

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO
Board of Directors Meeting
January 10, 2009 – 10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. - Courtyards at Cutler

Members present: Diane Albert, Johnnie Aldrich, Bonnie Burn, Katherine Campbell, Diane Goldfarb, Cheryl Haaker, Lora Lucero, Richard Mason, Linda Moscarella
Absent: Chris Chandler, Jody Larson, Cathy Mathews

Off Board Participants: Dee Watkins

Guests: Marjorie Swartz, (CNM – Rio Rancho), Marilyn Morgan

Call to Order: President Campbell called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

Approval of Agenda: Membership Report added.

Meeting Minutes, October 18, 2009: My apologies for spelling Christina Little's first name, under Voters Key, with an "e" and rather than an "a." A second change involves the wording under Legal Issues, "Lawsuit on interpreting hand tallied ballot markings," p. 4, paragraph 3 beginning John Boyd, lines 2-4:
The suit that could result is a writ of mandamus—a government official did not have discretion to do something (declare a ruling unconstitutional); therefore, if they have done it, we are going to make them undo it (constitutionality of ruling restored).

The word "any" before discretion is removed. Wording after "therefore" is said positively rather than negatively. Parenthetical information is added to clarify the action.

Aldrich expressed kudos to Secretary Burn and President Campbell for recording the complex law suit discussion so carefully.

Minutes will be filed as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Albert reviewed the Treasurer's Report that was sent to Board members via email. Kudos were expressed to Diane Albert and Diane and Don Goldfarb, who were instrumental in getting the League's IRS matters straightened out and the IRS 990-N e-postcard completed. Albert and Haaker, the nominated Treasurer for 2009-2011, will work together to ensure a smooth transition after Convention. As ex-officio members, both will work with the Budget Committee. Albert mentioned that the online password for the Wells Fargo account needs to be changed when she leaves office. The question of CD renewal in April was deferred to the March 21 Board Meeting. Copy of Treasurer's Report and Profit and Loss statement are filed for the record.

Membership: Aldrich presented a report on State members-at-large that now have declined to 20, 12 of which are National members-at-large. She presented a summary of total members among the four Leagues that shows Central New Mexico and Greater Las Cruces Leagues increasing membership. She expects that the League Table at the Round House on League Day will recruit new members. Presidents of local Leagues were asked to remind Membership Directors to ensure the LWVUS member database is corrected by the January 31 deadline.

Action: Local League membership directors must update LWVUS member database by January 31. Aldrich will contact long-time League member, Katharine Bejnar, who lives in Socorro, and invite her to the March 21 Board Meeting.

President's Report:

- **Lobbying Workshop:** LWVNM will sponsor an open and free workshop for citizen lobbyists on Saturday, January 24, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Montezuma Masonic Lodge in Santa Fe, 431 Paseo de Peralta. Bernalillo County Representative Jimmie Hall, Santa Fe County Senator Peter Wirth, and lobbyists Leanne Leith, political director of the Conservation Voters of New Mexico, and Natasha Ning, working on same-day voter registration legislation, will be guest speakers. General information about lobbying, state regulations, internet tools, and other information will

be presented. Dick Mason will present information about how a bill becomes law. Kathy Campbell will talk about lobbyist regulations and web site information.

Action: Dick Mason will obtain a brochure about how a bill becomes law from the Voices of Children organization.

- **NM Delegation Meetings:** No progress has been made on scheduling a meeting with Senators Bingaman and Udall, who have been in attendance at the U.S. Congress. LWVUS is encouraging state and local Leagues to meet with their federal legislators to discuss the League's national agenda. A form has been provided by LWVUS for reporting results of the meetings.
- **Voters Key:** Progress is being made on contact information. Personal emails for many of the legislators are being removed. Campbell asked local Leagues to send information for the Voters Key that they have collected for their Who's Who. Automated Elections, a printing company, may be the printer for this publication and the deadline for distribution at League Day is still in effect.
Action: Local Leagues provide contact information about local legislators.
- **Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) Training:** Moscarella, who attended the training, reported on her experience. Tim O'Brien, a member of the LWVUS PAVP core group, is coming to League Day. A discussion about Capwiz, software that is being used by LWVUS for Action Alerts and other activities, was discussed with the goal of having local and state Leagues join this program. By joining, the Leagues have an opportunity to increase their influence and perhaps grow donations. Election priorities for PAVP are: (1) opposing voter ID and proof of citizenship requirements, (2) assisting third party registration, (3) data base issues, (4) poll worker training, and (5) polling place management. Detailed information about the training is reported in *La Palabra*, Winter 2009.
Action: Board members were asked to think about joining Capwiz.
- **Nonprofits as Political Action Committees (PACs):** The Attorney General and the Secretary of State sought to have several nonprofit organization in Albuquerque register as PACs because of their political activities during the primary elections; which the nonprofits refused to do. The PACs have sued the State and asked the court to rule on whether or not they must register as PACs. Legislation might be introduced during the 2009 Legislative Session to tighten up the requirements on nonprofits and the type of "education" they do.
Note: Post-board meeting, Lucero learned that State Senator Michael Sanchez intends to introduce this bill. LWVNM needs to review the bill carefully to determine the impact it may have on the work the League does.

