

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO
Convention 2011 Minutes
May 14 – 15, 2011
Holiday Inn Express, Los Alamos

Saturday, May 14, 2011

Call to Order

The 2011 Convention of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by LWVNM President Kathy Campbell.

Welcome and Announcements

President Campbell welcomed the delegates and observers to the convention (see attached list of attendees) and introduced Los Alamos County Councilor Michael Wismer, who welcomed the group and expressed his appreciation for the assistance LWV Los Alamos provides in analyzing issues, keeping issues on the table, and reminding elected officials of the need for transparency and openness in governance.

The President called attention to the Silent Auction area and announced the auction will be closed at mid-morning during Sunday's session.

Appointments

The President announced the following appointments for the convention:

- Credentials Committee Chair, Carol Jackson
- Parliamentarian and timekeeper, Elliot Stern
- Secretary, Jennice Fishburn

Additional appointment:

- Vote counter, Michael McKay

Introductions

All delegates and observers introduced themselves.

Credentials Committee Report

The President recognized Credentials Chair, Carol Jackson, who reported that according to the LWVNM bylaws, "Forty percent of the possible number of voting delegates, other than members of the state board, shall constitute a quorum, provided that there is representation from a majority of local Leagues." She reported an attendance of 27 delegates plus seven Board members and six observers. A quorum is 12, so we have a quorum. **Motion: On behalf of the Committee, Jackson moved that the roll of delegates hereby submitted be the official roll of the voting members of the convention.** The motion was approved unanimously.

Adoption of Convention Rules

The President presented the Convention Rules, which require a two-thirds vote for adoption.

Motion: Fishburn moved the adoption of the Rules for the Convention as presented. Richard Mason seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a two-thirds standing vote.

Adoption of Agenda

The President called attention to the proposed agenda for the Convention and recognized Lora Lucero. **Motion: Lucero moved adoption of the Convention Agenda as presented.** The motion was seconded by Jackson. The President asked those in favor to say “aye” and those opposed to say “no”. The agenda was unanimously adopted as presented.

Appointment of Committee to Approve the Minutes

Without objection, the President appointed Bonnie Burn and Meredith Machen to approve the minutes of this 2011 Convention.

Report of the Treasurer

The President called for LWVNM Treasurer Cheryl Haaker to present the Treasurer’s Report for May 1, 2009, through April 30, 2011. Haaker noted that the League’s reserves were drawn down to reduce reserves to about 25-30% of the budget. Per recommendation of the LWVNM Finance Committee established after the 2009 Convention, a “retained earnings” category was established by the Board in November 2010, and some of those retained earnings were then disbursed as grants to the four local Leagues to assist in the publishing of their 2010 *Voters’ Guides*. Board and committee members were encouraged to submit the appropriate documents for expenses incurred in conducting LWVNM business, even if reimbursement is not requested, so in-kind contributions can be tracked. The Treasurer’s Report will be filed as presented. The President and others thanked Haaker for her dedicated work in improving financial reports.

Report of the Budget Committee

The Budget Committee’s report was presented by Cheryl Haaker, an ex-officio committee member. The Budget Committee was chaired by Terry Quinn, LWV of Central New Mexico (CNM), and also included members Bonnie Burn, LWV of Greater Las Cruces (GLC), Adair Waldenberg, LWV of Santa Fe County (SFC), and Rosmarie Fredrickson, LWV of Los Alamos (LA). President Campbell served as the second ex-officio member. The proposed 2011-2013 budget reflects the intent to phase in electronic transmission of the *La Palabra* newsletter by the second year, thereby reducing newsletter expenses. Clarifying questions were asked, with discussion, debate, and adoption to occur during Sunday’s session.

