

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO

27th Biennial Council Meeting

May 17, 2008 –9:30 a.m. – Mid-Afternoon

First United Methodist Church
715 Diamond Drive, Los Alamos

LWVNM Board Members present: Johnnie Aldrich, Bonnie Burn, Barbara Calef, Kathy Campbell, , Diane Goldfarb, Cheryl Haaker, Jody Larson, Lora Lucero, Linda Moscarella, Dick Mason

Delegates: Chris Chandler (designated as Las Cruces), Meredith Machen (Santa Fe), Ann Nobile (Los Alamos), Margaret Prince (designated as Central New Mexico)

Guest: Becky Shankland

Call to Order, introductions: President Campbell called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m..

Credentials Committee Report (Johnnie Aldrich): We had a quorum of representatives from each local league.

Approval of Agenda: As presented.

Appointment of timekeeper and readers: Cheryl Haaker was designated timekeeper. Readers; Barbara Calef (Los Alamos) and Jody Larson (Santa Fe).

Approval of minutes from Council Meeting, May 13, 2006: Montezuma Lodge is located in Santa Fe, as indicated in the heading of the minutes. Correction in Minutes of the March 11, 2006, sixth line, Francine Harley is located at LWVUS not UNM US. Correction p. 2, fourth paragraph. A finalized budget and treasurer's report **were** presented at this time. Minutes were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's Report for 2007-2008 (Diane Albert): In the absence of Diane Albert, board members reviewed the Profit and Loss Report. There was some discussion about several items that were resolved before the meeting and didn't affect the bottom line of the reports. Members complimented Diane for her work with Quick Books, the States Public Regulatory Commission, and the IRS. Note to local League presidents: the IRS lists all local Leagues under the umbrella of the State League, but the IRS paperwork for local Leagues must list the parent organization (LWVNM) at the Albuquerque address. Treasurer's report will be filed with comments.

Presentation and Adoption of Budget for 2008-2009 (Dick Mason): After presentation by Dick Mason, the following budget adjustments were raised:

- LWVUS Council, LWVNM can only send two delegates rather than then three to the national council and the allocation of \$900 is reduced to \$600, which also reduces the amount taken from the Reserve Fund.
- In the proposed budget, the FY 2008-2009 expenses exceeded income by \$3,942. The difference will be made up from Reserve Funds.
- The allocation for state study group was reduced from \$1,500 to \$1,000.
Motion: Cheryl Haaker moved that allocation for state studies be increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Linda Moscarella seconded and motion carried unanimously.
- From the LWVEF Funds, Revenue Sharing will occur from Reserve Funds (\$4,300) and will be distributed to local Leagues to support expense of *Voters' Guide*.
- FY 2008-2009: Solicitation Letter for Education Fund donations will be done this year and will appear as part of an issue of *La Palabra*.

LWVEF Budget was reviewed. A discussion about expense allocations for publication of *Voter's Key* and revenue sharing, and income from Reserve Fund and proposed solicitation letter was held.

Motion: Johnnie Aldrich moved that the FY 2008-2009 Operating Budget and Education Fund Budget be adopted as amended. Seconded by Barbara Calef and motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

- Membership (Johnnie Aldrich): Reported on members-at-large as of December 31, 2007 (see attached report). She notifies national members at least six to eight weeks ahead of expiration of their national membership and invites them to join LWVNM. In the annual State budget, she is using the membership budget allocation to include a self-addressed, stamped return envelop. Total NM members = 657.

Based on the success of the League Table at the Roundhouse on League Day, Aldrich recommended staffing the table on League Day next year and adding a second day, perhaps in the second month of the 60-day Legislative session.

Burn mentioned the honorary 50 year membership available in the League and suggested that local League membership directors arrange for a transfer of member records when new members join from another League. Aldrich mentioned that Katherine Bejnar, 50 year member-at-large lives in Socorro and might be honored at one of our State meetings in that city.

- Action Committee (Dick Mason): Refer to *La Palabra*, Spring 2008 report. Constitutional amendment to consolidate School Board elections will appear on the November 2008 ballot. The unique voter identifier bill was repealed. League Day had about 50 participants and the League table was successful.

First Action Committee teleconference post-Legislative Session, will be held on May 22. Mason reminded everyone that legislators can file bills beginning on December 15, and League members should encourage them to do so. This early action will enable League members to know the language of the bill, reach a decision about action to be taken, and advocate according to bill number. Some upcoming bills include: freedom of choice, death penalty, health care, and domestic partners.

- Strategic Planning (Linda Moscarella): Moscarella asked Lora Lucero to report on the Communication Committee. Goals of committee: (1) to enhance the visibility of state and local Leagues in the media. (2) to improve the communications among local Leagues. Only one teleconference meeting was held since the Board Meeting in March. Only one Public Relations director participated. Lora asked Council for advice about making this committee effective. Mason suggested establishing a regular scheduled teleconference time and cited an example of the Health Care Committee meeting piggybacking onto the end of the Action Committee teleconference. Two weaknesses in the current committee structure are: (1) local Leagues keeping Lora in the communication loop, and (2) local League public relations directors need to send Lora a copy of media activities at the local level.

Second Strategic goal was for LWVNM to be a leader during elections. The November 4, 2008, election will allow opportunity for the League to be visible and to increase membership.

- Optional brief reports from two study committees, education, natural resources, drug policy and health care committees. None were offered (See *La Palabra*, Sprint 2008).

LWVUS Convention and Related Issues: Cheryl Haaker, Lora Lucero, and Linda Moscarella are delegates from LWVNM. Wendee Brunish (Los Alamos), Jody Larson (Santa Fe), Bonnie Burn (Las

Cruces), and Diane Goldfarb, Josephine Porter, Marilyn Morgan, and Jan Bray, (CNM) are representing local Leagues.

- Concurrence proposals: redistricting, healthcare, national popular vote, and others
 - Fair Representation will be an issue for consideration at National Convention. Cheryl Haaker reviewed the various proposals from other state that will be made at national. The final position that LWVNM develops may be different but cannot contradict any that is adopted at national.
 - LWVUS Health Care position is education of members only rather than a change of position.
 - PMP: LWVUS is proposing to increase the amount of PMP to \$1.20 in 2009 and again in 2010. Local Leagues have discussed the effect on their budgets, membership, and means to pay it. It was suggested that LWVUS give more advanced warning so that local Leagues may prepare budgets before presentation at annual meetings.
- Civil Liberties (Linda Moscarella): No discussion on this item.
- Other (Proposed bylaws changes, PMP): No discussion on this item

Instructions to the Board

- Support for domestic partnership legislation: Mason reported that the Action Committee proposed supporting this position. Marilyn Morgan checked with LWVUS and was advised that we could use the LWVUS Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action position (p.60, *Impact on Issues* 2006-2008) that opposed the “Federal Marriage Amendment, which would permanently write discrimination into the U.S. Constitution by limiting fundamental protections such as health care benefits for same-sex partners.
Motion by Lora Lucero to have the Action Committee determine whether to support the 2009 version of 2008 HB 9. Seconded by Meredith Machen and carried unanimously.
- Other
David Iglesias will be signing his book in Albuquerque and also will be speaking with Valerie Plame.

Margaret Prince reminded the Board that a parliamentarian would be useful to maintain speaking order.

Motion to adjourn was made by Barbara Calef. Seconded by Linda Moscarella, and passed unanimously. Adjournment at 11:50 a.m.

Keynote Speaker” Chick Keller, “Mostly Settled Science of Anthropogenic Influence on Earth’s Climate

Submitted by Bonnie Burn, Secretary