

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO
Board Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2014

North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center, Albuquerque

Present: Diane Goldfarb, Erika Graf-Webster, Cheryl Haaker, Lee Lockie, Meredith Machen, Dick Mason, Linda Moscarella, , Andrea Targhetta, Carol Tucker Trelease, Judy Williams

Absent: Barbara Calef, Donna Reynolds

Guest: Ardyth Norem (LWVGLC)

President Machen called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. The agenda was approved unanimously. Minutes of the Council meeting on May 17, 2014 were approved unanimously.

President's Report: Meredith discussed the decisions and proceedings at Convention and the issue of declining memberships and lack of diversity among the League members who attended. With increasing partisanship, we need to promote the many reasons to be part of the League. For some, it's education, and for others it's advocacy. We need to get younger people involved, but few young professionals can spend the dollars and the time from their families and work it takes to attend League Conventions. Voter Guide work is consuming a great deal of Meredith's time now. She will be contacting candidates for requests for responses to the questions we select today and requests for photos and summarizing Constitutional amendments and other ballot issues. She has been in touch with Denise Lamb, former Santa Fe County Director of Elections, discussing the problem with voter registrations at MVD and the Secretary of State's banning of our Voter Guides from polling places in the 2012 election.

Treasurer's Report: Cheryl reported that we are at the time of year when we are spending. Income will come later in the year. Financial matters are on track. The Ed Fund remains with a balance of \$612.71. Cheryl also presented a detailed report on *La Palabra* expenses over the years. We continue to work to lower postage costs. Paper copies of *La Palabra* are provided to people who want and need them, but we now we must provide electronic copies to more and more people because of the expenses. The Johanson Fund has given LWVNM \$2,000 for voter education and conservation, thanks to Lee who is responsible for this fund established by her uncle. Now that we can defray some of our Voter Guide expenses with this gift, we will be able to send out more paper copies to those who don't have email.

Membership and Leadership Development:

Linda reported that Diane had agreed to serve as Membership and Leadership Development State Coach, replacing Bonnie Burn, who resigned due to illness. MAL memberships are now from May 1 to April 30. Linda and other coaches and presidents talk monthly with our national coach. LWVUS sends good materials, and there is an open flow of information. She also reported that Susan Wilson is no longer the LWVUS Board Liaison to LWVNM. LWVSFC telephones its members to get information. LWVGLC developed a survey and sent it by mail (including a stamped return envelope) to get information from members. Andrea mentioned that the national NOW conference that was held in Albuquerque in June was an important Membership and Leadership Development activity for LWVCNM and for LWVUS.

Election Issues/Voter Guide Questions:

The Board discussed all of the questions that the Voter Guide Committee recommended and selected the ones that will be used. The Board modified some of them.

Dick stays in touch with Viki Harrison of Common Cause, whose organization works effectively on election issues in New Mexico.

La Palabra:

We hope to do a better job of using Constant Contact to assure easier access to *La Palabra* and reduce costs. We need to cull our snail lists ASAP before the early August mailing. Lynn Jones will send the current lists to the Board for edits. Meredith will do the President's Report and an article on the Voter Guides. Dick will do an article on the candidate forums. Lee will write something on the Natural Resources Concurrence, and there will be reports from local leagues. Dick and Meredith will write about the Legislative Reception, February 9, and League Day, February 10 in Santa Fe. Miriam Ries will be doing the layout of the articles after Meredith and Barbara edit them. She will also mail out the paper copies.

Program Report: Judy also said that she has been working on the history of League positions, and that the report will end up uneven, but it is 39 pages of interesting and useful information. Judy has been looking for someone to work on an update of the Judiciary position, which is archaic. Dick suggested that a note be placed in *La Palabra*, seeking help in making the update. Juvenile Concerns: Judy has asked Mary Ellen Gonzales for assistance. She has also asked Shelly Shepherd to look at this. Meredith will look at the state position on Education so see if anything should be changed. We can use national position statements to advocate on early childhood issues and the privatization position to speak out on charter schools.

Meredith pointed to the new process for creating positions through concurrence and thanked Barbara for making it clearer and easier to understand.

Website: Cheryl said that if anyone finds problems with our website, just let her know, and she will try to fix the problem. She has done some of the needed updates, but there are so many pages involved that it is almost an impossible task. She asked the Board if they notice errors and omissions to send her the URL for the exact page that needs updating along with proposed language.

Action: Dick gave a brief report on Candidate Forums, based on his written report. He also discussed how LWVCNM provided volunteer coverage at the recent national NOW conference in Albuquerque. We had a table with League materials, and 89 people from 22 states signed up to get more information on the League. Dick reported that League Day will focus on education. Rep. Mimi Stewart, head of House Ed. Committee and a retired, but active, elementary teacher, will be asked to present along with Rep. Dennis Roch, a school superintendent in Quay County. Mimi is liberal and Dennis is conservative, and they work well together. Meredith mentioned that we may also ask the head of LESC or other education experts to attend. She also reported that she had negotiated a contract with Garrett's Desert Inn, whereby the hotel will provide the conference room where we'll host the February 9 Legislative reception, for free if we book twenty hotel rooms.

Local League Reports and Program Reports:

LWVCNM-Andrea reported that CNM hosted seven Iraqi government officials. They were touring to learn about transparency in our government. The most recent luncheon speaker was Tobi Ives, from the New Mexico Film Office. CNM is partnering with ACLU-NM and several other community organizations on a project called APD Forward, monitoring our police department. Andrea said that CNM had hosted a panel discussion in Albuquerque on charter schools and privatization and thanked Meredith for being a panelist and Dick for being the moderator. Meredith complimented CNM members for organizing the forum on such an important issue and for getting good attendance.

LWVGLC-Among other topics, Erika reported that GLC has been involved in a minimum wage discussion. Some want to raise it to \$8.10. CAFe launched a petition drive and got 6,000 signatures to raise it to \$10.00. The matter will be voted on later this year. Former State Senator Steve Fischmann spoke to LWVGLC on predatory lending. LWVGLC is planning Voter Services activities for fall. In addition to Candidate Forums, they are partnering with other entities in putting on a "Voter Registration Fair" on September 20, where there will be live music and free food.

LWVSFC- Judy reported that SFC has been busy with a program helping to educate members on some of options for the San Juan Generating Plant that may provide better outcomes than the state plan being proposed. In August, Denise Lamb, former Santa Fe County Director of Elections, and Geraldine Salazar, the current SF County Clerk, will provide a General Election update, discussing voter issues. The Action & Advocacy Committee has been active, particularly on a proposed mining operation on La Bajada. The League is a vigorous opponent. LWVSFC is also trying to increase high school graduation rates and promote transparency in the city administration.

LWVLA-The Board used the written report Barbara sent in as a way to find out about LA's activities.

Mental Health Services Study- Shelly Shepherd and Jan Bray have a very active committee and are generating a lot of interest as they study mental health care services.

Natural Resources Position Concurrence-Lee said that the discussions of the proposed position with two of the local Leagues have gone well, and the last two will happen soon. Members have been pleased to see the comprehensiveness of the proposed position and see how it could be very useful for advocacy efforts.

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Meredith asked for any agenda items for the next LWVNM Board meeting, which will be at the Pasatiempo Senior Center in Santa Fe on September 20, beginning at 11:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Tucker Trelease, Secretary
Edited by Meredith Machen. Approved with corrections (made here), 9/20/14