Old Business:

Fair Representation Study: Haaker, on behalf of the committee, reviewed the proposed new position that will replace the current LWVNM position. Comments and word smithing were accomplished. The position as approved is attached

Motion: Mason moved and seconded by Aldrich to adopt the amended position. Motion passed.

Committee Appointments:

- **Budget:** Dick Mason (Chair, CNM), Adair Waldenberg (SFC), Rosmarie Frederickson (LA), Diane Albert (ex officio). Later in the meeting Mason asked if there would be revenue sharing with the local Leagues. He also asked if lowering the per member payment should be considered at Convention. There was discussion about need for State funding assistance of Voters' Guides for local Leagues as the need arose. There was not general agreement that the per member payment would be lowered, especially since an education fund raiser was postponed for 2008.

Note: Post-board meeting, Cathy Mathews has agreed to serve as the representative from the Greater Las Cruces League.

- Bylaws: Barbara Calef (LA), and Kathy Campbell (ex officio). Marjorie Burr resigned.
- Nominating: Marnie Leverett (GLC), Jan Bray (CNM), Becky Shankland (LA), Jody Larson (SF), and Lora Lucero (CNM). See Leverett report attached.

New Business:

Action Committee: Mason distributed a Legislative Tracking sheet. Mimi Stewart is proposing legislation for a national populate vote (NPV) election rather than electoral college. NPV is different from the national position on direct election. Burn reported that LWVUS is asking local Leagues for consensus on NPV by May 2009. On the LWVUS web site, the study group has published a background paper, pro and con papers, and the consensus questions.

- Ratify Priorities:
 - Health care (Health Security Act and full funding for Medicaid and current programs)
 - Election reform (same day registration, ethics, independent ethics commission, campaign finance election letters)
 - Social issues: repeal of death penalty, freedom of choice and domestic partnership.

Morgan reported on domestic partnership. *La Palabra*, Winter 2009 publishes Morgan's full article. There will be a bill and will be sponsored by Senator McSorley and Representative Stewart. Bill covers a variety of partnerships (e.g., heterosexual, disabled, couples who choose not to marry, long-term relationships). Goal is to have equality of opportunity. League is supporting the bill as a civil rights issue. LWVUS affirmative action position is basis for League support. ACLU has made presentations about this issue throughout the state.

Motion: Aldrich moved and Haaker seconded a motion to approve the priorities proposed by the Action Committee. Motion passed.

- League Day Final Plans: Mason reported that all plans in place. Aldrich reiterated the need for signing up to work at the League Table. No one was able to give the names of the MALS that signed up at the 2008 table.
- Tax Incremental Development Districts (TIDDs): Legislation will be filed about TIDDs. Lucero found 1986 position that relates to TIDDs, although the TIDD terminology was not in use then. Under LWVNM, Natural Resources position, paragraph 2, sentence 1:

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports the principle that environmental and social costs of resource development should be borne by the ultimate consumer.

Current TIDDs legislation shifts the responsibility to the public (government) rather than the consumer. TIDD legislation will be of interest to the legislators during the 2009 Legislative Session because of the current state economic condition. Other bills will be proposed such as: Papan's new proposal for Las Cruces and SunCal (Albuquerque)'s renewed request after its rejection last year. Likely legislation will include two bills: (1) a short term moratorium until TIDDs have been studied and the impact of what is being approved is known; and (2) specific reform to current TIDD law (e.g., transparency, oversight from state, more details provided by proponents and applicants, and limiting approval to what was originally specified). A discussion about supporting any TIDD legislation under the LWVNM finance position occurred, as well as how to use LWVUS positions. At Lucero's request for Board direction, Campbell suggested developing a one page fact sheet that can be shared with the Action Committee at its meeting on

Friday, January 16, 1 p.m. Moscarella was asked to call LWVUS and obtain further clarification about using LWVUS positions to support state legislation.

