

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO

Board Meeting Minutes Highland Center, Albuquerque July 20, 2013

Present: Erika Graf-Webster, Cheryl Haaker, Meredith Machen, Dick Mason, Linda Moscarella, Pat Pederson for Donna Reynolds, Andrea Targhetta, Carol Tucker Trelease, Judy Williams

Absent: Barbara Calef, Lee Lockie, Donna Reynolds

Guests: Gwen Hanson, GLC, and Jan Bray and Shelly Shepherd who came to give a progress report on the Mental Health Care Services study they are leading.

President Machen called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

The first item of business was to approve the agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Then, the minutes of the LWVNM Board meeting on May 19, 2013, were approved.

Meredith reported that she has been working on several organizational matters, including wrapping up unfinished business from the Convention, creating new job descriptions and policy drafts and drafting revisions of documents that were out-of-date. She has also been focused on monitoring several federal issue areas, especially voting rights, marriage equality, education, immigration, and health care. At the state level, much has been happening with the Governor's decision to cease funding to behavioral health care providers because of unsubstantiated allegations of fraud, teacher evaluations, special education funding problems, ethics violations, and threats to reproductive rights. She is working with Diane Goldfarb, the League's representative to the NM Coalition for Choice, which has been very active. There will likely be a ballot initiative in Albuquerque in October, which will attempt to limit abortion in New Mexico to twenty weeks. The Coalition for Choice is fighting this effort to limit women's rights through education (advertising). New Mexico is one of only three states where abortions are performed later in pregnancy, often for fetal anomalies or problems with the health of the woman. Meredith also reported that we also need to watch out for attempts to privatize education and health care in this country.

Cheryl gave the treasurer's report. The League raised \$1,590 from the auction at the State Convention in Las Cruces in May. This amount was more than twice what was raised at the 2011 auction. The only expense has been the office expense of LWVCNM, which was \$150.

William Little served as parliamentarian for the Convention. He has stated that he does not want payment for his service. A thank you card for William was circulated, and we will give him a gift card for \$50.00 to Barnes and Noble.

The balance in the Ed Fund is currently \$1,168.71.

The Board voted to hold the League Convention 2015 in Albuquerque.

Linda reported on the excellent Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) training that was held on July 8, 9, and 10 at Hotel Elegante in Albuquerque. The training was conducted by LWVUS staffer, Cheryl Graeve. With the help of two national coaches, our coach, Nancy Eitreim, who is from Washington State, and Mary Wilson, as well as assistance from Salye Stein, who is LWVUS Development staff. Bonnie Burn and Linda met with this group Monday evening and Tuesday morning to receive state coach training. Linda will be coaching Santa Fe and Greater Las Cruces, and Bonnie will be coaching CNM and Los Alamos. Mary Wilson will serve on the MLD Committee.

All four League presidents participated. Goals included increasing membership, developing leaders, strengthening organizational development, and best practices to do all these things. The League nationally had a net growth of .03% in 2012. According to Mary Wilson, former LWVUS president and national coach, "It was an inspirational two days--we are reenergized and ready to not only strengthen our democracy but to strengthen the League, too. I was so proud to see the great ideas from my own local League and wonderful connections between all three levels of the League blooming through this program."

The Board had a lively discussion about being on Facebook. Karen Wentworth is the official Facebook connection. We have a Twitter account that we do not use. Barbara Webber, Executive Director of Health Action New Mexico, uses Twitter and gets lots of media attention/contact. We will stick with Facebook for now, but we may discuss using Twitter again as it can be especially effective during the Legislature.

Jan Bray asked the Board if they might want to help celebrate Woman's Equality Day. There will be events on Sunday August 25 in Albuquerque at Tigueux Park from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m. A major goal is to advocate for getting the Equal Rights Amendment ratified by three more states, so it can become federal law. NM ratified the amendment in the 1970's.

The Board addressed several items that were pending from the Board meeting after Convention. They reviewed the language that resulted from the Board consensus to add a Conflict of Interest component to the Non Partisan Policy. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the revision.

The Board reviewed the "Board Etiquette" statement used by LWVSFC. Andrea shared the one used by LWVCNM. Meredith will merge these two statements.

The Position History document, which provides background on our positions, has to be revised and Judy will be working on this. This is a huge job because there is no information on the study components for many of our positions, while others need updating. Judy will also recommend a process whereby we update programs.

Convention delegates approved doing an update of our Judiciary position. Mary Henrie Smith says she does not have the time to lead the review and the position update. There was a motion, which was seconded and approved to suspend the review until a person is found who will lead it. Two Board members opposed this. There will be a brief notice about needing a chair and update committee members to help with the review in *La Palabra*.

