

**Minutes of the LWVLA Board Meeting  
Thursday, March 8, 2018  
Mesa Public Library, Los Alamos, NM**

**Call to Order**

Barbara Calef called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Barbara Calef, Co-president

Becky Shankland, 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

Jody Benson, Publicity

**Guests:**

Waine Archer

Sandra West

Jane Sherwood

Ellen Mills

After a review of the February minutes and an addition to the minutes was made they were accepted as revised.

**Treasurer's Report**

Kathy Taylor reported that on February 28, 2018 the general fund balance was \$5,013.00. The receipts totaled \$10.00 for a lunch paid with a check made out to the League treasury. Disbursement for the month of February was \$30.00 to Barbara Calef for a phone card. At the end of February there was a balance of \$2,147.05 in the savings account. The Ed Fund had an Ending Balance of \$19,372.75.

Kathy reported that she has been notified by the IRS that the application for a 501(c)(3) nonprofit designation has been approved. She does not yet have all the paperwork, but she reports that it should be here shortly. Dues collected at the Annual Meeting and following will allow members to be able to claim them as a deduction on their taxes. Kathy still has to contact the Secretary of State to finish the process.

**Lunch with a Leader**

The speaker for the March Lunch with a Leader is Robert Gibson, a bill analyst who researched proposed legislation for three different House committees and the Senate minority caucus for the past four sessions of the New Mexico State Legislature. Gibson will briefly recap the most recent legislative session, and will focus on what he has learned about the legislative process beyond Civics 101.

Los Alamos Public Schools Superintendent Kurt Steinhaus will be the speaker for the April 17 Lunch with a Leader event. Steinhaus will explain New Mexico public

school funding, and how Los Alamos schools are funded. This talk will be followed by the annual meeting.

Karyl Ann will invite the new LAC librarian to speak at the May LWL.

Again, the problem of where to meet during the months when the library is closed was discussed. Barbara reported that the Unitarian Church was available for our use for \$30 an hour. Felicia Orth, a member of the Unitarian Church, has volunteered to pay half of that amount. The board was reluctant to accept this generous offer. Amy has agreed to check the availability of CrossRoads Bible Church and check the charges for the use of their facilities and to see if there is space on Aug. 21, Sept. 18 and Oct. 16.

### **Proposed Budget:**

Julie, Jane Sherwood, and Kathy worked with us through their proposed budget. Small changes to the amounts were made during the discussion. Julie agreed to incorporate these changes. Amy moved that the budget be accepted as amended. Becky seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Barbara thanked the committee for their dedicated work.

### **Membership:**

Becky reported that membership numbers continue stable at around 80. Since the March Update will include a membership list, she looked for guidance on how much information should be included in the list. Many people feel nervous about having phone numbers, addresses and emails included in such a list.

The board agreed that Becky will send out a Friendly Reminder to give people a choice about what information to include. If they do not respond to the email, Becky will just list their names.

### **Invitation to participate in voter registration**

Margo Batha alerted the board that there will be a walk-out at the local high school on Wednesday March 14th, from 10:00am to 10:30 a.m. to protest gun violence. She encouraged us to send League members to register voters turning 18 before the next election. Jody and Waine volunteered to meet at the high school to do the registration. Jody already has the training and Waine was asked to get the training before going to register voters. Jody said she would provide slips with information on how to register on-line in case the registrants were unable to remember their Social Security numbers.

### **Fund Drive**

Suzie Havemann'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. Barbara will write and provide the cover letter. Kathy will provide stamps, envelopes both small and large and three lists of address labels of previous donors. Rosmarie will

print return address labels. All board members were encouraged to think about friends that might consider a donation to the League.

### **Follow up on Legislative Session**

Barbara reported that the League Day at the Legislative reception went ok. On League Day Stephanie Garcia Richards spent thirty minutes with the attendees of the event, who included Barbara Calef, Sandra West, Becky Shankland, David North, Akkana Peck and Kathy Taylor.

