

**Minutes of the LWVLA Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, August 25, 2016**  
**Mesa Public Library, Los Alamos, NM**

**Call to Order**

Wendee Brunish called the meeting to order at noon.

**Board Members Present:**

Wendee Brunish, President  
Kathy Taylor, Treasurer  
Barbara Calef, Secretary  
Tarin Nix, Membership  
Lynn Jones, Voter Services

Amy Birnbaum, Arrangements  
Jody Benson, Publicity  
Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a  
Leader  
Julie Williams-Hill, BPU Observer  
Akkana Peck, Director-at-Large

**Minutes**

Minutes for the July 28 meeting were filed as amended.

**Treasurer's Report**

Kathy reported that there is a balance of \$6,033.83 in the General Fund. \$310 was received including a \$100 donation from LANB and dues from Savoia, Sandford, Forman, and Hertzman. She reimbursed herself \$11.25 for the filing fee to the Secretary of State and \$1,310.51 to Becky for the LWVUS Convention. She will find out if LANB wishes to co-sponsor a forum.

The savings account balance accrued interest of \$.05 and is now \$2145.31. The Ed Fund balance remains \$19,699.00.

**Business Fund Drive**

Roger Waterman and Lorraine Hartway have agreed to send checks to the League. Wendee will speak to NM Bank and Trust (formerly Community Bank), Dr. Fredericka Smith, and the New Mexico Consortium about making a donation. Dave Fox should also be approached.

**501c3**

Wendee will speak to Suzanne Schmidt about converting our League's status from 501c4 to 501c3.

**Lunch with a Leader**

Karyl Ann announced that Steve Foltyn will talk about Art in Public Places in September. She asked if the board wants a program in October in view of the other League meetings that month (two candidate forums and the charter

school consensus meeting). After some discussion it was decided not to hold LWL in October but to invite LAPS Superintendant Kurt Steinhaus and school board member Bill Hargraves for the November LWL to report on progress in communications between the schools and the community as well as plans for the January bond election.

### **Membership Report**

Tarin was present, but had no report. Kathy will give her the information about members who have renewed.

### **Observer Corps**

**BPU:** Julie reported that at their August meeting the board voted to increase the water rate by 10% across the board (service fee, commodity rate) and decrease the gas rate. The two changes will be voted on by the Council on September 27. Kathy Taylor is now on the BPU board. She had no additional news to report.

**Council:** Lynn reported that the Council approved the wording for the charter amendment measure on the November ballot by a vote of 5-2 with Sheehey and Chrobocinski opposing. She added that the old stone steps on the east side of Fuller Lodge have been excavated and the patio enlarged. Also, a ramp has been created to be ADA compliant.

### **September Newsletter**

The next newsletter deadline is September 7. Articles should be sent to Wendee (use her gmail address) and Kathy. Wendee will report on an August 4 event sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League to honor Soloman Howard for raising awareness of threats to voting rights.

### **Voter Registration, Guide and Forums**

October 11 is the final day to register to vote in the General Election. Board members agreed to register voters at the Farmers Market beginning on September 1. Julie volunteered for September 1. Wendee said she would participate on September 29. Lynn and Barbara signed up for September 8. September 27 is National Voter Registration Day. It was suggested that the League arrange to register voters at UNM/LA on that day. Once the plans are set, Tarin will put a notice on Facebook and Karyl Ann will notify Carol Clark.

The first candidate forum will be held on October 6, but Wendee will not be available to moderate. Becky was nominated to take her place. The candidates for US Congress, District Attorney, Probate Judge, and NM State

Representative have been invited for that date. Ben Ray Lujan has not confirmed.

Wendee will moderate the second forum on the 13<sup>th</sup> for the candidates for Council and County Clerk. Robert Gibson and Marco Lucero will be asked to speak pro and con the charter amendment that night. The format for both forums will be 3 minutes for presentation, 1 minute to pose a question, and 1½ minutes to respond.

The County Clerk's Office is interested in linking to the Voter Guide on our website. For the Voter Guide, Becky volunteered to summarize the points in favor of the charter amendment and Barbara said she would write up the points in opposition. However, it was decided that Dave North would write the first draft of the con argument instead.

### **Bylaws Amendment**

The board voted unanimously to amend our bylaws to be consistent with those of LWVUS as amended during the 2016 National Convention. Article III Section 2A now reads, "Voting members shall be persons at least 16 years of age." This change does not require approval at the annual meeting.

### **Empty Chair Policy**

There has been controversy regarding the Empty Chair Policy at the state and local levels of the League since Nina Espinoza has refused to participate in forums for the Secretary of State candidates this year. As a result, the board revisited the LWVLA policy and decided to amend it to allow a candidate to respond to questions even if no opponent is present. Akkana moved and Amy seconded a motion to adopt the Minnesota Empty Chair Policy. The vote was unanimous.

### **Next Meeting**

Wendee will be out of town from September 2-8 and again from September 11-23. The date for the next meeting has been changed to September 29. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.