**League of Women Voters of New Mexico**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

April 2, 2016

Higher Education Center, Santa Fe

Present: Barbara Calef, Karen Douglas, Diane Goldfarb, Cheryl Haaker, Gwen Hanson, Peggy Howell, Meredith Machen, Dick Mason, Tarin Nix, Akkana Peck, Carol Tucker Trelease, Judy Williams

President Machen called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The agenda was approved.

Minutes of our last meeting were approved as amended.

President’s Report: Meredith has been urging the Secretary of State to declare 17-year olds who turn 18 by Nov. 8 eligible to vote in the primary election. She will let us know as soon as the decision has been made so that we can promote it as we do high school registration. We also need to promote the new online voter registration system. We will be working on the LWVNM Voter Guide this summer and fall. Lynn Jones will be co-editor of this Voter Guide as well as LA’s Voter Services Chair. For CNM, Jo Porter will continue and Janet Blair will assist. For SFC, Suzanne Ronneau will be in charge and Marcy Litzenberg will assist. For GLC, Dale Yeo will continue. Meredith asked that we conduct forums with the candidates for Secretary of State in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe.

The forthcoming La Palabra has the agenda and registration form for the LWVNM Council on May 21 in Los Alamos. Meredith asked Board members to fill out their registrations at the meeting and Cheryl wrote a check to LWVLA to cover the fees of Board members who are not local League presidents.

The PRC asked LWVNM for help creating an Ethics Committee. Meredith asked Adair Waldenberg, LWVSFC, to represent LWVNM on the PRC Ethics Advisory Committee, because of her previous experience. She agreed to serve.

Treasurer’s Report: It costs us $336 to use Constant Contact for a year. Cheryl has renewed our subscription. We have nearly $18,000 in Wells Fargo. Our Wells Fargo savings account is earning very little interest. The Board asked Cheryl to close that account and move the savings into the checking account. Meredith thanked Cheryl for all of her good work as she is going off the Board after Council.

Membership and Leadership Development: Diane reported that she will discontinue her participation in the monthly conference calls with other states. Diane commented that LWVUS seems to be focusing on recruiting younger members and suggested that LWVUS use an ombudsperson to make the calls more useful. Diane will continue coaching the LA and SFC Leagues, who will have a joint call on April 4 to exchange ideas. Linda Moscarella will continue with the LWVUS program, coaching CNM and GLC. Andrea Targhetta is doing MLD for LWVCNM.

Communications: Tarin distributed draft League logos. Our next priority should be on voting. We need to have an effective logo. We might be able to target people aged 18 to 24 to register to vote through Facebook advertising. Information could also be distributed via local newspapers. Tarin will keep coming up with more ideas for membership recruitment.

Charter School Study: Meredith reported that State Auditor Tim Keller, the LESC, the LFC, and the NM Superintendents Association have significant concerns about charter school finances, quality, and regulation. She is working with these groups and keeping tabs on the Public Education Commission, which is in charge of about 60 of the 100 charter schools in New Mexico. The Bellwether Foundation has a goal of opening 30 more state-charters by 2020, but the NM Coalition for Charter Schools says that number may be scaled back. There is a widespread perception in the public that the League opposes charter schools, so Meredith is making sure that all communications clearly state that primary goal is to make charter schools the highest quality possible if they are to serve as true choices for parents and students and to make sure that the state can afford the investment, given declining school aged populations. The Action Committee approved the call for a moratorium on the authorization of new charter schools pending study of needs, finances, and regulation. The Charter School Study Committee conducted the unit meeting in Santa Fe in March and Meredith will talk with LWVLA on May 17. She will also arrange a time to meet with LWVGLC and LWVCNM.

Convention: Meredith discussed LWVUS’s proposed program for the biennium to be considered at Convention, which will be in Washington, D.C. June 16 to 19. She asked who else would like to go with her to represent LWVNM. Yvonne Flores and Ardyth Norem will represent LWVGLC. Diane Goldfarb may represent CNM. From Santa Fe, Judy Williams will attend and Suzanne Schmidt and Natalie Agraz may attend.

Meredith reported that Yvonne is working on a request for a caucus on immigration issues, which she will help Yvonne facilitate. New Mexico, along with other border states, is part of Operation Streamline, which has accelerated deportations. If the caucus proposal is approved, Linda Wassenich, outgoing LWVUS Board member and fabulous liaison to the New Mexico League, will attend.

**Reports and Discussion:**

Action: Dick reported on the effect that cutting the state’s share of Medicaid funding would have on New Mexicans and the federal return on the state’s investment. He is working with several groups and investigating ways to increase state revenues to cover budget shortfalls. He will also be talking with Common Cause about strategies to get Ethics Commission legislation passed in the next session.

Natural Resources: Judy and Barbara discussed the PNM San Juan Generating Station Supreme Court case. Judy reported that LWVNM has been asked to sign on to a climate change resolution. There is an accusation that the PRC did not follow its own processes.

Reproductive Choice: Diane reported that three anti-abortion bills and one memorial failed. The New Mexico Coalition for Choice, of which LWVNM is a member, has been quite successful.

Local League reports:

GLC: Gwen reported on their legislative breakfast, their Money and Politics meetings, and their work on desalinization issues. GLC hosted a successful new member tea in February. GLC is promoting locally financed elections and registering eligible students in Las Cruces Public Schools to vote. They are conducting a fundraising drive for the scholarship established in memory of Bonnie Burn.

CNM: In January, the APS Acting Superintendent of Schools spoke to the group. They are continuing their work with APD Forward (to improve Albuquerque Police Department) and stay in touch with Dr. Ginger, the monitor of APD. CNM is also working with Janet Blair, a former TV newsperson, as well as Shannon Kunkel. At their next lunch meeting, Bernalillo County Manager Julie Morgas Baca will talk about mental health services. At CNM’s Annual Meeting, Senator Tom Udall will be the luncheon speaker. Cheryl and Peggy are going off the CNM Board. Andrea Targhetta will be a CNM vice president, but she will not serve on the state board.

SFC: Judy reported that they had a legislative update in January with most of their delegation speaking at a well-attended luncheon. A group met with the mayor recently and sent a follow-up letter with recommendations to improve transparency, accountability, and decision-making. They held a public “one person-one vote” meeting for Sunshine Week. Members are conducting a city council candidate forum and preparing a municipal election Voter Guide. Voter Services volunteers are also working on their first-ever, primary election Voter Guide and conducting high school and general voter registration drives.

LA: Barbara reported that she is trying to arrange a tour of the New Mexico Consortium at 11:00 a.m. prior to LWVNM Council on May 21 in Los Alamos. Members are going to vote on a study of proposals to transfer public lands to the state at the Annual Meeting on April 19. Meredith will talk about the Charter Schools Study at Lunch with a Leader on May 17.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Tucker Trelease

Secretary

Edited by Barbara Calef and Meredith Machen