

**Minutes of the LWVLA Board Meeting
Thursday, April 26, 2018
Mesa Public Library, Los Alamos, NM**

Call to Order

Barbara Calef called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Barbara Calef, Co-president

Becky Shankland, Co-president

Sandra West, Newsletter Editor

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

Ellen Mills, Director at Large

Leslie Wallstrom, 2nd Vice-President

After a review of the March minutes, and some necessary additions and corrections, they were accepted as revised.

Meeting Day Change

Leslie Wallstrom, new on the board, cannot come on Thursday because of a work conflict. She proposed the board meetings be changed to 4th Tuesday of the month. Only one member had car conflicts on Tuesday. Several other board members offered to help with rides. Amy Birnbaum made the motion to change the meeting time to the 4th Tuesday of the month. Leslie Wallstrom seconded the motion. The motion was called and it passed.

Duties of Board Members

Sandra West will take on the formatting of the **Update**. Wayne Archer is no longer available to do this chore to get the Update out.

Leslie Wallstrom is willing to learn the role of being moderator at the forums. Ellen Mills would also be available to help at being a moderator. Leslie is also wishing to work on the LWV brochure. Julie Williams-Hill has a good start on it and so Leslie was asked to work with Julie.

There still has not been a volunteer to take on arrangements. Becky Shankland is still keeper of the four big boxes of supplies to host the "Meet and Greet time" at the forums. Leslie Wallstrom agreed to ask Susanna Rousculp to see if she would be willing to help.

Treasurer's Report

There was no Treasurer's Report because Kathy was absent.

LEW (League Easy Web) Invoice

Julie reported that she is in contact with Amaris Lebron of the California LWV about the fees for the webhosting of the LWV-Los Alamos Webpage. The fee has been \$200 for many years but it is going up to \$250 this year. At the same time there is another option for the LA League to use, which is called MyLo (My League online). It costs \$400/annually.

Advantage of MyLo (from Julie)

- Uses Wysiwyg (what you see is what you get) versus html. It is easier for non web-people to use and maintain (setting up photos and video, etc.)
- Media Library – it includes a shared library with other MyLo users to pull graphics, video, documents, etc., into our own website
- Currently 73 leagues are using MyLo
- Font, color scheme, already formatted to meet league branding requirements
- The \$400 does include the first time set up of home page +9 pages.
- There is a transfer package of \$200 per each 15 pages (not necessary – we can do ourselves)

Disadvantage of MyLo

- Will take approx. 4 – 5 weeks to transfer everything over to a new site
- If we want to upgrade this year – my advice is to wait until after the elections (after November)
- Amaris indicated if we do that – we would need to pay for both the LEW and the MyLo – so our web expenses would be \$750 (with no transfer package).

Julie's recommendation

- We stick with LEW for fy 2019
- Upgrade to MyLo in fy 2020

The board agreed that this was the best option. 2018 is an election year and many people check on the web page during that time, so it would be difficult to be down that long.

Lunch with a Leader

Lunch with a Leader program will be hosted at the Unitarian Church for the months of August, September and October. There was a charge of \$380 for the use of the facilities for this period time. There was discussion if that cost would include the setup and breakup of the room. There had been no agreement about that and Karyl Ann will check into that. It would be hard to set up all the tables and chairs and still pick up lunches.

Karyl Ann invited the new librarian Eileen Sullivan to speak at the May 15th Lunch with a Leader at Mesa Public Library. Ms. Sullivan has agreed to present a program about LA libraries and how she wants to move forward with new and different services.

For the June 19th meeting it was suggested to ask someone working on the committee that is hoping to start a Charter Middle School here in Los Alamos. Michelle Altherr was suggested. Karyl Ann will contact her.

For the July 17th meeting Jorge Rodriguez from the ACLU was suggested and for the August meeting Robert Rhatigan.

Membership

Becky reported that membership numbers continue stable at around 75.

Preparation for Forum May 3rd

For the forum on May 3rd all the Democratic County Council candidates have accepted the invitation to participate. Two Republican candidates for sheriff are also able to come to the Forum. It will be held at UNM-LA. The "Meet and Greet" will start at 6:30pm and the presentations will start at 7:00pm. Each candidate will have three minutes for an introductory talk and one minute for a closing statement. Each question for the candidates for the audience will also be limited to one minute and each candidate's answer will be limited to one and a half minutes. Gloria Maestas has agreed to come and give an overview of voting places and times, as well as a schedule for registration and absentee voting.

