

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO

Board Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2013

Pasatiempo Senior Center, Santa Fe

Present: Barbara Calef, Ann Coulston for Donna Reynolds, Cheryl Haaker, Lee Lockie, Meredith Machen, Dick Mason, Linda Moscarella, Andrea Targhetta, Carol Tucker Trelease, Judy Williams

Absent: Erika Graf-Webster, Donna Reynolds

Guest: Santa Fe County Commissioner Liz Stefanics (LWVSFC member)

President Machen called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. All present introduced themselves.

Agenda: Barbara suggested that the Public Regulation Commission report be added to the agenda. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed to approve the agenda.

There were minor corrections to the minutes of the July 20, 2013, Board meeting including the League's growth nationally of .03 and the balance of the Ed Fund account was \$522.71. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as amended.

Meredith gave the President's Report and asked for assistance in making it less political message for *La Palabra*. Meredith will focus her message on NM, though much that is happening at the federal level affects NM greatly. She will send the report to Barbara and Judy for editing.

Treasurer's Report: Cheryl again praised the Convention attendees and silent auction volunteers for raising so much money. Payment of the PMP by local Leagues is due by the end of December. Los Alamos has already paid. There is \$3,050 budgeted for next year's LWVUS Convention. No one from LWVNM attended the Council this year. LWVNM was spent \$315 on printing one issue of *La Palabra*. It was particularly expensive because it was a long issue, covering the Convention. Operating expenses: Constant Contact expense of \$695.83 is divided as \$276 for 2012-13, \$321.83 for 2013-14, and \$98 for 2014-15. The Board accepted the Treasurer's Report.

Marriage Equality and More: Meredith introduced Santa Fe County Commissioner Liz Stefanics who presented information on the rapid progress of marriage equality in NM now that DOMA has been declared unconstitutional. Though the 2014 session is a budget session, some legislators will propose a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between a man and a woman. Meredith read a list of actions that LWVNM should/may do as part of the Why Marriage Matters New Mexico coalition, which includes about 20 organizations. The Board voted to join, and Linda Siegle (LWVSFC member, lobbyist for Equality New Mexico, and active member of the coalition) will keep the Board informed about marriage equality issues. ACLU-NM is filing a lawsuit with the NM Supreme Court arguing the legality of same-sex marriages on the basis of

both state and federal constitutions on behalf of the coalition. The New Mexico Supreme Court is compiling multiple lawsuits on same-sex marriage and is expected to rule after October 23.

Liz also reported on the repercussions of the phase out of the hold harmless provision of the gross-receipts tax on food and medicine included in the last-minute tax bill passed by the 2013 Legislature. Some counties and local governments are imposing higher gross receipts taxes on other goods and services as a result of the reduction in revenues. The New Mexico Association of Counties has not taken a formal position on the state's repeal of the hold harmless on gross-receipts taxes but may do so at its November meeting. She also answered questions on what is happening with Medicaid reimbursements to large and small hospitals for indigent care.

Membership and Leadership Development Project: Linda will attend a LWVUS webinar on attracting Millennials as members (people born 1981 and after). She reported that LWVSFC has nine new members, and LWVGLC has four new members. LWVCNM does not know how many new members it has, but the organization does not seem to be losing members.

La Palabra: Meredith presented a document on procedures and distribution and a proposed schedule on behalf of the *La Palabra* Committee, which the Board subsequently approved. Meredith thanked everyone for their cooperation in sending written reports as drafts of their *La Palabra* articles to her to distribute to the Board three days in advance of each meeting and the final versions to her and Barbara three days after the meeting. Lynn Jones has asked the Board to update the Constant Contact courtesy list of names and the local Leagues to inform of her of the copies of the last issue that were returned to LWVNM office. The Post Office charges \$4 for each returned newsletter. We are over budget in terms of both the postage and printing, so we need to keep the courtesy list close to 200, the minimum charged for the bulk permit rate. The Board discussed which elected officials to include on the *La Palabra* courtesy list, which includes the governor, secretary of state, and many legislators. This publication is our best good vehicle for letting these officials know our stances on issues and our concerns. In this issue, we will also acknowledge the governor for accepting federal dollars for Medicaid expansion and for approving legislation that created the NM Health Insurance Exchange.

La Palabra Fall 2013 Content: The fall issue will come out mid-October. Dick will do the lead article on Medicaid expansion and the Health Insurance Exchange and provide information about the December 7 Lobbying Workshop at Sandia Prep. Barbara has written an article on the Public Regulation Commission, and she and Judy will write another article on Natural Resources, Meredith will write about the Legislative Reception and League Day and Marriage Equality. Diane Goldfarb has submitted give a report on reproductive choice and the Albuquerque ballot issue. Bonnie Burn will be asked to write an article on behavioral health hearings she attended in Las Cruces. Local LWV Presidents' reports will also be included as usual.

Constant Contact Survey Module Proposal: The Board discussed LWVSFC's request to the local Leagues and LWVNM to add the survey module onto our Constant Contact subscription. LWVSFC used the trial version very successfully and now has more information for program planning. The cost is \$12.75 per month, or \$135 per year. LWVCNM uses an Access database to track member interests, and their Calendar Planning meeting is well attended because people are asked to come with ideas and suggestions. LWVGLC does not use Constant Contact. Judy said LWVSFC uses Constant Contact frequently and finds it quite appealing to members because it is

so bright and bold. The Board concluded that there was insufficient interest to spend this kind of money monthly on surveys. Survey Monkey is free and can use any mailing list. Surveys may be discussed again at the November meeting.