Report of the Nominating Committee

The report of the Nominating Committee was presented by Rebecca Shankland, Committee Chair (LA), who expressed her appreciation to the other elected members of the committee: Johnnie Aldrich (GLC) and Andrea Targhetta (CNM), and LWVNM board appointees, Meredith Machen, (SFC) and Lora Lucero (CNM). Noting that our bylaws allow this Convention to elect up to six directors plus four officers, Shankland reviewed the slate of nominees and pointed out that only six on-board directors and two officers have been nominated by the Nominating Committee and there are no nominees for President and Vice President. The presidents of the four local Leagues are also voting members of the Board, and the Board has the authority to appoint up to six additional directors during its term. In addition to the formal slate of elected Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee members, the Nominating Committee provided a list of members who have agreed to serve as Off-Board Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs or in other needed positions. The President opened the floor for nominations, reminding members that the nominated person should be willing to run. Judy Williams, SFC, nominated Meredith Machen for President, but Machen

declined to serve as President. Being there were no other nominees for office at this time, the President referred to a document from LWVUS, which describes a “Leadership Team” alternative to the usual president-vice president model, and then asked for nominations from the floor for members of a Leadership Team. Machen nominated Linda Moscarella, Member at Large (MAL) for the Leadership Team. Moscarella declined and expressed her concern about the process for developing the Leadership Team. There will be another opportunity at Sunday’s session for nominations from the floor.

Report of the Action Committee

The President called on Richard Mason, Chair of the Action Committee, to present their report. He noted that the LWVNM Action priorities for the recent 2011 legislative session were health care and revenue/budget issues. He shared a handout that listed (a) legislation of interest to LWVNM that was either passed/signed by the Governor; (b) legislation of interest to LWVNM that was passed by the Legislature, but vetoed by the Governor; and (c) bills considered to be undesirable by LWVNM that did not pass. Questions were asked about the possible impact to New Mexico due to the Governor’s veto of the legislation that would have met the federal health care requirement for a Health Insurance Exchange. The President thanked Mason and the Action Committee for their work and noted that the action process has been much better organized during the past two years.

Break

The President recessed the Convention for 15 minutes. The meeting was reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

Program

President Campbell introduced items to be included as League Program: advocacy (already covered in the Report of the Action Committee), prioritization and program development, and position development.

Existing Positions

The President referred to the existing LWVNM Positions included in the convention packet and noted that the only change since our 2009 Convention is the new position on Water. The Water Position was adopted by the LWVNM Board of Directors in March 2010 after the completion of a three-year study originally approved at the 2007 LWVNM Convention and allocated one more year at the 2009 Convention. This position now appears after the Natural Resources position. Thanks were expressed to Barbara Calef, study chair, and her committee for their excellent work, which included presentations to all local units of our four local Leagues. At its March 2011 meeting, the LWVNM Board voted to move the Sustainability position from the bottom of the list to the top of the list. There is no change to the Sustainability position content. The President provided an opportunity for any clarifying questions about the existing positions.

Proposed Concurrence with Transparency Position

The President reviewed the history of the development of the proposed concurrence. At the May 2010 LWVNM State Council meeting, the Council requested investigation of the possibility of LWVNM concurrence with the transparency position developed by LWV Santa Fe County, which would be suitably and minimally modified for use at both the state and local levels. The result is the proposed Transparency in State and Local Governments position in the Convention packet (a summary of pros and cons of adoption of this position was included in the spring *La Palabra* issue).

The President called on Karen Heldmeyer and Neva Van Peski from LWV SFC to present the proposed transparency position concurrence. They acknowledged the leadership of Jody Larson (SFC) in developing their local position and in presenting information for a possible LWVNM concurrence to our other local Leagues. The proposed Transparency in State and Local Governments position states that LWVNM expects state and local governments to follow the requirements of the New Mexico Open Meetings Act (OMA) and the Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA). In addition, LWVNM recommends that state and local governments adopt specific policies and practices (detailed in the proposed position document) regarding open meetings and public records, over and above what is legally required by the OMA and IPRA, within reasonable budget constraints. Heldmeyer and Van Peski noted that Santa Fe County government, in particular, has been very amenable to League suggestions and has used the SFC League position with its elected officials and employees as a teaching tool to achieve more transparency. It also has informed the positions of candidates for public office. Delegates were provided with an opportunity to ask clarifying questions related to the proposal. Much of the discussion period was spent on two particular areas: defining governmental bodies that would or would not be covered by this position and the possibility of including the issue of downloaded data in the position.

