

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO

Board of Directors Meeting

January 8, 2011, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Home of Jan and Olin Bray, Albuquerque

Members Present: Jan Bray, Olin Bray, Barbara Calef, Kathy Campbell, Jennice Fishburn, Cheryl Haaker, Caroline Jackson, Lora Lucero, Meredith Machen, Dick Mason, Linda Moscarella

Others: Peggy Hill, LWVUS Board Liaison; Diane Goldfarb, CNM

Absent: Bonnie Burn

Call to Order: President Kathy Campbell called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of November 13, 2010, were accepted and will be filed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Cheryl Haaker reported that all PMP payments have been received. The income from MAL (Member at Large) dues is significantly higher than last year. The IRS 990N will be filed before the May Convention, with work on State filings beginning this month. The board reviewed the budget spreadsheet presented by Haaker. Dick Mason will research whether a single bulk mailing permit could be shared by LWVNM and interested local Leagues.

Membership Report: Membership Chair Caroline Jackson reported that all 14 MAL members renewed. Although membership renewals also were mailed to national members, no responses have been received thus far. She received information that the Nationally Recruited Members (NRM) program ended in 2010, with names of the 60 NRMs from New Mexico removed by LWVUS from local League membership rosters as of December 31, 2010. LWVUS liaison Peggy Hill was asked about LWVUS's reason for taking over all national members, and she will gather additional information for us. Campbell pointed out that the mailing list for *La Palabra* is tied to our membership as recorded in the national database, which means national members living in New Mexico will no longer receive *La Palabra*.

President's Report: Campbell reported on the successful state lobbying workshop December 4th in Santa Fe. Speakers were State Senator Peter Wirth, State Representative Jimmie Hall, and LWVCNM member Erin Muffoletto. Two inquiries about forming new local Leagues were received in November from Farmington and Roswell. Campbell provided them with information and referrals to other League members in their areas, and will follow up with them. If approved by the Board, the LWVNM Budget Committee will be chaired by Terry Quinn (CNM); other members will be Bonnie Burn (GLC), Adair Waldenberg (SFC), and Rosmarie Frederickson (LA). Haaker and Campbell will serve as ex officio members. Action: Motion by Meredith Machen, second by Jackson to approve the proposed Budget Committee members. Motion passed unanimously. Campbell announced that Andrea Targhetta (CNM) will fill JoAnne Ramponi's slot on the LWVNM Nominating Committee. A number of portfolios were drafted or revised by Campbell and provided to the Nominating Committee. The *Voters' Key* is being updated with the goal of having it ready for League Day, providing missing contact data becomes available in time.

Old Business

LWVNM Candidate Forum Guidelines: The board reviewed draft candidate forum guidelines prepared by Burn and Erika Graf-Webster (GLC) and made revisions and suggestions, which will be used by Burn and Campbell in revising those guidelines.

America Speaks: Mason reported that America Speaks plans to conduct an interactive event in New Mexico that focuses on national and state budgets. The event won't happen until after the state legislative session. At present three community people are in communication with America Speaks about this project: Mason (LWVNM), someone from LULAC, and a third person who isn't affiliated with an organization. There is an understanding that America Speaks is to incur all costs.

Convention Update: Per request of LWVNM Nominating Chair Becky Shankland, board members suggested possibilities for 2011-13 LWVNM board members. Machen provided Campbell with the names of two persons who have served as parliamentarians for SFC. Ideas for potential state studies were discussed, with the following study suggestions made: use of public funds for private schools; drug policy (effects of alcohol beyond the context of DWI); structure of the Public Regulation Commission (PRC); redistricting (a new LWVNM committee will need to be formed); election law reform; citizen's right to know; making it easier for third parties to remain qualified political parties under New Mexico law; and updating our natural resources position. The board agreed it would be a good idea to look at possibilities for using the concurrence process in regard to studies, and also to review the background information on LWV national and state studies to see what specifics were included/covered and what topics were excluded. Campbell reminded the board (a) there needs to be a champion for a specific study/concurrence with enthusiasm for the study expressed by at least two local Leagues, (b) the study proposal has to be presented at the March 19, 2011 board meeting, and (c) the LWVNM website is a source of information for study proposal guidelines.

New Business

Action Committee Priorities: Mason reported on priorities recommended by the Action Committee. Action: Motion by Mason, second by Machen that the two priorities for this legislative session be: (1) implementing the federal health reform, including a health care exchange, and (2) budget/revenue issues. Motion passed unanimously. LWVNM will work with Health Care for All on the first priority and with Better Choices New Mexico on the second priority.

LWVUS Priority Recommendations: Following discussion of possible LWVUS priorities such as national popular vote, hydraulic fracturing during well drilling by the oil/gas industry, abolition of the death penalty, and budget/fiscal policy, the board agreed that the public needs to be educated regarding what taxes pay for. Action: Motion by Calef, second by Machen, that the LWVUS' priority should be spreading the word about what our taxes pay for, including how Social Security and Medicare work. Motion passed unanimously.