The Board discussed the LWVUS policy that state and local positions may not be in conflict with national positions. We will need to modify the Drug Policy statement as a result because it calls for harsh penalties for first-time offenders. Judy will be reviewing all of our positions in light of LWVUS positions.

Shelly and Jan gave a progress report on the Mental Health Care Services study. They have twenty people on their committee and have met twice. The first meeting was to get ideas. They talked about Project ECHO and started determining the questions that will inform the scope of the study. They are looking at what research needs to be done. A major need is to make mental health care more accessible, especially in rural areas. At the next meeting, Jan and Shelly will be assigning people to do interviews. Members from other Leagues are encouraged to participate. Shelly presented after coming from the National Hispanic Cultural Center, where she was attending a mental health care conference sponsored by America Speaks. The Board agreed that the League study is extremely timely and important. Jan reported that she has a complete copy of all of the mental health presentations given at a recent Legislative Finance Committee meeting. Team Builders (the largest mental health care provider in New Mexico) was well-represented at the meeting because they have had to cut services to Medicaid patients as a result of the Governor's decisions to stop funding and to outsource services. There was discussion about how the Affordable Care Act will make more people eligible for mental health care. Some counselors/mental health professionals are being put in the County Extension offices, and this practice may expand across the state.

Next, there was a discussion of the revised Program Chair Job Description. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Next, there was a discussion of the Program Adoption (Draft 7/2013). Changes were made in the document. It was then moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve as revised.

After that, there was a discussion of the State Studies and Positions document to which Judy will add a section concerning the reports that each study committee will be responsible for making. .

Cheryl will update documents and policies on the LWVNM web site.

Dick reported on the Health Insurance Exchange Commission. Leah Stempl was hired to be the outreach coordinator.. They have hired a project management firm from California. New Mexico is well on its way to implementing health care reform. The Health Insurance Exchange now has a web site.

On Friday, July 26 at 3:00 p.m. there will be an Action call.

Judy reported that Land Use Study committee met in Santa Fe on June 10 and as some assignments. On September 17 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., there will be an event in Santa Fe about a possible municipal electric utility. It will be sponsored by the League, Sierra Club, New Energy Economy and the NM Green Chamber of Commerce..

Next three of the local Leagues reported on their activities during the last quarter. These reports will be in *La Palabra* coming out around August 15. Judy amplified the LWVSFC quarterly report that Donna Reynolds had submitted, mentioning that the League had been very involved in

the City of Santa Fe charter review process. Several League proposals are among the recommendations that will go to the city council and, if they approve them, to the voters in the next election--a citizen's redistricting commission and water availability being tied to future development. The League continues to be very actively engaged in Santa Fe County's efforts to pass a comprehensive Sustainable Land Development Code.

In addition to the LWVGLC report that will be in *La Palabra*, Erika reported on a bond issue referendum that is happening in Las Cruces on July 30. The Affordable Housing committee is in gear and sponsoring a public forum on the topic. They are also asking LWVNM leaders to assist in their efforts to find out how the NM Mortgage Finance Authority works. Vicki Simon and Christina Little are the co-chairs of the Affordable Housing Committee. The Board asked Erika to extend our heartfelt appreciation to LWVGLC for their hospitality and for all of the work that went into putting on such a well organized Convention.

Andrea reported on League activities in Central New Mexico other than the ones discussed earlier in the meeting. In April, LWVCNM was invited to participate in the Hispanic Foundation Institute's program for women thinking of running for office. In July, the League's luncheon meeting featured an excellent speaker from the ACLU, Amanda Johnson, talking about marriage equality. Andrea was thanked for arranging the Highland Senior Center for today's meeting as well as for arranging the Elegante Hotel for the MLD training.

La Palabra will feature MLD, a land use article, health care exchange, and mental health care services study. Cheryl and others will submit photos.

Judy wanted to know why we don't use Constant Contact more often to send out action alerts. We are mainly using LWVNM Action and Topics at this point, but we certainly could consider using Constant Contact more. Judy recommended that we also consider adding a survey feature to our subscription. That would cost an additional \$121. A survey would be a way of engaging our members, and we could get all sorts of potentially useful information. We should take a look at the survey which was piloted for free by LWVSFC before we consider adding this module.

Erika would like to Skype in at our next meeting so that she won't have to drive all the way from Las Cruces to Santa Fe.

The next meeting of the Board of LWVNM will be on September 21 from 11:00 until 3:00 in Santa Fe.

After a motion, second, and approval to adjourn, the meeting ended at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Tucker Trelease, Secretary, 7/20/13

Edited by Meredith Machen, 7/21/13

Amended by Linda Moscarella and Judy Williams