Bills opposed by the League did not pass. Some bills supported by the League are resting on the governor's desk awaiting her signature.

### **Preparation for Annual Meeting:**

Becky reported that so far the following people have accepted the nomination to run for office:

#### Officers

- Co-Presidents: Barbara Calef and Becky Shankland
- 1st and 2nd VP: not filled
- Treasurer: Kathy Taylor
- Secretary: Rosmarie Frederickson

#### Directors

- Reservations: Amy Birnbaum
- L/L: Karyl Ann Armbruster
- Voter Services: Lynn Jones
- BPU Observer: Julie Williams Hill
- Publicity: Jody Benson
- Directors at Large: Akkana Peck, Sandra West, Ellen Mills

#### Off Board Directors

- Arrangements: not filled
- Fund Raising: not filled
- Webmaster: Julie Williams-Hill
- Assistant Webmaster: Barbara Lemmick
- Newsletter Editor: Waine Archer
- Nominating Committee: not filled

Kathy Taylor moved that we accept the nomination report. Amy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **Silent Auction**

We have always had a silent Auction at the Annual Meeting. This was set up by Barbara Lemmick. There was discussion that maybe this year since the treasury is in pretty good shape we might not need a Silent Auction. The board decided not to hold a silent auction.

## **Candidate Forum Rules:**

Akkana moved that all candidates who are unopposed be invited to participate in the Primary Forum. Jody seconded the motion.

There was some discussion that this is against League rules. Some board members felt that it would help educate voters by giving them an opportunity to meet the unopposed candidates. There was concern that if there were many opposed candidates, they would not have sufficient time if everyone running was invited to participate. March 13th is the last day for filing for the local election. There have always been some surprises. There are already ten candidates for council.

Becky made a friendly amendment that the unopposed candidates just introduce themselves and not be allowed to answer questions. The friendly amendment was rejected by Akkana and Jody.

The motion was called. There were four votes for inviting unopposed candidates and five votes that we do not. The motion failed.

## **Observer Corps Reports.**

Julie reported that the Utility Board needs a new member. Applications are due April 17.

By April 10 the Council and the BPU must decide whether to move into the next phase for the Carbon Free Power Project (small modular reactors -- SMR). The maximum commitment for the first phase of the licensing period is approximately \$900,000. However, if by March 2019, (the first off-ramp), the project doesn't have enough subscribers, Los Alamos will be reimbursed for its development expenses. If Los Alamos unilaterally doesn't want to proceed, the worst-case non-refundable cost exposure is \$80,000. The SMR is part of the County's goal to become Carbon Neutral by 2040. The project with Utah Associated Municipal Power System (UAMPS) is a consortium of counties that, like Los Alamos, have their own utilities and are seeking to go carbon neutral.

Lynn reported that Susana Martinez vetoed all tax bills including the Los Alamos and northern NM bill that would have ensured that whoever got the LANL contract would pay the gross receipts tax. Martinez's objection is that she wanted a comprehensive tax bill, rather than piecemeal.

Both P&Z and T-Board have new members. Jean Dewart is on P&Z. The Teen Center became LEED Certified. Parks and Rec has two new members with a decision pending for two others. New roll carts for yard waste will be distributed by request in July.

The meeting on the pipeline for the ski hill met with little objection except that Michael Altherr and commenters from the Sierra Club fear condo development. The BPU needs to decide whether there will be a special utilities rate that reflects the cost of developing the service. This would go through a public hearing and development ordinance. There is not enough electricity/gas/septic to support major development.

Councilors O'Leary and Chrobocinski brought suit against LA County calling for an ethics investigation for the mishandling of LAC funds by the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities head, Andrea Romero. There are, however, no policies to bind behavior.

The March for our Lives demonstraion asking for increased gun control will be Saturday, March 24 in Santa Fe.

**Next Board Meeting April 17 [Annual Meeting] and April 26, 2018**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15.

*Rosmarie Frederickson and Jody Benson*