

**Minutes of the LWVLA Board Meeting  
Thursday, April 28, 2016  
Mesa Public Library, Los Alamos, NM**

**Call to Order**

Barbara Calef called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. Barbara is leading the April meeting as the last meeting as President and is transitioning to Wendee.

**Board Members Present:**

Barbara Calef, Outgoing President  
Wendee Brunish, Incoming President  
Becky Shankland, Second Vice President  
Tarin Nix, Membership  
Kathy Taylor, Incoming Treasurer

Rosmarie Frederickson, Outgoing Treasurer  
Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader  
Julie Williams-Hill, Outgoing Secretary  
Akkana Peck, Director-at-Large

**Minutes**

Minutes for the March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting were approved with corrections.

**Treasurer Report**

Rosmarie reported that the balance for the checking account as of April 28, 2016 was \$7,952.84. This includes incoming receipts in the amount of \$2,896 and outgoing expenses in the amount of \$224. Incoming receipts include \$300 for NM Council registration, \$1,795 in dues, \$630 in member donations, \$25 in non-member donations, and \$146 from the silent auction. Outgoing expenses include reimbursements in the amount of \$49 to Rosmarie for fundraising, \$30 to Barbara for a phone card, \$55 to Karyl Ann for lunch with a leader, and payment to the Daily Post for a Legislative Preview advertisement.

The savings account remains unchanged with a balance of \$2,144.97. As of April 28, the Ed Fund balance increased to \$19,829.32 from \$19,589.64 on April 1. This includes fundraising donations in the amount of \$600, less reimbursement in the amount of \$360.32 for the Legislative Preview.

**Fund Drive: Letter to businesses**

Barbara indicated that she provided Wendee sample fund raising letters that were sent to businesses two years ago. In the past, the League would send letters and then follow up with a meeting, which was very effective. Wendee is very experienced in fund raising and has some ideas for how to do it.

**Non-Partisan Policy**

Barbara asked if there were any changes to the proposed non-partisan policy. Wendee suggested changing the word, “ “agreement” to “consensus” in the last sentence of the first paragraph:

“The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate; it is political in that it takes positions on selected governmental issues, which is done only after members study and reach ~~agreement~~ consensus on the topic.”

While not present at the meeting, Jody had asked previously if there would be a conflict with the non-partisan policy if she supports a candidate as the Sierra Club president, for candidates that meet the

Sierra Club criteria? The group did not feel it was an issue. Tarin moved that the non-partisan policy be approved with Wendee's suggested change. Becky seconded the motion. The policy passed unanimously.

### **Lunch with a Leader**

Karyl Ann confirmed that Meredith Machen is scheduled to speak at the May 17 Lunch with a Leader. Los Alamos County's Tamara Baer will be the speaker for June. She will discuss the status of the County Comprehensive Plan. Barbara requested that Karyl Ann reach out to the Tewa Women United to speak at a future Lunch with a Leader event.

### **Membership Report**

Tarin reported that the Los Alamos League is 20 members short on its membership roster. She will send an email reminder. Barbara noted that Richard Sayre recently joined but does not show up on the State or the local LWV membership list. Tarin will look into this. Becky reminded Tarin to forward the email addresses for all new members to both Becky and Karyl Ann.

Barbara also mentioned that there is a monthly conference phone call with a coach from LWVNM, called Membership and Leadership Development or MLD. The coach was Diane Goldfarb. While Diane has quit the LWVUS MLD program, she recently coordinated with the Santa Fe LWV President, Judy Williams, and Los Alamos LWV to discuss ways to boost membership. Suzanne Schmidt will be the new Santa Fe president. She is interested in continuing this joint coordination with Los Alamos.

A side note, Sharon Stover called Barbara to ask if she could receive a list of the LWV members. Barbara sent the names of members to Sharon.

### **Voter Registration May 3, 5 at the high school: Volunteers?**

Barbara is looking for volunteers to assist with high school voter registration. She needs at least two people on May 3 and May 5. Tarin, Karyl Ann and Barbara will cover Tuesday and Karyl Ann and Barbara will cover Thursday. Meet in the parking lot at 11 a.m. The school will provide table and chairs.

### **Website: Put board minutes on board page**

Barbara spoke with Barbara Lemmick after the annual meeting about where to post the meeting minutes on the local LWV website. It was suggested that the minutes should be posted on the same page as upcoming board meetings. Julie needs to follow up with Barbara Lemmick on this. It was also suggested that "voting rights" and the national LWV position should also be added to the webpage. Tarin will determine which positions should be added.

### **Follow-up on discussion of election and representation information**

Barbara asked if any action was required to enable people to find information about their representatives. Akkana said that she is always trying to improve the state website to make it easier to find out who one's elected officials are. Meanwhile, the County Clerk's site is sufficient for election information.

### **Follow-up on directions to the board**

At the Annual Meeting in April, Ed Birnbaum raised the question of the UNM-LA bylaws as they relate to filling unexpected vacancies on its board. Barbara spoke to Linda Hull and obtained a copy of the by-laws. It appears that the by-laws do address the matter, allowing the Board flexibility to fill the vacancy. There does not appear to be further action on this item.

**State League Council: PR, food, tour**

May 21<sup>st</sup> is the State League Council meeting. Lunch will be provided for those who register. Becky and Rosmarie are our local LWV delegates. There will also be a tour of the New Mexico Consortium at 11 a.m. Barbara is waiting to see who registers for the Council meeting. She will send an invite for the tour to registered individuals. Yvonne Flores is the speaker during lunch. She will discuss immigration. The State council meeting will follow Yvonne's talk and conclude by 2:30 p.m.

