

**Draft Minutes of the LWVLA Board Meeting
Thursday, February 22, 2018
Mesa Public Library, Los Alamos, NM**

Call to Order

Barbara Calef called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Barbara Calef, Co-president

Kathy Taylor, Treasurer

Amy Birnbaum, Arrangements

Lynn Jones, Voter Services

Julie Williams-Hill, BPU Observer

Rosmarie Frederickson, Secretary

Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader

Akkana Peck, Director-at-Large (DAL)

Jody Benson, Publicity

Minutes for the January meeting were approved as presented.

Barbara suggested that we add "Budget Questions" to the agenda. The amendment was approved.

Treasurer's Report

Kathy Taylor reported that on January 31, 2018 the general fund balance was \$5,032.97. The receipts totaled \$251.25. Dues and donations accounted for \$165.00 and an AAUW reimbursement of \$86.25 for it's share of Legislative Preview expenses, brought the receipts to \$251.25. Disbursements for the month of January were \$140 to Karyl Ann for dinner for the speakers coming for the Legislative Preview and for ads in the LA Daily Post. Total disbursements were \$313. 85. At the end of January there was a balance of \$2,146.96 in the savings account. the Ed Fund had an Ending Balance of \$19,372.75.

Kathy alerted us to the fact that she felt the charges for our ads at LA Post were excessive considering that was only on-line coverage.

Budget Questions

The number of forums necessary for ~~this~~ the primary election was discussed at length. There will be five Democratic candidates for one position in the First Judicial District. There are three candidates for sheriff and two Democratic candidates for the state legislature. It is not yet determined how many candidates will file for Council. There will be four open positions. It was recommended that the finance committee budget at least two preprimary forums and two forums for the election.

Jody proposed that since we are in the business of non-partisan education of voters that Lisa Shin, who is unopposed, be allowed to give a 3 minute presentation of her views. There was much discussion on the matter and Barbara suggested that those for and those opposing that position write arguments for this procedure change and the board will vote on it at the March 8th. meeting.

It was also noted that the Santa Fe League may publish a Voter Guide for the Primary Election. The Los Alamos League might ask to share some of the information.

LWVNM was asked to participate in a gubernatorial forum by the Foundation for Open Government by Peter St. Cyr. The League was not interested in helping to host this forum because they were only asked to be ushers.

Lunch with a Leader

The following leaders have been asked to present and have accepted:

March -- Robert Gibson, who has served as an analyst at the Legislature, will have a report on legislative issues covered in this 30-day session and on some of the mechanics, the pressures, the pace, some of the behind-the-scenes politics, of the legislative process.

April -- Kurt Steinhaus -- Superintendent of Schools will speak about financing education. This is also the annual meeting.

Barbara and Karyl Ann asked for suggestions for other Lunch with a Leader meetings. The following were suggested:

- New Librarian Ilene Sullivan
- Terry Foecke -- Head of LANL's Pollution Prevention Department
- Steve Cummins -- from DPU to talk about Solar Gardens and/or distributed solar.
- Kathleen Ann Sabo, director of NM Ethics Watch, to talk about the constitutional amendment to create an ethics commission.
- New director of LA Community Foundation Rachel Kizielewicz.

The question of where to meet for both board meetings and LWL while the library is closed was again discussed. Karyl Ann reported that she again checked with the Central Ave Grill and their facility is too small and too loud. Other suggestions to investigate were Crossroad Bible Church, the Unitarian Church and the White Rock Library. Amy agreed to check with the White Rock Library for board meetings. Barbara will check with the Unitarian Church. If they do not have space available, we will ask Crossroads Bible Church.

Membership

Becky sent an e-mail with the following report:

Membership numbers are stable at around 80 (but a few are leaving town). She attached a list of people she had contacted to serve on the board and their responses. She reminded us that we need to follow up on several who didn't reply, and need to ask Sandra West and Jean Dewart for possible positions. All of the current board members agreed to stay on the board.

David North was asked to handle arrangements. Akkana thought he was not interested.

Program Planning Meeting Results

The people present at the meeting agreed that the current positions served the purposes for lobbying on the current interests.

Other proposed actions included lobbying for weekend bus service in Los Alamos. A committee might be formed to study improvements to the procedures used by the state legislature. There was also some interest to promote recycling.

Board members, led by Kathy Taylor, expressed a desire to hold a forum on child poverty in NM before the general Election, with a panel discussing programs as well as methods to finance those programs for all children in the state.

Fund Drive

Suzie's father is in the hospital, so she is not able to host the fund drive party on March 15th. Amy Birnbaum offered to be the host. Her address is 926 Circle Drive.

Observer Corps Reports.

Lynn reported that the council had a meeting with the Smith Market Place leadership to encourage them to rent or sell the empty store left when the new "Smith's Market Place" opened. The problem was not resolved. There is nothing in the contract between the County and Smith's that might help in solving the problem.

The county offered to transfer land on DP Rd. to a developer when the developer is prepared to build affordable apartments.

Julie reported that at the Feb. 21 BPU meeting there was discussion on the Carbon Free Project, investing in nuclear power. Council and BPU will have a joint meeting on March 6 to discuss the issue of whether to continue or pull out of the Carbon Free Project. The BPU will vote on March 21 whether to recommend approval to the Council. The council will vote on April 3rd whether to continue this project by making a final commitment.

There was also a discussion on the Advanced Meter Infrastructure.

The next item that was discussed was the budget. The DPU will bring the budget back to the BPU for approval next month.

There is a public meeting scheduled on March 1st at 6:00pm at UNM-LA to discuss the Camp May Water Pipeline.

The Council approved the transfer of the \$2.5 million from the natural gas fund to the waste water fund. They also adopted the revised long-range water supply plan.

Follow up on Legislative Session

Barbara reported that the reception went ok. On League Day Stephanie Garcia Richards spent thirty minutes with the attendees of the event.

Bills lobbied against by the League did not pass or did not come out of committee. Bills supported by the League are resting on the governor's desk awaiting signature.

Newsletter deadline March 12

Next Board Meeting March 8, 2018

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40PM.