LWVNM Website: Cheryl handed out website pages that need to be updated. Judy volunteered to work on several sections. Suggestions were made about keeping the home page fresh and not posting “last-revised” dates on items that are still relevant and unchanging, as the viewer may think they are out-of-date when in fact they do not need updating. All of our positions and procedures have dates on them, so Cheryl will eliminate the generic date at the top right side of webpages. Cheryl suggested other opportunities for links on the website. For instance, we should list coalitions we participate in and post op-eds and press releases. There is also an Action page, so detailed information on League Day at the Legislature should be on that page. We need to give Cheryl any content we want on the website.

Bylaws: Barbara presented the content of proposed amendments to the bylaws. She suggested the changes based on the policy that all Leagues align their bylaws with those of LWVUS. Our section on Program Adoption was not in keeping with LWVUS’s. After discussion, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the bylaws amendments. The changes must be approved at Convention 2015.

Program: Judy led the discussion regarding LWVNM’s positions and updating and aligning with LWVUS positions. The LWVNM Position History document has much detail on certain positions and almost none on others. The Board decided there is value in retaining the old positions in the History and for explaining the rationale for changing them. Judy requests assistance on the Election Procedures section. Jo Porter may be able to help with this. Linda will take LWVNM’s concerns about the difficulty of posting items on the LWV Clearinghouse to her contact person on the LWVUS Board and let them know that we wish them to reconsider having the discussion lists so that League members can interact more frequently on various topics.

Action: Dick reported that Senator Tim Keller is going to try to get an oversight committee created to monitor the problems with the provision of behavioral health care services. The governor will probably not put a Voter ID issue on her call. Viki Harrison of Common Cause has sent a model ethics bill to the attorney general. The League hopes that Governor Martinez includes such a bill in her call. Federal officials from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services were in New Mexico for three days investigating allegations of fraud in Medicaid billing for behavioral health care. They will make a report on problems to our Congressional delegation. Leah Stempl, the outreach director of the Health Insurance Exchange, has resigned. Their promotional material is good, but no one going out to enroll the general public, with the exception of except Native Americans. People who need health care will be eager to get enrolled, but in order for the system to work, we also need lots of healthy people who do not need health care to get enrolled. Sidonie Squire, the HSD Secretary, does not seem to be interested in education and outreach.

Local League Presidents' Quarterly Reports for August-September 2013 as submitted by each of the presidents were reviewed. Some highlights follow. LWVLA and UNM-LA held a Town Hall

meeting to inform residents about the mil levy election. The League provided sandwiches. At their Lunch with a Leader luncheon, Kim Gabaldon, Los Alamos County's first Social Services Manager, discussed problems with obtaining behavioral health care services. Ann reported on the two Breakfast with Leaders programs that LWVSFC has held. There were thirteen attendees at the first presentation and ten at the second. There was wholesome discussion at both gatherings. Andrea from LWVCNM reported the Girls' State young women will be invited to talk about what they do. LWVCNM is doing lots of voter registration. LWVCNM moderated a District 7 city council forum and provided a timekeeper for a mayoral candidate forum that KNME-TV hosted. LWVCNM also collected questions from the public to be addressed at the forum. .

Natural Resources: Judy and Barbara gave the Natural Resources report. The Environmental Improvement Board met in Las Cruces and supported the Renewable Energy for Utilities Act. Lee Lockie reported that she was back in service after taking care of her brother and will be working on the Land Study with Judy and Barbara.

Legislative Reception and League Day: Meredith reported on her negotiations with Garrett's Desert Inn in Santa Fe for renting the conference center and rooms. Because it is undergoing bankruptcy proceedings, it will not honor the agreement that it made last year and must make money. We will host our Legislative Reception there on January 27 for \$425 plus taxes, but we will need to find another space for the League Day meeting on January 28. They will give LWVNM a rate of \$59.00 per night for lodging and free parking for those who book rooms is December 27 using the code **Swing Vote**. If we can fill 20 rooms, they will comp us the conference center. They will not pro-rate if we are unable to book all 20 rooms. The restaurant that provided hors d'oeuvres and wine and beer has closed. The new restaurant is closed Mondays and not interested in catering, so we can bring our own food. Meredith is trying to get them to work with us and let us privately hire one of their bar tenders once they get alcohol serving license. LWVNM has \$1,000 in the budget for the reception. In the past, LWVNM got box lunches for League Day. We can't have food or drink in the Land Office where we are likely to hold our meetings, so lunch will probably have to be on one's own.

Dick nominated Diane Goldfarb to serve on the LWVNM Board. Diane will continue to represent LWVNM on the Respect ABQ Women Reproductive Choice coalition which fights against constraints that limit women's access to health care and attempts to enact legislation that puts private decision making into public law. The Board unanimously approved Diane Goldfarb as a Board Director

Announcements, Initiatives, or Other Business:

ACLU would like LWVNM to co-sponsor a forum in 2014 about National Security Agency (aka governmental surveillance/NSA spying) on us. Judy spoke with Frank Susman, an ACLU-NM Board member. She will get more information and report at the LWVNM Board meeting in November. LWVNM does have a position on the right to privacy.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned just before 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Tucker Trelease, Secretary, 9/22/13

Edited by Meredith Machen and sent in draft form for comments to the Board, 10/10/13.