

League of Women Voters of New Mexico
January 5, 2013 Board Minutes - 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Pastatiempo Senior Center, Santa Fe

Present: Bonnie Burn, Barbara Calef, Cheryl Haaker, Lynn Jones, Joe Keefe, Meredith Machen, Dick Mason, Linda Moscarella

Absent: Chris Burroughs, Judy Williams, Shelly Shepherd/Sandra Brown

Call to Order: Meredith Machen, Facilitator, called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Approve the agenda: No changes.

Approval of Minutes (11/17/2012): The meeting minutes were reviewed, and corrections made. Motion: Linda Moscarella moved that the meeting minutes be accepted as amended. The motion was seconded by Lynn Jones and passed unanimously.

Action: Meredith Machen will send revisions to Chris Burroughs.

Treasurer's Report : Cheryl Haaker reported League revenues of \$5,005.87, expenses of \$4,750.86 for the period, November 17, 2012 through December 31, 2012. Checking balance is \$1,323.53. Savings balance is 10,222.23, an increase of \$3,561/27. Reserves (CD) is \$4,086.99 and PAVP Grant balance is \$2,838.61.

Local Leagues have made their per member payments. Addition contributions to the Ed Fund (\$155) have been deposited with LWVUS and acknowledged.

Amount of money available for printing Voters' Key is approximately \$1,600. Editor Machen asked if the number of copies could be reduced from ~7,000 to ~3,000. Los Alamos and GLC require ~150 copies; Linda Moscarella (~100) and NM legislature (~1,000). Local League can distribute copies to the libraries in their areas.

Action: Meredith Machen will investigate printing costs and seek quotations that reflect a variety of quantities required. She also will get a price quotation for reprints if more copies are needed later in the year.

Note: The shelf-life of this pamphlet is two years, as NM State Representatives serve two-year terms.

Membership Report: Lynn Jones reported that all membership renewal notices have been sent out. Nine renewal payments have been received, and seven continue to be pending. Lynn asked the Board if the Membership Director could serve off Board. The Board was open to that possibility but would prefer the Nominating Committee find an individual who will participate on the board and work actively on recruitment and cultivation. No decision was made.

Membership and Leadership Development Project: Meredith Machen explained the program and the requirements for participation. It was suggested that the president and membership director of state and local League be identified as coaches. It was noted that It would be helpful if LWVUS provided more resource and less advice. NM is unique in that it has only four local Leagues and is limited in number of members and abundance of financial resources. Perhaps LWVUS could tailor the Member/Leader Development Project to fit local Leagues in similar

circumstances. There was general agreement the goals of the development model are noble, but NM League resources (member and financial) are limited.

Action: Linda Moscarella and Joe Keefe will participate in the webinar schedule for January 24 and will report the results at the March 16 Board meeting. Other Board members were encouraged to participate in the webinar as well

Action and Advocacy Update and Planning (Mason and all)