Recommended Studies

The President stated that three proposals for new studies were reviewed by the LWVNM Board with the following questions in mind: (1) Are there people, preferably drawn from several local Leagues, available to work on the issue? (2) Is the problem one that can be addressed by governmental, as opposed to private, action? (3) Is the issue one in which the League is likely to make a difference in outcome? Based only on these criteria, the Board is recommending all three proposed studies for 2011-2013. The President emphasized that this Convention should use additional criteria in evaluating the three proposed studies, including its judgment about the level of interest in each of the local Leagues as well as the number of studies the state League can reasonably pursue in a two-year period.

Public Regulation Commission Study:

The President called on Neva Van Peski to present the proposal for a study of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC). Joined by Karen Heldmeyer, they first summarized the scope, responsibilities, and structure of the PRC, which regulates utilities, insurance, telecommunications, and transportation, and also includes the State Fire Marshal Division and the Corporations Bureau. The proposed study primarily would focus on the organization and regulatory functions of the PRC and look at aspects such as (a) the structure, including non-regulatory functions; (b) whether it should be governed by an appointed or elected board and whether there should be required qualifications for those members; (c) acceptance of campaign funds; (d) ways of reducing corruption; (e) funding of PRC staff; (f) better representation of consumer interests in policy and rate-setting; and (g) the degree to which new technologies are allowed to penetrate the market. The SFC committee has already spent considerable time in gathering information from other states as well as in New Mexico, and thinks the timing of this study is excellent because there has been a groundswell of public interest and feeling that some sort of reform of the PRC is needed. Van Peski, Heldmeyer, and Jody Larson are willing to lead the study and they look forward to receiving ideas and adding study members from the other Leagues.

The President asked if there were any questions related to clarification about the scope and aspects of the study. In response to a question about timing of the study, the presenters said they plan to have it finished by the end of 2011 or early 2012, since a lot of work already has been accomplished and it would be advantageous to have it wrapped up before the next 60-day State Legislative Session. Specific questions also were asked about the size and shape of districts, and possible relationship to the privatization issues in the current LWVUS study.

Land Use Study:

President Campbell called on Barbara Calef to present the land use study proposal. Calef explained that a committee looking at updating the LWVNM Natural Resources position (last revised in 1987), decided that updating of the full position would be too broad and complicated for a single study since twelve areas were found to be in need of updating. Instead, they recommend a two-year study of land use that would consider issues such as (a) the appropriate balance between human needs and economic development vs. the preservation of intact ecosystems; (b) open space and wetlands; (c) facility siting; and (d) transportation. The financing of development and the interaction between local land use policies and state statutes are additional topics to be considered. Calef noted that there are individuals from all four local Leagues willing to participate in the study, and she is willing to serve as chair. They see the first year as being educational in nature and the second year as time for the consensus questions.

The President called for any questions related to clarification about the scope or other aspects of this study. Clarification was sought on the difference between this proposed land use study and the land use areas of the existing LWVNM position on "land use and water." It was explained that the land use aspect of this position is only tied to water availability and that there is not a general state land use position, although some local Leagues do have land use positions.

Alcohol Study:

The President turned the floor over to Dee Watkins to present the alcohol study proposal. In introducing the proposed study, Watkins shared a handout with data about alcohol-attributable deaths, policies that have reduced DWI deaths, and policies that broaden the prevention focus. The study would look at the best ways to reduce alcohol-related death and damage. There also is a need to examine the effectiveness of state policies as well as barriers to state policy changes, and consider priorities for effective legislative action. She and the CNM Drug Policy Study Committee would lead the study, and they welcome participants from other Leagues. The first year of the two-year study would focus on education and information, and the second year would be dedicated to consensus.

