

REVISED BOARD REVIEW DRAFT

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO

Board of Directors Meeting

March 13, 2010, 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Skeen Library, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro

Members Present: Jan Bray, Olin Bray, Bonnie Burn, Kathy Campbell, Jennice Fishburn, Cheryl Haaker, Lora Lucero, Dick Mason

Absent: Barbara Calef, Caroline Jackson, Meredith Machen, Linda Moscarella, Vicki Simons

Call to Order: President Campbell called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of January 9, 2010 were accepted and will be filed as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Cheryl Haaker reviewed the treasurer's report and noted that she is still exploring possibilities for placement of our certificate of deposit. She has been unable to find smaller regional banks that serve the entire state. A request for League Day-related reimbursement has been received from Johnnie Aldrich. Bonnie Burn said that the Greater Las Cruces League will cover up to \$100 of the reimbursement, and LWVNM will reimburse Johnnie for approximately \$42.00 to cover a parking charge of \$17.00 and a \$25.00 entry fee at a social event on the legislative social calendar (as authorized at the previous board meeting). In regard to State Council in May, registration fees for LWVN board members will be paid by the treasurer; board members are responsible for submitting individual registration forms. Local League presidents are responsible for their registration fees.

Membership Report: Burn presented Caroline Jackson's membership report, which included a membership summary as of 3/10/10. 2011 per member payments (PMP) will be based on the following numbers: MALS, 18; CNM, 326; LA, 64; SFC, 148; GLC, 98, for total of 654. Campbell will send the official PMP spreadsheet to Haaker when it arrives. Burn noted that GLC has now reached a new high of 101 members. Two national members have now become local members-at-large members. Numbers of MALs by location were listed and discussed. Action: Motion by Dick Mason, second by Lora Lucero, passed to authorize the expenditure of up to \$100 for one MAL representative to attend Council. Burn will ask Jackson to contact all of the MALS to invite them to Council and have at least one volunteer to serve as the MAL delegate. Jackson would like to include MAL information in *La Palabra*, including contact information. It was suggested that listing the MALS in *La Palabra* be postponed until the summer issue.

President's Report: Since January, the prime focus has been on the legislative session and League Day. LWVNM worked with some new coalitions during this session such as Better Choices New Mexico on a balanced approach to budget issues, the American Votes Education and Action coalition on election-related bills, and Think New Mexico on an ethics bill. Work also went on with health care coalitions and with other groups in supporting domestic partnership legislation. On February 25, 2010, Campbell and several other interested parties met with Governor Richardson to discuss State Ethics Commission legislation. In March, Campbell and Lucero presented testimony at the Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) hearing regarding

regulation of greenhouse gas emissions in New Mexico. Capwiz is being replaced by a similar tool called “Salsa,” and LWVNM representatives participated in an initial Salsa training session in early March. Campbell shared a March 11th article from the Albuquerque Journal in which the president of the Association of Commerce and Industry’s presentation to the Economic Forum was quoted as saying that Better Choices had “helped several progressive candidates oust more conservative incumbent legislators in the 2008 elections” and included LWV as one of the Better Choices’ members. Campbell has written an op-ed piece pointing out that Better Choices was not in existence in 2008 and the coalition and LWV do not support or oppose candidates for office.

During discussion, it was suggested that we develop an Education Fund project that focuses on educating the public about what services are supported through taxes. Burn shared a book, *Governing New Mexico* by F. Chris Garcia, et al., which is being used as a resource by them in a community education project.

State Council: Council will be held May 15, 2010, at the Santa Fe Hilton with Fred Nathan, executive director of Think New Mexico, as the luncheon speaker. The Council’s agenda will include review of the LWVNM budget for 2010-2011, reports from LWVNM committees, and other topics of interest. Following the luncheon, the LWVNM Board will convene for its May meeting.

Budget for 2010-2011: The proposed 2010-2011 budget was reviewed and the following revisions made: (1) due to increases in mailing costs, the following line items under Member Services were increased as follows: D.3, mailing services from \$315 to \$450, and D.4., newsletter postage from \$315 to \$650; (2) D.5, newsletter editor’s expense, was decreased from \$200 to \$100; and (3) the line item related to state studies was decreased from \$1,000 to \$500. More extensive discussion centered on the line item related to grants to local Leagues, particularly in the light of increased *Voters’ Guide* expenses for the 2010 fall election due to the number of candidates on the ballot. Action: A twice-amended motion was passed as follows: Original motion by Mason, second by Haaker to propose to Council that an additional \$1,100 be added to the \$1,100 already in the proposed 2010-2011 budget for a total of \$2,200 for grants to local Leagues. Amendment #1: Motion by Burn, second by Lucero, that total of \$2,200 be revised upward to \$4,400. Amendment #2: Motion by Lucero, second by Jan Bray, that the grants related to Voters’ Guides be distributed on a per member basis. The revised 2010-2011 budget will be presented at Council. The treasurer’s report for Council will also include information about splitting retained earnings and actual reserves. Campbell and Haaker will work on this explanation.