- **Lobbying Workshop** (Dec. 1) **Debrief:** Meredith Machen reported that the event was a success, and the League has had requests for the workshop information to be distributed to other organizations.
- **League Reception** (Feb. 4) **Responsibilities:** If people can coalesce at 3 p.m. at the Garrett Desert Inn to organize the reception, it would be very helpful. Signs and decorations are needed, and some will be supplied by Dick Mason. There will be a cash bar, and legislators will receive a ticket for a complimentary drink of beer and wine.
- **League Day** (Feb. 5) **Morning and Lunch Speakers, Schedule and Topics:** It was suggested that NM State Senator Bill O'Neil, who is sponsoring legislation for an Independent Redistricting Commission, be invited to speak at lunch, schedule permitting.
Action: Dick Mason will follow-up with Mary Wilson and extend an invitation to Senator O'Neill. Dick Mason will forward all information about League Day to Joe Keefe who will distribute to members through a Constant Contact email message.
- **Legislative Advocacy** (See Bill Tracking Form 1/4/2013): Dick Mason reported on bills listed on the Bill Tracking Form.
 - **League Tracking form** has been emailed to League's Action email group.
 - **Health Care Exchange:** A recent ruling has come down that the Governor does not have the authorization to change the Health Insurance Alliance into an exchange. Additional NM legislation will have to be passed to make this happen. Law suits may be filed, and heard quickly by the NM Supreme Court. The end results may be an exchange established by the federal government.
 - **Expansion of Medicaid:** Advocates met with the Governor and she is considering it.
 - **Health Security Act** is proposing the Vermont model that may turn the exchange into a single payer system.
 - **Voter Photo ID's :** Legislators who proposed this legislation last legislative session will not propose it during the 2013 NM legislative session. Sponsors might do a memorial to establish a committee about voting integrity. League may wish to be involved.
 - **Driver's licenses:** Governor plans to propose legislation.
 - **Corporate Tax:** Governor may propose that the corporate tax be reduced from 7 to 4.5%. This change will reduce revenue and create a deficit in the budget. Will anything be done during this legislative session about the great number of tax exemptions?
 - **Education:** Bills for funding reading and reading remediation are intervention are necessary to stop social promotion. There may be some legislation about the

funding formula. LWVNM can support the Community Schools Act that supports using schools as a community resource.

Bonnie Burn raised the issue of making appointments to the Early Childhood Advisory Committee. In light of the current emphasis on the importance of early childhood education to the success of completing high school, it seems that this Committee should be active. The Governor does not seem to be receptive to making any committee appointments.

- **Immigration:** Meredith Machen thought that driver's licenses would again be put on the NM legislators' agenda. She mentioned that we are for reform but not the stigmatizing effect that a two-tiered system would have. Dick Mason reported that NM State Senator Pete Campos might propose legislation that hopefully may end the driver's license legislation.

Gun Violence Prevention Advocacy: Meredith Machen raised the issue because of a meeting she will have with Mary Lewis Grow, member of LWVSFC and LWV Minnesota, who forwarded advocacy documents related to this issue:

(1) suggestions for taking action (list of organizations), and (2) rationale for better gun control laws (see Machen email, 1/4/2013). Cheryl Haaker suggested changing the terminology from "gun control," which is such a red flag, to "common sense gun safety" (see Haaker email, 1/4/2013). Dick Mason outlined four priorities that need to be addressed: automatic assault weapons, high capacity clips, armor piercing bullets, and gun show loopholes.

The issue of increased availability and funding for mental health has to be part of the advocacy and solution for the gun violence. Dick Mason mentioned the "mental health parity" legislation passed during Senator Domenici's service in the U.S. Senate. That legislation was re-iterated in the current Affordable Care Act. He also mentioned that there is a separate NM Interim Committee for Mental Health. Perhaps NM Senator Mary Kay Papen may be our best resource.

Action: Cheryl Haaker will draft a letter to the NM Congressional delegation about common sense gun safety/violence prevention measures and circulate it among Board members for comment before sending.

Public Regulations Commission (PRC): Machen reported on three bills that Think New Mexico is pursuing during the 2013 NM legislative session. The legislation focuses on implementation of the recently passed constitutional amendments. One proposed bill focuses on qualifications for candidates planning to run for commissioner positions. Another addresses the make-up of the nominating committee who will choose the new Insurance superintendent. Concern was expressed that the language regarding having a consumer advocate on the committee may not be strong enough. The third bill is a "clean-up" bill to right other statutes to reflect the changes made with the passing of the amendments. The advisability of transfer of the Corporations Department to the Secretary of State office location was discussed.

Redistricting: Machen reported that when Mary Wilson, Dick Mason, and she testified before the Courts and Corrections Interim Committee on October 10 (see La Palabra, Winter 2013, p. 6), Rep. Bill O'Neill was in attendance. As a result of this presentation, he has been working with the League on redistricting reform. A committee made up of

is working on draft legislation. Dick Mason and Joe Keefe will attend a meeting on the draft on Friday, January 11 at 10 a.m.

