

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO
2010 Council
May 15, 2010, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Hilton of Santa Fe Hotel, Santa Fe

Members Present:

LWVNM Board: Katherine Campbell, Jennice Fishburn, Cheryl Haaker, Lora Lucero, Meredith Machen, Linda Moscarella

Other Delegates: Becky Beckett, Greater Las Cruces; Rosmarie Frederickson and Rebecca Shankland, Los Alamos; Jody Larson, Santa Fe County; Josephine Porter and Karen Wentworth, Central New Mexico

Attending as Observer: Judy Williams, Santa Fe County

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

Quorum: President Campbell asked the group to introduce themselves and announced that a quorum was present.

Appointment of Readers: Josephine Porter and Jody Larson were appointed as readers of the Council 2010 minutes.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

President's Report:

- 1) The LWVNM completed the water resources study and adopted our new position in March 2010. It is posted on the LWVNM website.
- 2) During the past year, the LWVNM has joined new two coalitions, Better Choices New Mexico and America Votes.
- 3) A very successful climate change forum was co-sponsored by LWVNM in August 2009; Lora Lucero was applauded for her hard work in organizing the forum.
- 4) LWVNM representatives testified at the March 2010 Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) hearing on a petition to establish a new rule that would place a state cap on greenhouse gas emissions at 25% below 1990 emission levels by 2020.
- 5) The LWVNM received a \$1,000 grant from the LWVUS PAVP (Public Advocacy for Voter Protection) to work on PAVP objectives in New Mexico. Participation in PAVP also gave LWVNM access to the Capwiz communication system. Molly Siebel from SFC played an important role in providing Capwiz consultation to the LWVNM board. The Capwiz system has now been dropped by LWVUS, and a different system, "Salsa", is being introduced. Some LWVNM members received Salsa training in March, and it is important to be thinking about the use of Salsa well before December of this year.
- 6) The new LWVNM finance committee, organized as a result of the LWVNM 2009 Convention, met in October 2009. They recommended that reserve funds be separated from carry-over funds (retained earnings), and made other recommendations regarding LWVNM's financial policy.

Membership Report: The FY 2011 Membership Count is LWVNM, 18; CNM, 326; LA, 64; SFC, 148; and GLC, 98, for a grand total of 636 members. Next year's Per Member Payment (PMP) will be based on this count.

Treasurer's Report: In regard to the filing of non-profit tax returns, Treasurer Cheryl Haaker reported that the LWVNM's 990-N ePostcard was filed and accepted by the IRS on May 10, 2010. The State Non-Profit Corporation report and payment were sent to the Public Regulation Commission well before the deadline. Each of the local Leagues was emailed a statement of what its PMP will be (that payment is due by Dec. 31, 2010). The PMP due to LWVUS for MALs is \$251.80. Per board action, \$4,000 was designated as "reserve funds" and was placed into a Certificate of Deposit. The current balance of the Education Fund is \$2,510.57. A draft listing of LWVNM Treasurer activities and deadlines was provided to the Council.

FY 2011 Budget: President Campbell noted that a two-year budget is adopted at each LWVNM Convention, with Council having the authority to approve suggested modifications at the end of the first year. The following documents were reviewed: LWVNM Profit and Loss, May 2009 through April 2010; LWVNM Account Listing, May 14, 2010; and the proposed LWVNM Budget for 2010-11. The board has recommended that the following budget revisions be made:

Income:

Local PMP changes as needed to reflect official counts: CNM decreased from \$3,426 to \$3,162; GLC increased from \$942 to \$1,062; LA, increased from \$618 to \$678; and SFC decreased from \$1,578 to \$1,512.

Members at Large Dues increased from \$260 to \$340 to reflect official count.

Use of retained earnings increased from \$1,761 to \$7,163 with three-fourths of this amount to go to local Leagues (see Expenses).

Expenses:

Member Services: to reflect the FY2010 actual amounts, mailing services increased from \$315 to \$450 and newsletter postage increased from \$315 to \$650.

MAL PMP increased from \$190 to \$252 per official count.

Program Expenses, state studies decreased from \$1,000 to \$500 due to lack of major study this year.

