

**Draft Minutes of the LWVLA Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 22, 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

Sandra West, Newsletter Editor

Leslie Wallstrom, 2nd Vice President

Amy Birnbaum, Arrangements

Lynn Jones, Voter Services

Kathy Taylor, Treasurer

Julie Williams-Hill, BPU Observer

Rosmarie Frederickson, Secretary

Karyl Ann Armbruster, Lunch with a Leader

Akkana Peck, Director at Large

Jody Benson, Publicity

After a review of the April minutes, and a necessary addition of Leslie Wallstrom's name to the attendees list, they were accepted as revised.

**Treasurer's Report**

Kathy Taylor reported that on April 30, 2018, the general fund balance was \$7417.09. The receipts totaled \$2,155.00. \$650.00 were donations received from the fund drive and \$1,505.00 were dues paid during the Annual Meeting in April. The disbursements for the month of April were \$250 for web hosting and \$172.50 for Fuller Lodge rental for the May candidate forum. At the end of April there was a balance of \$2,147.14 in the savings account. The Ed Fund reimbursement of \$17,811.57 was added to the savings account. The new total is \$19,958.89.

Kathy also reported that she expected \$1,500 more from the Ed Fund. She is looking into the discrepancy.

**Conflict of interest policy**

Barbara had circulated the Conflict of Interest Policy. It needs to be reviewed once a year. There were no questions about the policy. A signature form was passed around and all were requested to sign to show they had read and understand the conflict of interest policy.

**Adoption of Non-Partisan Policy**

Barbara had also circulated the Non-Partisan Policy. There was some discussion about whether the whole board was mandated to follow the guidelines. As in previous years, it is limited to the Presidents and the Voter Services director. Some of the stipulations are that there be no contributions to a candidate or yard signs for candidates in the yards of people serving in these positions. The rest of the board is encouraged to keep a low

profile to protect the credibility as a non-patrician organization. Amy moved that we adopt the Non-Partisan Policy. Akkana seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

### **Lunch with a Leader**

Karyl Ann has invited Bill Hargraves, a school board member, to speak at the June 19th Lunch with a Leader meeting at Mesa Public Library. He has agreed to present a program about the possibility of a Middle School Charter School in Los Alamos.

For the July 17th meeting Jorge Rodriguez from the ACLU has accepted the invitation to speak. It is suggested that he talk about the border wall and immigrant justice. He is coming from Las Cruces and there was concern that there be good attendance.

The suggestion for the August meeting is Robert Rhatigan.

### **Sustainability**

There was a discussion on how to move forward on sustainability issues. Sandra West was tasked with talking to Angelica Gurule about making the White Rock transfer station more user friendly. It was suggested that there be better signage and that it be kept cleaner.

Most of the issues such as

- Water conservation initiatives
- Sustainability requirements necessary for remodeling projects
- Plastic bag initiatives -- maybe working with the high school environmental club
- Landscaping suggestion -- using native plants
- The County's use of Roundup in parks

be revisited after the election.

### **Membership**

Becky reported via e-mail that membership stands at 58. She has attached a list of people that should be reminded to pay their dues and rejoin.

### **Forums Follow-up**

There were 110 people attending the forum with County Council Candidates and Sheriff candidates and about 90 people attended the second forum at Fuller Lodge with the two candidates for Stephanie's seat in the Legislature. Also, all the candidates for judgeships were able to give their presentations.

The board felt that it was not necessary to run ads in the Monitor. The last ad had been poorly placed and not timely enough. After a discussion it was decided to submit an ad and if it is not well placed and timely, not to pay the bill.

There was also a request that people on the board look for the second banner which is usually on the podium. It has been mislaid.

### **Preparation for Forum September 6.**

The Los Alamos League is planning an educational forum on Early Childhood Education. Barbara and others will meet with Susan Boe and her replacement from Searchlight, NM to plan the meeting further. It is to be a panel presentation to hear about studies that have been done so we can learn what has worked and what has not. This panel discussion is to be followed by breakout sessions to brainstorm ideas to improve the early childhood education in New Mexico.

AAUW has been contacted and they will join in sponsoring this forum. Marilyn Doolen and Carol Neal are planning to attend the meeting with Sue Boe.

Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club have also been contacted and they both declined to be involved.

### **Council Meeting**

Council Meeting was held in Albuquerque on Saturday, May 19th from 11:30 to 2:30. The Los Alamos League was allowed two delegates. Barbara and Akkana both serve on the state board, so are already voting members. Becky Shankland and Sandra West were the delegates from the Los Alamos League. There was a review of the accomplishment for the year. The speaker was James Jimenez from Voices for Children. He recommended that the League support laws that limit predatory lending. He also encouraged the League to take an active lead in the census coming up. The suggestion that it should be on-line was not considered a good idea and should be worked against. Punishment for not answering the citizenship question was also seen as a problem. To get an accurate count for redistricting and federal funding, this is an important issue for all.

### **Observer Corps Reports**

#### **BPU Report**

Julie reported that both public meetings were tabled by the BPU. The first was a proposed rule change for credit rating calculations since the new ERP system does not automatically calculate that. Second, was adjusting the fee schedule -- increasing the deposit fee of \$60 to \$120 for customers with a poor payment history.

The BPU approved leasing our San Juan Chama water back to the Bureau of Reclamation for \$57,000 for endangered species and irrigation needs.

The BPU approved notification to the San Juan Generating Station (coal-fired plant) project partners of Los Alamos County's intent to exit the facility when the current agreement expires in 2020. DPU will take the same request to the Council prior to the June 30, 2018 and deadline to notify facility partners of Los Alamos's intent.

BPU approved DPU to proceed with a 25-year refinance of funds still owed on the Los Alamos wastewater treatment plant. BPU also approved DPU to proceed with a 30-year new construction loan on the White Rock plant for \$14.5 million.

### **County Council Report**

Lynn reported that at the two County Council meetings in May a Community Advisory Board was created, which will consider code compliance issues and/or larger neighborhood improvement efforts.

Council noted that the bid for the Mesa Library update came in way over budget. It was on the agenda to address the issue.

There may be a new owner for the old Kroeger's property. It has been empty and an eyesore for several years.

The next newsletter deadline is May 26. Please send articles to Barbara by that evening.

**Next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, June 26, 2018. This board meeting will be at Mesa Public Library.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

*Rosmarie Frederickson*