LWVNM Policy Review and Decision-Making

- **Policy: Voters Guide:** Members reviewed the policy. Among the wording changes that were suggested was moving the statement, *No elected officials or candidates for office and no political party representatives will be listed as donors or sponsors of League Voter Guides*, to #13 on the list of procedures.

Motion: Dick Mason moved that the Voter Guides policy be adopted with corrections. Lynn Jones seconded, and the motion passed.

- **Policy: Candidates Forums:** Members reviewed the policy. Suggestions were discussed and made.

Motion: Dick Mason moved that the policy be adopted with corrections. Lynn Jones seconded, and motion passed.

Action: Meredith Machen will revise both documents and send copies to Board members and one to Cheryl Haaker for posting on the web site.

Reports:

- **Convention Planning:** Bonnie Burn reported that contracts have been signed with Hilton Garden Inn for sleep and meeting rooms, and with Lorenzo's Restaurant for the banquet. Garrey Carruthers has accepted the League's invitation to be the guest speaker at the banquet. He will speak about the NM economy and the College High School that opened on the NMSU campus. An opening lunch speaker about federal immigration reform will be identified as soon as President Obama proposed reform is released. A staff contact about immigration legislation has been identified in Senator Udall's office and another will be identified as soon as Senate-elect Heinrich has established his new offices.

GLC treasurer, Ruth Benjamins, will establish a separate Convention account to collect registration fees and pay expenses.

William Little accepted the League's invitation to act as parliamentarian.

The registration fee is \$65 and covers opening lunch, banquet, and expenses related to the conference. Room expense, mileage, and lunch for the newly elected Board's first meeting are the responsibility of individual delegates.

LWVNM treasury will pay registration fee for Board members, except for local League Presidents. Current budget (\$300) was perceived as insufficient to cover the cost. Since Voter Guides advertising budget (\$500) was not used, it was suggested that the LWVNM treasurer transfer that allocation to the Convention budget line, which would raise the total allocation for Convention to \$800.

Motion: Dick Mason moved that \$500 be transferred from Voter Guides advertisement allocation to the Convention allocation budget line. Seconded by Barbara Calef and passed unanimously.

Action: Board members will notify treasurer, Cheryl Haaker, of their intent to attend. Cheryl will write one check to GLC's treasurer, Ruth Benjamins, for registrations.

Cheryl Haaker will develop Convention page on the LWVNM web site.

- **Convention Committee:** To complete the business of the convention, the following committees and their membership were identified:
 - **Budget Committee:** Suggested membership includes Rosemary Frederickson, Los Alamos; Adair Waldenberg, Santa Fe County; and Cheryl Haaker, Treasurer, Ex Officio. It was suggested that future new members be added to this committee in anticipation of replacing those who may have served for a long period of time.
Action: Barbara Calef will contact Rosemary Frederickson and Meredith Machen will contact Adair Waldenberg. Cheryl Haaker will email to committee members budget preparation templates used in the past.
 - **Bylaw Committee:** Bylaw revisions that incorporate the Leadership Team model in the current bylaws were reviewed, discussed, and additional revisions suggested.
Action: Barbara Calef will made the suggested revisions and send out to Board members for final approval at the March 16 Board Meeting. These changes will have to be approved by the delegates to the 2013 LWVNM Convention in Las Cruces.
 - **Nominating Report:** Linda Moscarella reported that she had not been able to reach Mary Wilson and did not have a formal report. Board members reported information they knew. These board members have accepted nomination: Meredith Machen for President, Dick Mason for Vice President, and Cheryl Haaker for Treasurer. Other names proposed but perhaps not contacted include Chris Burroughs for Secretary, Carol Tucker Trelease with a to-be-identified portfolio, Lynn Jones continuing as membership director in an off-board position.
Action: The Nominating Committee will make a final report at the Board Meeting on March 16.
- **Local Presidents:**
 - **Central New Mexico:** Haaker reported on the Legislative Breakfast that was not as well attended by legislators because of meeting called by Democrats. Mason reported that CNM will be holding a school board candidates forum for school and community college candidates.
 - **Greater Las Cruces :** Burn reported that GLC held a successful Legislative Breakfast, a member Holiday Social, and is collaborating with New Mexico Common Cause to sponsor a public information presentation, Campaign Finance After Citizens United on January 8, 2013, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Las Cruces City Council Chambers. It will be televised live on Comcast Cable Ch. 20 or streamed live on City of Las Cruces CLC-TV viewed on computers.
 - **Los Alamos:** Calef reported that the Los Alamos League and Sierra Club co-hosted a public presentation about San Juan Chama Water (see Los Alamos *Update*, January 2013, p.4). In conjunction with upcoming school bond election, members registered high school voters who will be 18 years old and eligible to

