**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**November 15, 2014**

**Socorro Public Library, 401 Park Street, Socorro**

**Present:** Barbara Calef, Diane Goldfarb, Erika Graf-Webster, Cheryl Haaker, Lee

Lockie, Meredith Machen, Dick Mason, Donna Reynolds, Andrea

Targhetta, Carol Tucker Trelease, Judy Williams

**Absent:** Linda Moscarella

**Guest:** Ardyth Norem

President Machen called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Each member briefly

introduced herself for the benefit of Ardyth Norem, visitor from GLC League.

Members added agenda items. The amended agenda was approved unanimously. The minutes of the September 20, 2014 board meeting will be approved at our next meeting.

Meredith asked Ardyth if she would like to serve on our board. Ardyth declined.

**Presidentʼs Report:** Meredith thanked everyone for helping with the election. She announced that she would not be giving a formal report.

**Treasurerʼs Report:** Cheryl reported that we have spent more than we have received because the local Leagues have not yet paid the PMP. Cheryl explained that she can no longer distinguish between newsletter printing, mailing services, newsletter postage, and newsletter editorʼs expense. We discussed board liability insurance, which we pay for.

**Membership Report:** No one present was on the recent MLD call with LWVUS. Membership is holding steady.

**Elections-Educational Outreach**: Voter turnout in New Mexico was only 38.1% in the recent election. Judy reported on the recent Santa Fe Voter Ethics forum featuring Senator Peter Wirth, Stuart Bluestone, and Viki Harrison.

What important legislative issues with there be in New Mexico in 2015? One issue will be an ethics commission. As an illustration of the problems that arise, Erika reported on the action of Dona Ana County Manager, Julia Brown. Brown made a campaign contribution to a County Commission candidate who was subsequently elected and will be responsible for supervising and evaluating the County Manager.

Dick cited another example of a lapse in ethics: UNM President Frank gave an award to Governor Susana Martinez shortly before the election. Dick will write a letter to the Board of Regents about this. Yet another example was the Voters Guide produced by Secretary of State Dianna Duran for the recent election. Her name was prominently displayed in red ink and was distributed at the polls.

LWV Election News: LWVSFC Voters Guides were also in polling places. CNM and Las Cruces Voters Guides were in some polling places. In Los Alamos, the Voters Guide was placed in the local newspaper. In Las Cruces, CAFE is requesting that there be two distributions of Voters Guides, before early voting and again prior to Election Day. CAFE is also asking LWVNM for same day registration.

Las Cruces has developed four legislative priorities for their area and has developed

fact sheets on these topics.

**Communications:** NM In Depth will produce a Legislative Guide. Trip Jennings is the

leader of this effort. They will produce 100,000 copies. Shall we be a sponsor for

$100? It was passed unanimously to sponsor.

“Peopleʼs Legislative Scorecard” Former Senator Steve Fischmann is working withBrian Sanderoff of Research and Polling on issues of consensus in our state. LWVNM

is not ready to support this effort. We do not support all popular issues. We will watch the process.

We need to consider the new Republican leadership of the House. Much of our work during the 2015 session will be defensive. Dick listed three priorities: education funding (formula funding, morewith local control); voting rights, including stopping passage of a voter photo ID law and keeping driverʼs licenses for undocumented; campaign finance reform/ethics commission,and money in politics.

Last session we focused on tax policy. The Election Administration Coalition will produce a package of items to support. Common Cause will be working on similar issues.

On League Day, we should offer legislators one piece of paper with our priorities. We

will also have fact sheets of lots of different issues (those need to be updated).

**Positions:** Barbara presented the new Natural Resources Position, which has been discussed with all four local Leagues. It was m-s-passed unanimously to accept the Natural Resources Position and it was m-s-passed unanimously to change the name of the 2010 water position to“Water Supply.” The water issues will be at the end of Natural Resources.

Juvenile Concerns: Judy has asked the Mental Health Committee to look at the

position on Juvenile Justice. However, they wonʼt be meeting again until after January, so Judy will try to work on the position with Diane’s assistance.

The Mental Health Care Study Committee will not be recommending any changes to the position.

**Convention:** Martha Burk will be the banquet speaker. The event will be open

to the public. Carol will contribute her fee. Carol will also host a reception at her home on the evening of May 15. Andrea has asked Senator Heinrich to speak at the luncheon. He wonʼt commit until January or later. If it is determined that US Senate is in session, Meredith will ask Governor Martinez to speak. If she agrees, Senator Heinrich will be uninvited. Andrea will invite Mayor Berry to welcome the delegates at the convention.

**Nominations:** Meredith is willing to continue as President. Dick will continue as Vice President. Judy will continue as Program Chair. Diane will continue as Reproductive Rights Advocate. Carol would be willing to relinquish her role as Secretary if someone else would take it. Lee will continue as Natural Resources Director. Cheryl will continue as Treasurer. We need to find someone to take over Voter Services as well as a new Webmaster, a Director of Communications, and a Membership Chair. Concerning the website, Andrea uses an offsite data backup called Carbonite. Go Daddy is a company that works with web sites. Meredith will continue doing Education but would happily give that up. Becky Shankland is chair of the Nominations Committee, which also includes Jody Larson, and Diane Goldfarb. Erika agreed to be the fourth member with assistance from Ardyth.

**Lobbying Workshop:** LWVNM will hold a Lobbying Workshop on Saturday, December 13 from 10 until noon in room 322 of the Round House. The speakers will be Senator Peter Wirth, Senator Sander Rue, Linda Siegle, and Juliana Koob.

**Legislative Reception**

The LWVNM Legislative Reception is Monday, February 9 at Garrettʼs Desert Inn. The panel may include Meredith, Rep. Mimi Stewart, Rep. Dennis Roch, Don Moya, and Veronica Garcia. Dick will work on presentations for League Day at the Legislature, February 10. The meeting will take place at the State Land Office.

**Policy on Candidate Forums:** At the September board meeting Meredith proposed some additional guidelines to the existing policy. Barbara offered to review and condense the documents. She made some changes to the January 5, 2013 policy and also amended the draft LWVNM document titled*Candidate and Issue Forums: Information for Candidates and Cosponsors.*  The board passed unanimously to accept the policy as modified.

Meredith reviewed assignments for La Palabra as well as for Nominating Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Tucker Trelease

Edited by Barbara Calef and Meredith Machen