have been working very hard with many members in Albuquerque to do a good job studying mental health care services. Jan invited the Board to attend the LWVCNM lunch meeting on April 10 in Albuquerque, where Senator Jerry Ortiz y Pino, an expert on mental health, will be speaking.

Natural Resources Position Concurrence: Judy, Lee, and Barbara have worked hard to develop an excellent draft Natural Resources position for presentation at Council and for consideration by the local Leagues. The second sentence “The League supports the principle that environmental and social costs of resource development should be borne by the ultimate consumer” is controversial. Though this is part of the current national League position, several Board members asserted that any environmental degradation costs should be borne by the organization that did the degradation. Barbara and Lee will come up with some alternate wording for the controversial statement.

Budget FY2015 Proposal: Adair Waldenberg presented the proposed LWVNM budget on behalf of the Budget Committee, which includes Cheryl Haaker, Erika Graf-Webster, and Rosmarie Frederickson. Adair said that doing the budget was a challenge because there is less revenue due to declining numbers of members and increased PMP. Keeping membership lists accurate is vital. When someone dies, we need to inform LWVUS so that name can be removed from the list. If we want more of a budget, we need to maintain, or preferably, increase, membership, and we need to consider fundraising at the state level. Newsletter printing and postage are very expensive, so we can reduce costs by sending *La Palabra* via email. We will need to be careful in budgeting for the Legislative Reception. The proposed budget deficit is \$632.50. If we send fewer than three people to Convention, we will save money. Cheryl reports that the Ed Fund is tapped out, so we can’t keep taking from the Ed Fund to balance accounts. Dick moved and Carol seconded that the budget be approved. The motion passed.

Bylaws Change Proposal: Barbara offered the bold, underlined language to the bylaws sections below. Donna moved and Andrea seconded that the changes be accepted. The changes were unanimously approved.

Article XI. Section 3. Program Action

c. After the LWVNM board approves a new or amended position for inclusion in the program, it becomes the 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 in ARTICLE XIV.

Article XIV. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any Convention by a two-thirds vote provided that the proposed amendment was submitted to the state board at least ~~two months~~ **ten weeks** prior to the Convention by a local League board, state MAL unit or has been proposed by the state board. The state board shall send all such proposed amendments together with the recommendations of the board to the membership at least 30 days prior to the Convention.

Program Adoption: The proposal for LWVUS to study Campaign Finance was submitted as our top priority in March. While we had already voted for this proposal through email, it was formally moved, seconded, and unanimously approved at this meeting.

LWVUS Convention, Dallas, June 6-10: Meredith asked for the names of delegates. She is attending. Lee would like to attend also as an LWVNM delegate. Erika Graf-Webster and Roberta Gran are the Las Cruces delegates. Donna Reynolds is attending from Santa Fe. Barbara Calef and Becky Shankland are representing Los Alamos. Andrea Targhetta, Marilyn Fifield, and Karen Driscoll are the LWVCNM delegates.

Website Update and Help Needed: Cheryl said we need to add more information on our website. We should also post more information on Facebook. Cheryl said she just needs to sit down and input information onto the website. People tend not to send her information. Cheryl can get information from *La Palabra*. She can also include draft positions.

Communications: Judy requested that we consolidate the lists on Constant Contact as we have too many currently. Each League needs to keep its own lists updated.

Reports and Discussion:

LWVNM Council: Council will be held on May 17 at the Santa Fe Hilton. Cost will be \$22.00 per person. It will begin at 11:00 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. and will end by 3:00 p.m. Former Senator Dede Feldman was selected as the possible speaker. Dick will contact Dede. There will be reports about Natural Resources, Alcohol, and Mental Health. Send checks to the Santa Fe League office, 1472 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe 87505 by May 7.

Action: The Legislative Reception and League Day will be held on February 9 and 10, a week later in the session, so that more bills will have been introduced. Dick reported that the NM Health Insurance Exchange is up and running. As a member of the design team, Dick has been working with Project Vote regarding voter registration requirements for people using NMHIX. The Election Administration has asked the League to hold candidate forums for Secretary of State, Attorney General, Auditor, and Treasurer in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Las Cruces soon after the Primary. Board members suggested that KNME be asked to host and broadcast the Albuquerque forum.

Local League Reports: *LWVSFC*- Donna reported on the Santa Fe Municipal Election, including the League's work on the charter amendments, candidate forums, and the need for more guidelines for public financing. As part of an effort to recruit professional women to

mentor students in Santa Fe Public Schools, LWVSFC hosted a breakfast to celebrate Women's History Month. LWVSFC Education Committee members are investigating SFPS's contract with a Florida company to provide a credit recovery program for dropouts. *LWVCNM*- Andrea reported that LWVCNM held a candidate forum in Corrales, with nearly 80 people in attendance, and a gubernatorial forum held in Albuquerque, with about 300 people in attendance. A new and prospective member orientation session was held on the west side of Albuquerque one evening. Four new people signed up to join the League. Another four people expressed interest in joining. The national NOW convention will be held in Albuquerque at the end of June. Marilyn Fifield from Albuquerque plans to attend. If LWVUS will provide us with \$350, we (all NM Leagues) could put our literature there. *LWVLA*- Barbara reported that two evenings were devoted to the national agriculture study. They are planning to combine Lunch with a Leader with the Annual Meeting. They will also host a pre-primary candidate forum for eleven candidates.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next regular meeting is July 19, from 11:00-3:00 in Albuquerque, but there will be a short meeting after Council on May 17.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Tucker Trelease, Secretary
Edited by Meredith Machen and Barbara Calef
Approved 5/17/14