Grants to local Leagues: \$4,400 added to support local *Voters' Guides*. (Specific local League amounts will be based on PMP membership numbers.) Also, spend PAVP grant: \$1,000 (see PAVP discussion).

Action: Josephine Porter moved, seconded by Lora Lucero, that the 2011 budget be adopted as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Local League Follow-up Action: In regard to *Voters' Guide* payments to local Leagues, each League was asked to notify the LWVNM treasurer as to which of their funds (operating or education) will be the recipient of the funds.

Program:

Proposed Transparency Concurrence: Jody Larson brought SFC's April 2010 position on transparency in local governments to Council for future concurrence consideration. Their position focuses on open meetings and inspection of public records, and was developed as the result of a two-year project, which was briefly described by Jody. They not only expect local governments to follow requirements of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act and the Inspection of Public Records Act, but they also recommend specific policies and practices that go beyond what is legally required by these two acts. The position encourages local governments to conduct elections with maximum transparency and also recommends specific practices in that regard. SFC hopes that this position will be helpful to other local Leagues and feels that it also is relevant at the state level. Council members discussed League procedures and timelines for the concurrence process as well as what it would mean in terms of local meetings and schedules. Many felt that an educational process at the local level was important, even though it is not a concurrence requirement. It was suggested that Jody develop a committee to work with local Leagues over the next few months so the position could be presented to our May 2011 Convention for concurrence. Because local Leagues are in the process of developing their 2010-2011 calendars now, they would appreciate knowing as soon as possible whether they should block out some time for discussion of this position.

Updating of Natural Resources Position: Lora Lucero, LWVNM Natural Resources Director, pointed out that LWVNM's current natural resources position was last updated in 1987. The LWVNM board has discussed the need for updating the position, some of which might be done by concurrence. In addition, we could look at current NM local League positions that could be brought up to the state level. President Campbell asked for advice from Council regarding how the board is to proceed. The importance of educating members was brought up, and some of the methods discussed were information in *La Palabra* and local *Voters*, possible local unit meetings, and posting information and resources on the LWVNM website. A key step would be educating members as to what has changed in the area of natural resources in New Mexico since 1987. Again, local Leagues pointed out that updating of the position would affect their 2010-2011 calendar scheduling process. Lora is developing a committee that would include local League representatives and would look at the position and make further recommendations by November 2010 (after the fall election).

PAVP Grant: President Campbell reviewed the objectives of the \$1,000 PAVP grant received from LWVUS for activities/administrative support related to voter protection in New Mexico. She reviewed the possibilities for expenditure of the PAVP funds as brainstormed by the LWVNM board. It was pointed out that the funds have to be expended in a way that the League's name is visible to the public and that the LWVUS Education Fund is credited for providing the grant. The possibility that seemed to be the most viable was to work through the Count Every Vote New Mexico, a project of Common Cause New Mexico, in which the League participated in 2008.

Action: Dick Mason moved, seconded by Rosmarie Frederickson, that the PAVP money be used for some readily identifiable project within Count Every Vote New Mexico, and that the League is identified appropriately. The motion passed unanimously.

Follow-up Action: President Campbell will contact Common Cause/Count Every Vote New Mexico to discuss ideas for a specific activity or educational material that our PAVP grant could support. She also will check with LWVUS in regard to using this approach.

Local League Sharing/Directions to the Board: Council members were asked for direction in terms of objectives and activities outlined in the LWVNM 2009-2011 Strategic Plan and for ways in which the LWVNM could assist local Leagues.

Comments were:

- As a small League, we need education that could lead us to action/advocacy.
- The climate change forum brought a lot of people together; bringing groups together is a way of helping make meetings of general interest.
- Use Salsa as an educational tool; need to reach people who don't go to forums.
- It helps the League to be identified with forums.
- People do go to the League websites for *Voters' Guide* information as well as lists of candidates.
- It is possible to track our website hits and get total numbers (in answer to a question).
- LWVNM should consider using Facebook (LWVUS, SFC, and CNM do).

Adjournment: Dick Mason moved, seconded by Meredith Machen, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

Submitted by:

Jennice Fishburn,
Secretary