The President asked for any questions related to clarification about the scope or other aspects of this proposed study. Most of the questions focused on the study's approach, data base issues, the impact of budget cuts, and the financial impact of the state studies on the LWVNM budget. In response to the questions, it was noted that the study committee would be looking at questions such as what strategies work, the best way to do education about alcohol-related problems, and what priorities the LWVNM should use to address the problem. Watkins pointed out that bills introduced in the Legislature don't seem to be based on the latest research. In terms of the impact of this study and other proposed studies, the President said the greatest impact relates to time, energy, and calendar planning.

Non-Recommended Program and Other Business

President Campbell asked if there was any other intent to move program or any other items during the Sunday session beyond the items that have been introduced in this session. No non-recommended program items were brought up. There were questions about other items in the agenda packet (2011 immigration legislative priorities and a Public Advocacy for Voter Protection grant application to LWVUS for funding related to removing barriers to voting). Barbara Calef and Rebecca Shankland announced a caucus on LWVNM board leadership possibilities. Judy Williams announced the availability of a new video on the history of LWVSFC, which is now 60 years old.

Adjournment

The Saturday session was adjourned by the President at 11:32 a.m. The Convention will reconvene at 8:30 a.m., Sunday, May 15.

Other Saturday Activities

The lunch program was a presentation by Richard Mason (LWVNM) on deliberative democracy. He covered topics such as the basic principles of deliberative democracy, what is needed for it to work, and national organizations working on deliberative democracy. The League has been encouraged to participate in this initiative by one of the national organizations, America Speaks. Following Mason's presentation, attendees sought further information and suggested some possibilities for working with one or more of these organizations. Mason plans to contact national organizations using the deliberative democracy process in New Mexico to identify issues being addressed.

Following lunch a workshop on the decennial redistricting process was presented by Mary Wilson, CNM member and past LWVUS president, who is still playing a leadership role in LWVUS' activities related to redistricting. The League's primary focus is on transparency and public involvement in the redistricting process. She gave an overview of what several state Leagues are doing, called attention to the mapping software tool available through www.publicmapping.org, and encouraged LWVNM to come forward with a strong message about our intent to have the public involved in the New Mexico redistricting process and public hearings. Wilson then led the group in a discussion of what LWVNM could do in relation to the forthcoming redistricting process.

Guest speaker for the evening banquet was State Senator Timothy Keller, (D-Bernalillo-17), whose topic was "Building Healthy Communities". His primary focus was on built environments and their impact on the social determinants of health. Senator Keller sits on the Business, Education and Committees' Committee, as well as serving on the Finance, Tax, Investments, and Economic Development interim committees. He was recently appointed to the Redistricting Committee and has been selected as a "rising star" by New Mexico First for its Spirit of Bipartisanship 2011 Awards. Senator Keller is a member of LWVCNM.

Sunday, May 15, 2011

Call to Order

The 2011 Convention of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico was called to order at 8:41 a.m. by President Kathy Campbell.

Credentials Committee

President Campbell recognized Credentials Chair, Carol Jackson, who reported that according to the LWVNM bylaws, “Forty percent of the possible number of voting delegates, other than members of the state board, shall constitute a quorum, provided that there is representation from a majority of local Leagues.” She reported an attendance of 27 delegates out of a possible 29 delegates. A quorum is 12, so there is a quorum. Total attendance, including LWVNM Board members and observers, is 35.