Members of the Hilltalkers Debate team will be time keepers.

Becky will bring what is necessary from the four boxes of supplies. It was decided that the refreshments will be simplified. There will be no coffee or tea, only juice and water will be available. Each board member will bring a snack to serve. Becky will send out a friendly reminder to members to invite them also bring a snack.

Lynn will bring the name tags and candidate placards.

Because many people might leave after the sheriff candidates have finished their presentations, it was decided to have the Council Candidates first, followed by the sheriff candidates.

Forum on May 9th

The second Forum will be held on May 9th at Fuller Lodge. The candidates for the first Judicial District, Divisions 2 and 5, and the Democratic candidates for NM House District 43 have been invited and have accepted. The "Meet and Greet" will again start at 6:30pm and the presentations at 7:00pm.

The rules for candidates and questions from the audience will be the same as for the May 3rd Forum.

Hilltalkers will be the time keepers.

Becky will bring the "Meet and Greet" supplies. She will send out a friendly reminder to ask members to bring snacks.

Thank-you note party

Lynn volunteered to host the thank-you note writing party. Her home is located at 520 Navajo St. It will be on May 24th from 7pm to 8:30pm. Kathy will provide the list of donors and the IRS receipt form and postage stamps. Barbara will bring the stationery.

Council Meeting

Council Meeting will be held in Albuquerque on Saturday, May 19th from 11:30 to 2:30. The Los Alamos League is allowed two delegates. Barbara and Akkana both serve on the state board, so are already voting members. Becky volunteered to be one of the candidates. Leslie Wallstrom, and Sandra West were asked to go. Each will check her calendar and send in registration if available.

Observer Corps Reports

BPU Report

Julie reported that on April 10 the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and County Council held a special meeting to decide on the County's continued participation in the Carbon Free Power Project. The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) recommended that the BPU and Council approve signing a Power Sales Contract with three future off-ramps to continue in the project that utilizes small modular nuclear reactor technology. The BPU voted four to one in favor, and the Council voted four to three in favor. The first off-ramp is next year in 2019.

The regularly scheduled BPU meeting was held on April 18. Restructuring the electric rate was discussed at length, with no decision was made by the BPU. The intent is to arrive at a rate structure that adequately and fairly compensates customers for energy produced by their distributed energy systems, but still recovers the DPU's fixed costs to maintain and operate the distribution grid. The BPU asked the Department to come back in a future meeting with more details for further discussion.

County Council Report

Lynn's reported that at the County Council meeting on April 3, Council passed a resolution declaring a moratorium on all new notices and citations for code violations for sixty days, except for those initiated by citizen complaints and those affecting increased fire risk or health, safety, and welfare. On May 1 the Council will discuss creating the Community

Advisory Board, which may consider code compliance issues and/or larger neighborhood improvement efforts.

The County Council on April 3 also agreed that they will contract with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) to provide services for our Public Health Office here in Los Alamos that the New Mexico Department of Health is refusing to provide. Our office has been effectively closed for the past year. In the budget session of April 16th, Council provided for this plan within the budget for the Community Services Department. It will still be six months to a year before we see the Public Health Office open again.

On April 10 there was a joint Board of Public Utilities (BPU)/County Council meeting to decide whether the Department of Public Utilities and the County will continue to participate in the Carbon Free Power Project (CFPP). This is also referred to as the Small Nuclear Reactor project. After extensive discussion the vote was to proceed, with the BPU voting four to one in favor, and Council voting four to three in favor.

On April 16 and 17 the County Council held their annual budget meetings, and Council adopted the published budget with only slight modifications. The County departments are planning on a flat budget for fiscal years '19 and '20. Once the county knows if the LANL contractor will be a non-profit or a for-profit entity (hopefully they will know by June), the Council will adjust the budgets up or down prior to the start of the County fiscal year in July.

Update on Early Childhood Education Forum

September 6, 2018 is the date for the forum on Early Childhood Education. It will be held at the United Church. Susan Boe is organizing the forum. She hopes to have a panel discussion and then a breakout and brainstorming session on the issues discussed. It is hoped she will feature some of the research and studies that have been completed to see what programs have worked.

The next newsletter deadline is May 20. Please send articles to Barbara by that night.

Next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, May 22, 2018. This board meeting will be at Mesa Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15.

Rosmarie Frederickson