Action: Lucero and Campbell distributes Fact Sheet to Action Committee.

Moscarella telephones LWVUS regarding use of LWVUS positions for state legislation.

Potential LWVNM Program Studies for 2009-2011: The policy, Process for Conducting State Studies, adopted September 16, 2009, was reviewed. Of particular importance was Item #3 that listed the criteria for reviewing recommended/non-recommended study items. It was suggested that the policy be revised to ensure that the state board could make recommendation and would follow the same criteria. The revisions involved changing:

1. A local or state League votes to propose a study for LWVNM

This language change affects several of the other point in the policy.

Motion: Goldfarb moved and Moscarella seconded a motion to amend the process as discussed. Motion approved.

Action: Burn will revise the policy and send a copy with the meeting minutes.

A discussion of the full program for study will occur at the March 21 Board Meeting in Socorro.

2009 Convention Planning: Campbell raised the question of whether a committee needs to be appointed to review the current state positions, and the response indicated it was not necessary. Goldfarb asked questions about the logistics of the convention and reported on her conversation with Christina Little, chair, 2007 Convention:

- Hotel and number of rooms to reserve since out of town delegates and guest will be coming from Las Cruces, Los Alamos, and Santa Fe.
- Auction: there was agreement that this is a money maker and should be held.
- Print: La Palabra will carry a lot of the information.
- Speaker: Senator Udall, if possible. Santa Fe Transparency Project is a possibility.
- Workshops: if held, would be scheduled on Saturday afternoon and identified by state board.
- Tours: Questionable since many delegates and guests already have traveled to Albuquerque.

La Palabra requirements: In addition to customary articles, the issue will be devoted to Convention information.

Telephone Cards: Original policy is that each local League will have one telephone card, that means local League members have to meet in one location. Members unable to get to these locations then have no means of participating beyond a personal (long distance) call. Members noted that telephone cards may be purchased at a variety of locations. 1,000 minutes may cost as little as \$30. There is a 15% recharge fee for adding minutes to some cards. Those who wish to participate in state business (e.g., Action Committee, study groups, etc.) should buy cards and submit reimbursement forms to Treasurer.

Motion: Mason moved and Goldfarb seconded that the State President has the authority to approve additional cards as needed. Motion approved.

Other Reports

Local League Reports:

Central New Mexico (CNM): Mason organized a discussion on Health Care, as was suggested by President-Elect Barack Obama's transition team. It was held on December 29, 3-5 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, and 91 people came. The turnout number was unexpected during a week between Christmas and New Years. It was thought that one-third were health care professional. From the meeting discussion, answers to questions raised by the Obama Transition Team were submitted to the Team.

Other Committees/Coalitions:

- Health Care: Mason distributed a new brochure, Commonly Used Health Care Terms, that was developed by Health Care for All New Mexico.
- Death Penalty: Mason distributed a brochure, Putting the Victims' Families First, produced by the NM Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty, and a postcard that announced a rally, New Mexico Repeal Day, on February 9, 2009, at noon at the State Capital Rotunda.

Announcements:

1. Next Meeting is March 21 in Socorro. Kathy asked Board members to update their portfolios. Fund drive was originally set for Fall. There was consensus that the fund drive should be postponed.
Action: Review and update portfolios. Send information to Burn for revision, who will, in turn, ask Haaker to update web version.
2. LWVUS Online Council Meeting: Campbell advised that LWVUS is considering an on-line council meeting in an effort to save costs not only for LWVUS but also for local League. The board suggested asking about the agenda. There was general agreement that an online LWVUS Council should be tried at least once, and this kind of meeting would save expenses for local Leagues.
Action: Campbell will inquire about the agenda in responding to LWVUS request for input.
3. American Bar Association has a new book about the Election Process and the Foreword was written by Mary Wilson, President, LWVUS.
4. Spring Issue *La Palabra* deadline is March 21, 2009.
5. 8th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference, Albuquerque, January 22-24, was announced by Lucero. Attendees cannot drop in without paying the full fee.

Next Board Meeting:

Saturday, March 21, 2009, 12:30 – 5:30 p.m.
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology,
Skeen Library – Don Trip Conference Room 212

Adjournment: Adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Submitted by

Bonnie Burn
Secretary

Attachment:

- Process for Conducting State Studies (Revised 1/10/2009)