vote and will hold a school bond forum. LWVLA is opposing efforts to increase the county population by 7,000, a figure projected as beneficial for retail, and efforts by Los Alamos National Laboratories to participate in projects that require high water usage.

- **Santa Fe County:** Machen reported that the League will be hosting a Legislative Lunch, candidate forums for both the school board and the community college, and the Santa Fe County Sustainable Development Code.
- **Natural Resources:** Barbara Calef reported that she has been checking the LWVUS clearinghouse about land use to see if there is any position we might use to reach concurrence. Oregon has a study but no position. Governor Martinez may propose legislation that relaxes the water quality requirements that affect the state's mining industry. There has been no ruling on pit mining, and further action by the League was discouraged. The League is working with New Energy Economy in an effort to reduce pollution output from the San Juan Generating Station.
Action: Barbara Calef will check with Sierra Club to learn if it is proposing bills during the 2013 NM legislative session that League could support.

Proposed LWVUS and LWVNM Studies:

- **LWVUS** is asking state and local Leagues to identify issues for its priority advocacy during the U.S. 113th Congress.
- **LWVNM Program:** In anticipation of the LWVNM Convention, local Leagues have scheduled Program for Study and Action meetings in February. Recommendations from those meetings will be forwarded to the Board for consideration during its March 16 meeting.

Members reviewed two programs:

- (1) **Alcohol Drug Study:** This study was impacted by the unexpected death of its original chair, Dee Watkins. It is anticipated that a request for a continuation for another year may be proposed by the study's current chair, Jan Bray.
- (2) **Land Use:** Barbara Calef reassured Board members that this study, suspended at Council, continues to retain that status.

Action: LWVNM Program and LWVUS Legislative Priorities will be items for the March 16 Board Meeting.

Spring La Palabra Content, (Deadline: March 23): This issue is focused on the 2013 the Convention (Example: La Palabra, 2011, available on LWVNM web site). Articles from Convention Committees, Treasurer and Director's Reports will be included. Because the 2013 NM legislative session ends on March 16, there will be a brief legislative summary prepared by Dick Mason. Joe Keefe will develop an advertisement seeking members for the Communications Committee. Other articles of interest as they arise will be published. The deadline for submission was changed to **March 20** from March 23.

Action: Authors will forward convention articles to Meredith Machen to ensure that all necessary convention business and reports are met. She will then send the articles on to Chris Burroughs for layout.

Announcements and Other Business:

1. Barbara Calef and several others were concerned about icons printed next to the names of the presidential candidates on the 2012 general election ballot. JJ Meyers, Los Alamos, wrote a letter about this issue to Senator Bingaman who referred her letter to the NM Attorney General, who has not yet responded.
Action : Barbara Calef will write a letter to the NM Secretary of State that she will circulate to Board members for comment before sending.
2. Joe Keefe announced that he will be meeting with NM Congressional leader when he attends the CADCA, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, meeting in Washington, DC. Along with issues from other organizations he is representing, he will advocate for issues identified by LWVNM.

Next Board Meeting: Saturday, March 16, 2013, Santa Fe (time and location to be announced).

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Burn, President
League of Women Voters
Of Greater Las Cruces

Revised by
Meredith Machen 1/7/13