**Candidate Forum May 12: PR, food**

Jody will take care of public relations efforts for the May 12 forum. Anne Nobile will bring cookies. Barbara asked if a friendly reminder could be sent requesting additional volunteers to bring food to the event. Information about the forum needs to be corrected on the website and perhaps added to Facebook. There are four Democratic candidates running to be the Democratic nominees for three county council seats; three Democratic nominees are running to be the Democratic nominee for district attorney; and two Republican candidates are running to be the Republican nominee for the U.S. Congressional seat for district 3. However, Michael Lucero, one of Republican candidates, has not responded. As such, Michael Romero (the other candidate) will only be able to make opening remarks and will not be able to respond to questions. Lynn Jones contacted Bill McKerley, Chair of the Los Alamos Republican Party to ask how we could encourage Michael Lucero to participate in the forum. Bill indicated that if Lucero doesn't respond to let Bill know. Becky will follow up with Bill, since Lynn is out of the state.

Barbara will contact the participants one week before to remind them of the forum. Three students from the Hill Talkers will assist with time keeping.

**Thank you-note party May 10 at Kyle's**

Reminder that Kyle Wheeler is hosting the thank you-note party on May 10 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Barbara requested that a friendly reminder be sent.

**Request for contributions from businesses**

This item was discussed under the "Fund Drive" heading above.

**Louise White's files**

Barbara is in possession of these files. She will keep all with the exception of the mimeograph instructions. Louise's files will be sent to archives. Reminder that there is a memorial for Louise on May 14 at the Pajarito Environmental Education Center at 4:30 p.m.

**Questions for DPU?**

Barbara asked about the questions raised by George Chandler in some letters to the editor as they relate to water rules. Julie stated that the Board of Public Utilities formed a subcommittee to look into the issues raised by George. The subcommittee reported to the Board at the April meeting with a recommendation that the rule remain unchanged - the homeowner takes responsibility of the water line at the point that it crosses the property line. However, no motion was made to the Board to take action or no action on the recommendations. The BPU Chair asked the subcommittee to bring the item back in May with a motion.

Another question related a comment made at a BPU meeting by Tim Glasco regarding water rights and the Department of Energy. This appeared to be resolved. Barbara asked Julie to look into this.

**Next Meeting**

The next LWV Board meeting is May 26.

**Next Newsletter Deadline**

Wendee requested that all articles for the newsletter be submitted by May 25.

**Adjourned**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

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**LWVLA Nonpartisan Policy (2009, 2016)**

The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos, a nonpartisan political 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. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate; it is political in that it takes positions on selected governmental issues, which is done only after members study and reach consensus on the topic.

The nonpartisan policy has proved to be very important to maintain the credibility and effectiveness of the League and should be guarded carefully. It is important that both League members and the public understand this policy.

**A. Nonpartisan Policy Concerning All League Members**

The League, by promoting active citizen participation in government and the political process, encourages individual members to support the party and candidates of their choice.

No member shall undertake any activity that may constitute a public statement of partisanship attributable to the League.

All members, including Board members, may engage in the following activities: signing nominating petitions, serving as election officials, serving as clerical volunteers for candidates for office.

**B. Nonpartisan Policy as Applied to High Visibility Board Members**

Board members holding a position of high public visibility shall limit their partisan participation to attendance at partisan functions for the purpose of becoming informed about candidates and issues. The President and the Voter Service Chair, and other members who, in the opinion of the Board, hold high visibility positions will be restricted by this provision.

**C. Nonpartisan Policy as Applied to Low Visibility Board Members**

Board members holding positions of low visibility shall choose very carefully any partisan activities in which they intend to participate and keep foremost in mind the nonpartisan position of the League. Members with low visibility positions may contribute to campaigns or parties, work behind the scenes for a party or a candidate or in a campaign office, attend political functions, be a precinct committee person, serve on election boards and be poll watchers.

Board Members and Committee Chairs who desire to become more active in a political campaign or partisan political party other than mentioned above shall seek the advice and consent of the Board as to

whether the following activities would affect the community's perception of the League's nonpartisanship and whether to require that member's resignation from the Board:

- a. signing advertisements or other published partisan materials,
- b. making public appearances on behalf of candidates or parties,
- c. serving as campaign manager, treasurer, or in a similar position.

Members may serve on governmental commissions at their own discretion. If the member is serving as an official League representative, the appointee must be fully aware of League positions as they relate to the commission's responsibilities.

#### ***E. Notification of Partisan Activity***

Any Board member or Committee Chair shall promptly inform the President if he or she declares for elective office or determines to undertake partisan activities that may be inconsistent with the nonpartisan policy of the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos.

The Board shall determine whether resignation from the position is appropriate, and, if so, when the resignation shall be accepted. Any public statement regarding the resignation shall be made by the President, not the resigning member, and shall avoid the appearance of endorsing the resigning member's partisan activities.

Any candidate for elective office who continues his/her Board membership must not use his/her Board position in campaign appearances or literature. Candidates for public office should not participate in the planning of League Voter Service activities.

#### ***F. Monetary Contributions***

The Board must approve any monetary contributions from the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos to other organizations, coalitions, or special projects or activities.

~~No Board member should solicit both political and League contributions from the same individual or organization within a single 24-month period.~~

#### ***G. League Roster***

The League membership roster is not to be made available for non-League use without Board approval.

#### ***H. Political Activities of a Spouse or Relative***

The political activities of a spouse or household member of a Board member or Committee Chair shall be considered separate and distinct from the activities of the member.

#### ***I. Review***

Political activity by a Board member not addressed by these guidelines will be reviewed by the Board as situations require.

This policy shall be reviewed and adopted annually by the board of the League of Women Voters of Los Alamos.