

League of Women Voters of New Mexico
November 17, 2012 Board Minutes
Socorro Public Library Ericksen Kase Meeting Room
401 Park Street, Socorro

Members Present: Shelly Shepherd, Bonnie Burn, Richard Mason, Chris Burroughs, Meredith Machen, Barbara Calef

Absent: Sandra Browne, Cheryl Haaker, Linda Moscarella, Judy Williams, Lynn Jones

Guests: Donna Reynolds, Mary Wilson, Gwen Hanson, Gracia Class

Meeting convened at 10:10 a.m.

Review and Approval of Agenda: Board approved the agenda as amended.

Approval of Minutes: Burn moved to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2012 meeting; Mason seconded. The board unanimously approved the meeting minutes.

Nominating Committee Report: Nominating Committee Chair Mary Wilson said the committee -- consisting of Andrea Targhetta, Rebecca Shanklin, Richard Mason and Linda Moscarella -- was working diligently to fill vacant positions. The committee has made phone calls to various League members asking them to be on the state board. They are trying to go away from a leadership team back to a president/vice president model. The committee's objective is to have the nominations completed by December 1 and will provide information to the board at the January meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Haaker did not attend the meeting but provided a written report. In the report Haaker noted that the current balances are checking account, \$1,880.25 and savings, \$6,104.24 for a total of \$7,984.49. She said she prepared an article for *La Palabra* reminding members to consider making tax-deductible contributions to their local League's Education Funds and reminding them that the State League has an Education Fund as well. She also reminded board members that the PMP is now due. So far, one League has paid.

Web Report: Haaker also presented a written report on web access. She wrote: "Not surprisingly, the most-accessed pages on the lwvnm.org website during the October-November period were those comprising the online *Voters' Guide*. The various pages and PDFs that made up the *Guide* got nearly 28,000 hits. Even the old *Voters' Guides*, including the 2008 one that was posted by Kathy Campbell, were getting significant numbers of viewers."

Membership: Calef read Jones' Membership Report which said there are currently at-large members.

Redistricting Report: Machen reported that LWVNM is working to improve redistricting while the memory of how poorly New Mexico's process worked this past time is still fresh. There is widespread consensus among legislators and the public that we need to avoid the inordinate costs in time, money, and effort of the current process. On October 10 Mary Wilson, as past president of LWVUS, along with Dick Mason and Machen from the LWVNM Leadership Team, went before the Courts and Corrections Committee of the Legislature to give some background as to why redistricting reform is needed in New Mexico. Wilson shared some of her extensive expertise on how other states conduct redistricting, the features of various alternatives, and the components most crucial to real redistricting reform. After studying more functional systems in other states, LWVNM is proposing the Iowa Redistricting Commission model as the most viable option for New Mexico. If adapted for and adopted in New Mexico, the NM Legislative Council Service would have the primary responsibility for drawing new district boundaries.

Reproductive Rights: LWVNM officially joined the New Mexico Coalition for Choice, a non-religious group. Diane Goldfarb serves as the League representative on the coalition.

Lobbying Workshop: The board was reminded that the annual LSV NM lobbying workshop was scheduled for December 1 from 10 a.m.-Noon at the Montezuma Masonic Lodge in Santa Fe. Machen suggested that the League issue a news release announcing the workshop and that it be sent out on topics.

League Day at the Legislature: Machen reminded the board that League Day at the Legislature will be February 5, preceded the night before by a reception and panel discussion for legislators. February 4 panelists will include Viki Harrison, executive director of Common Cause; Denise Lamb, deputy county clerk of Santa Fe County; and Dick Mason, LWVNM Leader and Action Chair. The February 5 League Day will start at the Roundhouse. Members can pick up their information packets from 7:30 a.m. at the LWV table in the West or East Lobby. Members are encouraged to attend sessions in the House and Senate and/or committee hearings before 10:15 a.m. when they will head to the Garrett's Desert Inn for the program. Invited morning speakers are Jane Wishner, attorney; Barbara Webber, Health Action NM; and Ruth Hoffman, NM Lutheran Advocacy/Voices for Children. The lunch speaker will be Mary Wilson, attorney and immediate past president of LWVUS. (Note: other panelists and speakers were suggested, but this is the final selection.)

Election Activities:

Voters' Guides: Machen noted that some problems arose with the *Voters' Guide*. Apparently LWVNM wanted different questions for the PRC candidates than LWVNM and there was an overlap of a U.S. Representative in the LWVNM and LWVNM Guides. These issues need to be clarified before the next election. Also in regards to the Guides, there was a discussion about whether write-in candidates and unopposed candidates should be included in them. It was

decided that the policy would be changed to reflect that official write-in candidates would be included and that unopposed candidates can get questions if the local Leagues want them to. It is a local option, not mandated by the LWVNM.

Straight Party Vote: A discussion centered around the fact that there was not an option on the November ballot for people to opt for a straight party vote. The board wanted to know if this could be changed for future elections.

Candidate Forums: The board discussed whose guidelines to follow when a local League holds candidate forums jointly with other organizations. Board members generally agreed that League guidelines should be followed. Also, it was agreed that when a candidate forum is planned and one of the candidates from a major party is unable to attend, the forum should be canceled.

Convention: Burn submitted the LWV/GLC proposal to hold the 2013 LWVNM in Las Cruces on May 18 and 19. The convention site will be the Hilton Garden Inn, 2550 Don Roser Dr., Las Cruces. She is reserving 20 standard queen or king rooms at \$99 per room plus breakfast at \$7 a person. Burn presented several options for speakers. In addition Mason suggested former Governor Gary Carruthers as a possible speaker for the Saturday night banquet. Shepherd moved to accept the Las Cruces proposal; Machen seconded. The board unanimously approved.

Local League Reports: Presidents from the local New Mexico Leagues gave reports of their activities.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be in Santa Fe on January 5, 2013.

Adjournment: The LWVNM Board adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Submitted by:

Chris Burroughs, LWVNM Secretary