Adoption of the Budget

The next item of business was adoption of the two-year Budget for 2011-2013, which was presented at Saturday’s session. The President recognized Bonnie Burn, a member of the 2011 Budget Committee. **Motion: By direction of the Board, Burn moved the adoption of the Budget as presented.** The only question was whether excess funds could be used for grants to local Leagues for assistance in publishing their *Voters’ Guide*. The President explained that question would a matter for the new Board to discuss. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Positions

The President called on Linda Moscarella to present the existing LWVNM positions. She briefly listed the positions – sustainability, government, natural resources, water, and social policy – and referred delegates to the complete position descriptions included in the Convention packet.

Motion: By direction of the Board, Linda Moscarella moved the adoption of the positions as presented.

Amendment: By direction of the Board, Karen Heldmeyer moved to amend the existing positions on government by concurring with the proposed position on Transparency. No second was required.

Amendment 1 to the Amendment: Karen Heldmeyer moved and Neva Van Peski seconded the replacement of the phrase, “state and local governments” in the first two paragraphs with “all state and local governments, executive and legislative.” The motion passed unanimously.

Amendment 2 to the Amendment: Cheryl Haaker moved that the motion to accept the proposed Transparency position be amended as follows: change the Transparency position as currently written so that Section B: Inspection of Public Records, item 5, includes a second sentence that reads: “These data should be capable of being downloaded in a non-proprietary form, such as comma separated variables (CSV), which can be further analyzed as desired by members of the public.” The motion was seconded by Dee Watkins.

Amendment to Amendment 2: Richard Mason moved and Barbara Calef seconded that wording of the change to Section B, Inspection of Public Records, item 5, include a second sentence that reads: “These data should be in a non-proprietary format that maximizes the public’s ability to download and analyze data.” The motion passed with the required two-thirds vote. There was one nay vote.

Amendment 2, as amended, passed.

The amendment to the main motion to adopt the Transparency in State and Local Governments position, as amended, passed unanimously.

The motion to adopt all LWVNM positions, including the Transparency position, passed unanimously.

Adoption of Studies

The next item of business was the adoption for state studies for the next two years.

Public Regulation Commission Study:

The President recognized Neva Van Peski, who made the following **motion: By direction of the Board, I move the adoption of the study of the Public Regulation Commission.** She then gave a brief summary of the study proposal, followed by discussion and comments by delegates. The motion to adopt the Public Regulation Commission Study passed unanimously.

Break

The President recessed the Convention for 15 minutes, at which time the Silent Auction was concluded. The meeting was reconvened at 10:18 a.m.

Land Use Study:

The President recognized Barbara Calef, who made the following **motion: By direction of the Board, I move adoption of the study of Land Use to update our Natural Resources position in this area.** Calef summarized the need to focus on land use as a first step in updating our 1987 Natural Resources position. Discussion primarily focused on the need for a state level land use position and its possible use. The motion to adopt the Land Use Study passed unanimously.

Alcohol Study:

The President recognized Dee Watkins, who made the following **motion: By direction of the Board, I move adoption of the Alcohol study.** She briefly summarized the study proposal and addressed questions about calendar scheduling concerns and if, instead of conducting a full state study now, there might be a possibility of proposing a concurrence in 2013 related to the CNM 2011-2013 local alcohol study. The motion passed with a majority vote. There were two nay votes.

Resolutions

President Campbell asked and received unanimous consent of the Convention to consider a resolution arising out of Saturday afternoon's workshop on redistricting.

Resolution 1:

Cheryl Haaker moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Meredith Machen: **Given how important it is that the decennial redistricting process be open to the public, transparent, accountable, and timely, that the LWVNM will send a letter to the Legislative Council Service, commending them for their excellent, easily found Redistricting web page and asking that all meetings of the state's Redistricting Committee, to include all hearings and public meetings held throughout the state, be streamed online with video as well as voice, and archived for public access on their Redistricting web page.** The President asked for unanimous consent to change "Legislative Council Service to Legislative Council" and add "and co-chairs of the

Legislative Redistricting Committee” after “Council”. Unanimous consent to this change was granted. The motion was then adopted unanimously.

