

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO
Board Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2014
Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center, Albuquerque

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

President Machen called the meeting to order at 11:07. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to approve the agenda with one change. We will talk about communication in the Action section of the agenda. The minutes of the November 16, 2013 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Cheryl reported that LWVNM is at maximum money. All the PMP monies have been received, and we have not paid many expenses yet. We also have some left in the PAVP grant.

Membership and Leadership Development: Linda gave the Membership and Leadership Development report, and Barbara added to it. Dick said that it is great if there are ten percent of members actively involved in the organization. When Cheryl counted recently, there were 495 League members in New Mexico. Cheryl reported that in 2008 there were 644, in 2009 there were 657, in 2010 there were 670, in 2011 there were 570, in 2012 there were 588, in 2013, there were 515. Membership waxes and wanes.

Barbara contacted Betsy Lawson at LWVUS regarding concurrence. Betsy said that it was acceptable to combine positions and recommended looking at the actions of other Leagues. Barbara subsequently found a draft concurrence policy from the Virginia League. Dick moved that LWVNM adopt the LWVVA language on concurrence. This was seconded and passed unanimously. Barbara was directed to alter the language to make it appropriate for LWVNM. The new document will be called "Concurrence Policy and Procedures for LWVNM. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the bylaws change pasted at the end of the minutes.

The next topic discussed was "LWVUS Program Adoption--Alternatives to Partisan Primaries" (Ohio proposal). Meredith recently attended a Democratic Party gathering in Santa Fe discussing open primaries, where Independents expressed their interest and Democrats said it would seriously dilute the ability of parties to choose their preferred candidates. Dick said there has been discussion of elected versus appointed school boards. Both systems can be effective. If New Mexico goes to independent primaries, anyone will be able to vote in them, even Independents. Lee said that some people register as Independents in order to send a message to the Republican and Democratic parties that they have criticisms of them. The deadline for submitting proposed positions to LWVUS is March 1. LWVUS used to have effective discussion groups, but they don't at this time.

Website: Cheryl would like help. If Board members will send Cheryl information on bills that are being worked on, she will post them. Cheryl still doesn't have any good information on mental health.

Action: Dick said that budget and finance issues will be big discussion items during New Mexico's upcoming legislative session. The other priorities for LWVNM will be education, natural resources and opposition to the governor's parental notification for abortion bill.

Legislative Reception and League Day at the Legislature:

Meredith visited yesterday with Garrett's Desert Inn regarding our reception on January 27. We currently have sixteen rooms booked for overnight stay. If we get twenty rooms booked, Garrett's will give us the room for our reception at no cost. Garrett's is under new management now that it is in bankruptcy proceedings. They are willing to extend the deadline to book rooms until January 13. LWVNM is working with the restaurant, Santa Fe Bites. One of the authorized restaurant bartenders will work for us privately for \$100 and will sell wine and beer for \$4 a glass at our reception on January 27. Food: Meredith has reserved food at Albertson's—meats, cheeses, and rolls. Board members will provide fruit platters, vegetable platters, nuts, crackers, shrimp, salsa and chips, and cookies. Earlier there will be a Roe v. Wade event and also an Equal Rights Amendment event. As for speakers at the Reception, Dick has lined up Richard Anklam, President and Executive Director of the Institute for Tax Research, who will talk about tax fairness issues, and Bill Jordan, Policy Director of New Mexico Voices for Children, who will talk about budget issues as related to low-income children and families, and Meredith has lined up Senator Peter Wirth, who will discuss legislative issues related to the budget. Each speaker will have about ten minutes to speak. Dick will keep the LWVNM board posted on legislative issues during the session. On League Day at the Legislature, the film "Inequality for All" will be shown at the Land Office at 8:30 a. m. After that, Linda Siegle, a lobbyist for several organizations, will talk about the behavioral health crisis, and Viki Harrison, Executive Director of Common Cause, will talk about voting, campaign finance, and ethics. Meredith will send information to the New Mexican announcing that this part of the program is open to the public.

Program: Lee and Barbara talked about Natural Resources. Some bills related to water have already been drafted. Our Natural Resources position is being updated. Agriculture needs to be included. Boards and commissions in New Mexico need to have the expertise to serve effectively and to be representative of the general public. Lee has looked at boards and commissions in progressive states such as Oregon and Vermont. LWVUS has a position on agriculture. Lee and Barbara will have a full report for our Board for our next meeting. We will have our next meeting on April 5 in Santa Fe, beginning at 11:00 a. m. Location will be determined.

Local League Reports: Barbara gave the LWVLA report. Many Smart Meters have been installed in the community. This is an attempt to get people to consider using less electricity. Donna gave the LWVSFC report. They had a good holiday party. Municipal elections are coming up, and candidate forums have been arranged. The Santa Fe League has also been working hard on the amendments to the City Charter. Andrea gave the LWVCNM report. In November, the group invited Catholic Charities to speak about immigration at the lunch meeting. In December, Mary Ann Saunders from the University of New Mexico came to talk about international programs, which UNM President Bob Frank is promoting. Andrea and husband Frank hosted a holiday open house for LWVCNM members. Meredith will ask Paula Tackett, former director of the Legislative Council Service, to talk at the LWVNM Council on May 17. We may meet at the Santa Fe Hilton or at the McCune Charitable Foundation for \$50.

There being no Announcements, Initiatives, or Other Business, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 1:55 p. m.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Tucker Trelease, Secretary, January 7, 2014,
Edited by Meredith Machen and Barbara Calef.

Note that the board approved all of the underlined amendments in September. We are proposing to amend an amendment, striking out some of the text, in view of the current work on our Natural Resources position. The change approved in January is in red.

ARTICLE XI. PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

Section 1. Principles. The Principles are concepts of government supported by the League and are the authorization for adoption of national, state and local program.

Section 2. Program. The program of LWVNM shall consist of action to implement the Principles and those governmental issues chosen by the Convention for concerted study or concurrence and action as follows:

The boards of local Leagues and state MAL units may make recommendations for a program, including amendment of a state League position or adoption of a position by concurrence. Recommendations must be sent to the state board at least [~~two months~~] ten weeks prior to the Convention.

The state board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program, which shall be sent to the membership at least 30 days prior to the Convention.

New Any local League, or the state board, planning to propose the amendment of a state League position or adoption of a position by concurrence ~~with the position statement of another League~~ shall send background information, including pros and cons on the issue and an explanation of the rationale of using that form of member agreement, to all Leagues at least thirty days before convention.

The Convention shall adopt a program by a majority vote on each subject presented to it.

A Program recommendation submitted by a local League or by a state MAL unit at least [~~three weeks~~] ten weeks prior to Convention but not proposed by the state board may be so considered only if it is ordered by a majority vote of the Convention and the vote on adoption comes on a following day. Adoption of any such recommendation will require a two-thirds vote.