LWVUS Board Liaison: Peggy Hill shared the timeline for national studies: by April 1, 2011, education study materials and consensus questions will be provided to state and local Leagues, with reports due back to LWVUS by November 2011; the privatization in government study will then be done from November through April 2012. She asked for feedback on ways LWVUS can assist us, with the following suggestions made by board members:

- ≡ Set up a clearinghouse function for what topics have been studied by which Leagues – this will make it easier to research other studies, positions, etc., and in turn help us identify possibilities for concurrence.

- ≡ Create opportunities for dialogue about what local Leagues can do to civilize public discourse.
- ≡ Facilitate information sharing by helping local Leagues identify and link with other Leagues who are working on similar issues.

Other concerns included: (1) sudden changes in products and vendors when time and effort had just gone into learning how to use the initial product (example: change from Capwiz to Salsa), and (2) negative experiences with the Vote 411 system (examples: Yahoo news articles on the New Mexico web page that focused on Mexico rather than New Mexico; timing of the training and rollout of the new campaign tracker software system when LWVNM and local Leagues were already getting underway with the usual procedures for producing *Voters' Guides*).

Report from MRGCD SM21 Task Force: Diane Goldfarb represented LWVNM on a task force convened by the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) per request of Senate Memorial 21 and presented her report to the LWVNM board. The Task Force was charged with studying the process used for electing board members and recommending any necessary changes in the process to the MRGCD Board, the Governor, appropriate interim legislative committee, and the Legislature. She described the Task Force's process and activities as well as the recommendations that resulted from ten Task Force meetings and various subcommittee meetings occurring between March and December 2010. Concern was expressed that the Task Force Chair did not deliver the Task Force's formal November progress report, which included its primary recommendation of requiring campaign finance reporting, to the appropriate legislative committee (Water and Natural Resources). The final report was completed in early December, delivered to the MRGCD Board and sent to the Legislature. Senator Dede Feldman has stated she intends to introduce a bill in this session to require campaign finance reporting by candidates for the MRGCD Board of Directors. Goldfarb recommended that LWVNM follow and support this proposed legislation. Goldfarb's report, including the Task Force Final Recommendations, was accepted and will be filed. Campbell approved a letter to the editor of the *Albuquerque Journal* about the importance of the voter registration component and that the LWVNM intends to follow proposed legislation (there was no formal Task Force recommendation regarding voter registration). Lucero will attend the next MRGCD meeting and use the public comment period to express LWVNM's concern about the appropriate dissemination of the Task Force information and address any pending legislation.

Reports

Action: Mason reported that the Action Committee has scheduled weekly conference calls on Fridays at 2 p.m. until the end of the legislative session. (Also see previous agenda item regarding Action Committee priorities.)

Fair Representation: Haaker will add a link from the LWVNM main page to the redistricting page. She asked that someone else take over coordination of this committee. Machen said that the *Santa Fe Reporter* is going to write an article on redistricting, and Mary Wilson, CNM and immediate past president of LWVUS, will discuss redistricting from the national perspective at a SFC luncheon meeting. Campbell asked that the luncheon information be posted on LWVNM Topics. She noted that LWVNM needs to keep up with hearing dates and have representatives there.

Natural Resources: Lucero updated the board on the first carbon cap appeal filed by New Energy Economy and signed onto by LWVNM. She also said New Energy Economy is expected to file a writ of mandamus soon regarding the new governor's halting of publication of the rules (LWVNM

will be an observer of this process). They have asked LWVNM for help in getting letters to the editor published; Lucero will follow up.

LWVNM Website Report: Haaker described the website redesign process and shared a graphic showing lwvnm.org requests per day during November and December 2010.

Local League Reports:

LA [Calef]: There will be a candidates forum on Jan. 20th and legislative preview on Jan. 13th.

CNM [J. Bray]: A legislative reception was held on December 5th, with seven legislators among the approximately 50 attendees. Some high school students who had been registered to vote also were present. CNM is co-sponsoring an Albuquerque Public School Board candidate forum on Jan. 13th.

GLC [C. Jackson for B. Burn]: Burn was interviewed on the local public television station Dec. 7th regarding the League, women in political office, and the discourse of recent political campaigns. They have had two “go see” tours in Las Cruces – observing immigrant detainee hearings at the invitation of the U.S. Federal Magistrate Judge, and visiting the South Central Solid Waste Authority, which now handles single stream recycling for Las Cruces. GLC will have an exhibit at the grand opening of the Las Cruces Convention Center on Jan. 15th, and is helping community organizations develop a Jan. 20th public forum on immigration and immigration reform.

SFC [Machen]: They are keeping up with issues such as the possibility of having a combined election for community college and school district boards as well as city ethics (information from other cities can be found on www.cityethics.org).

Next Meeting: Saturday, March 19, 2011, from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., at the Skeen Library, New Mexico Tech, Socorro.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jennice Fishburn, Secretary