Proposed LWVNM Water Position: The proposed new water position was reviewed, with the following action taken: Motion by Mason, second by Lucero, passed to approve the water position as presented. Board members expressed appreciation for the excellent work done by Barbara Calef and her committee.

Delegates to LWVUS Convention: The board agreed on the following LWVNM delegates: Meredith Machen, Dick Mason, and Linda Moscarella (if interested); the backup to Moscarella will be Olin Bray. Registration deadline is May 15, 2010. [Note: After the meeting, Mason withdrew as a delegate. Machen, Moscarella, and O. Bray will serve as LWVNM delegates.]

Health Care Resolution: After discussing the relationship of LWVNM’s previous communication with LWVUS regarding support of a public option to a proposed LWVUS

convention resolution by health care advocates within the LWV, the following action was taken: Motion by Mason, second by Haaker, passed that LWVNM support the resolution as presented.

Review of Self-Assessment Results, Strategic Planning Goal 2: Prior to the board meeting, Campbell had requested LWVNM board members to complete the “State League Vitality and Training Needs Assessment Tool”. She compiled the data and reviewed the results, concentrating on the weakest points:

- membership (providing recruitment/retention tools to LLs, promoting membership diversity in terms of age, gender, race, and providing new member orientation kits to LLs);
- meeting/networking (having a liaison/consulting system in place to assist LLs, and conducting LL board orientation sessions annually); and
- finance/development (conducting an annual finance drive, conducting special fundraising projects, and seeking grants from foundations).

Ideas for ways of assisting local Leagues were brainstormed, including having a “League 101” training session at Convention 2011, providing links to resources, having a listserv for local presidents to discuss and exchange materials, and focusing on ways of getting younger people involved. Burn shared information about an operations manual that may be developed for GLC and its recent membership survey; the Brays shared information about CNM’s leadership initiative/study.

Strategic Planning (More Effective Advocacy): Mason shared his thoughts that the issue is not a shortage of ideas, but a shortage of people. He proposed getting involved in more coalitions this year and having more contact with interim legislative committees, including presentations to them by the LWVNM. Burn suggested using *La Palabra* to educate members as to why the Action Committee has selected certain priorities.

Use of PAVP Grant: Dick recommended that LWVNM Topics be used to solicit ideas for PAVP activities. Burn reiterated their interest in promoting online poll worker training.

Other Reports:

Natural Resources: Lucero reported on the following activities: (1) participating in a climate change-related conference call at UNM with Washington, D.C. staff members for Senators Bingaman and Udall; (2) helping with a recent gender gap forum in Albuquerque (LWVNM was one of the co-sponsors); (3) being an invited expert to a Water Assembly also involving land use in the Middle Rio Grande; and (4) testifying (Lucero and Campbell) at the Environmental Improvement Board hearing on a petition to establish a new rule that would place a state cap on greenhouse emissions at 25% below 1990 emission levels by 2020. She also asked for ideas on podcasts related to Earth Day activities for the Clean Energy Works group. She is contacting local Leagues for names of interested members to serve on a statewide committee to work on the natural resources position update. The ultimate target for approval of the updated position would be the LWVNM May 2011 convention. As part of this process, she would like to survey the entire membership about issues related to natural resources and review LWVNM archival information. Campbell suggested that the survey could be included in the summer or fall issue of *La Palabra*.

Voters' Guide: Jennice Fishburn shared the tentative list of committee members and asked board members to share any ideas for candidate questions by emailing her or Lucero. The board will approve questions drafted by the *Voters' Guide* committee at the summer board meeting.

Fair Representation: Haaker noted that the redistricting process has been the focus for this third year of the study group, which included submitting articles to *La Palabra* and meeting with State Senator Rod Adair regarding his 2009 bill proposing an independent redistricting commission. Currently the study group is concentrating on helping the 2010 Census to be successful and complete. During League Week at the capitol, the Fair Representation committee had a table in the rotunda with census information.

Action: Mason reported on the intensive activities of the Action Committee during this legislative session and provided a final legislative tracking summary. The committee continues to work on health care legislation. The board discussed whether to ask the governor to veto the food tax passed by the legislature last week. Mason's recommendation is that we shouldn't take any more action on the budget at this point and try again next year. The board agreed with his recommendation.

Local Leagues: In addition to other local League activities described earlier in relationship to specific agenda items, the Brays reported that CNM just launched a fifth unit on an experimental basis. It is located in an Albuquerque retirement facility where some League members reside, and 20 people attended the first meeting.

La Palabra: The deadline is March 13. A list of suggested articles was provided.

Next Meeting: The next board meeting will occur at the end of State Council on May 15, 2010.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.