Resolution 2:

Cheryl Haaker moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Joe Keefe: **Given how important it is that the decennial redistricting process be open to the public, transparent, and accountable, that the LWVNM will send a letter to the Governor, the Honorable Susana Martinez, asking that she restore funding to the state’s new Redistricting Committee so that they may hold public hearings throughout New Mexico, to inform and receive feedback from New Mexicans on the redistricting process and its status.** The motion was adopted unanimously.

Resolution 3:

Dee Watkins moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Meredith Machen: **Be it resolved that the New Mexico Redistricting process provide multiple opportunities throughout the state to provide public input on the proposed redistricting plans and have time to review the final plans to be considered by the Legislature and Governor.** The motion was adopted by unanimously.

Nominations and Elections

The President called on Andrea Targhetta to present the slate of 2011-2013 officers and directors on behalf of the Nominating Committee. President Campbell read each of the nominees and positions individually, asking for additional nominations from the floor. The nominees are Secretary, Chris Burroughs; Treasurer, Cheryl Haaker; the following Directors: Action Committee Co-Chair, Richard Mason; Communications Committee Chair, Joe Keefe; Membership Chair, Lynn Jones; *La Palabra* Editor, Mona Blaber; Education Committee Chair, Meredith Machen; Natural Resources Committee Co-Chair, Lora Lucero; and the Nominating Committee: Mary Wilson, Chair; Rebecca Shankland and Andrea Targhetta, elected Members. The offices of President and Vice President are open. Given that the Convention is empowered to elect four officers and up to six directors, the President also asked for further nominations for Leadership Team members. It was noted that the person nominated must agree to serve. Meredith Machen nominated Linda Moscarella for President, but Moscarella declined the nomination.

The President recognized Andrea Targhetta, Nominating Committee member, who made the following motion, which was seconded by Neva Van Peski: **Motion: I move the officers and directors proposed yesterday by the 2011 Nominating Committee Chair be elected as presented.** The motion passed unanimously, and President Campbell declared those individuals to be elected to the LWVNM Board.

The Nominating Committee’s report also included the names of persons accepting off-board positions. These positions are not subject to election. The Nominating Committee members were thanked for their dedication and hard work in including off-board positions as well as the elected officers and directors.

Privilege of the President

Before turning over the gavel to Shelly Shepherd, representative of the newly elected Board’s Leadership Team, outgoing President Campbell thanked all the members of the 2009-2011 Board

for their support, advice, hard work, and willingness to serve, stating that while she had been the spokesperson and convener of the Board, the final decisions and most of the work in preparing those decisions was the work of Board members. She also recognized the grassroots contributions of all the local Leagues and applauded them for their work. At the conclusion of President Campbell's remarks, Rebecca Shankland and Barbara Calef presented Campbell with a gift certificate and album of letters recognizing her dedication to the League and her hard work and effectiveness as President. All the Convention attendees joined in thanking Campbell for her four years of service as LWVNM President.

Directions to the Board

Shelley Shepherd accepted the gavel on behalf of the Leadership Team of the LWVNM Board, and asked for directions to the new board, which were as follows:

1. We urge the board to look at our position on Term Limits, and possibly work to eliminate it from our slate of positions.
2. We urge the board to appoint three members of the League to draft an article for *La Palabra* about the pros and cons of our position on Term Limits, with the goal of stimulating discussion among League members about further action on the position. The three members should include one member who supports the position, one member who opposes the position, and one member who is undecided.

Announcements

1. Two upcoming CNM events were announced and other Leagues were invited to provide CNM with information about their organizations for the League information table.
2. Copies of Brian Sanderoff's redistricting presentation at a CNM meeting were made available in a limited quantity.
3. Leagues working on annual calendars need to receive scheduling information from state study committees as soon as possible.
4. Following adjournment, the newly elected Board will meet in this room.

Adjournment

The Convention was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennice Fishburn, Secretary