

**Minutes of the LWVLA Board Meeting
Tuesday 24, July, 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
Leslie Wallstrom, 2nd Vice President
Lynn Jones, Voter Services, Observer

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

The June minutes were accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Kathy Taylor presented her report and it contained the following information: May 31, 2018, the general fund balance was \$6,848.38. The receipts totaled \$ \$385.00 all of which were dues and donations from members. The disbursements for the month of May were \$\$310.87: LADailyPost for advertising, a reimbursement for Shankland, and a membership fee refund. At the end of June there was a balance of \$19,960.56 in the savings account. There the Ed Fund has \$818.00. Kathy has nearly resolved the May discrepancy.

The question arose as to why the LADailyPost charges taxes to the nonprofit League. Services are taxable: "Although the gross receipts of a 501(c)(3) organization are exempt, the organization will pay another business's passed-on gross receipts tax when it buys tangible personal property unless it delivers a nontaxable transaction certificate (NTTC) to the seller. It may NOT deliver such a certificate when it buys services."

Candidate Questions for the Voter Guide

After much discussion, the candidate questions for the voter guide were finalized and submitted to the minutes by Barbara Calef.

Questions for State Representative (4)

1. What are the major concerns regarding education in New Mexico? How can they be addressed?
2. What actions do you advocate to improve the availability, accessibility, and quality of health care for New Mexicans?
3. How can New Mexico diversify its economy to reduce reliance on income from the oil and gas industry?
4. What measures do you support to protect New Mexico's natural resources in this time of climate stress?

Questions for Magistrate Judge (2)

1. Describe your qualifications and pertinent experiences that have prepared you to be Magistrate Judge.

2. What improvements in the Magistrate Court would you seek to make if elected?

Questions for County Councilors (3)

1. What particular issues or concerns prompted you to run for county council?
2. How would you promote economic development in Los Alamos that would serve small businesses and lower income residents?
3. What environmental goals or policies, if any, would you champion as Councilor?

Questions for County Sheriff (2)

1. Describe your qualifications and pertinent experiences that have prepared you for the office of County Sheriff.
2. What do you see as the major function of the sheriff's office in Los Alamos County?

Questions for Municipal Judge (2)

1. Describe your qualifications and pertinent experiences that have prepared you to be Municipal Judge.
2. What improvements in the Municipal Court would you seek to make if elected?

Sandra is collected questions that will not be included in the Voter Guide, but may be asked at one of the forums.

Lunch with a Leader

The next three Lunch with a Leader meetings will be at the United Church on Canyon Rd.

August: Robert Rhatigan is invited for the August meeting.

There was much discussion about other potential speakers:

- September: Dina Pesenson -- pesticide/herbicide spraying prevention, and Brian Brogan— Community Service
- Stephen LeDoux, behaviorologist—topic might be "What drives people"
- Linda Daily— Non-profits and what experiences she has to share
- Mary Feldblum— Tyler Taylor Health Security Act

No LWL in November. The combined meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 4th.

Candidate Forums

The Candidate Forums will be Thursday, Sept. 27 (Unopposed and all the Council Candidates {3 GOP, 4 Dems, 1 Libertarian}); and Wednesday, October 3, for the District 43 candidates, sheriff candidates, and judges. Amy was tasked with finding the venue, either Fuller Lodge or UNM-LA. Availability will be the major criterion.

“The Blue Bus” transit issue is also on the ballot. That question could be discussed on Sept. 27. The LWVLA could invite Gabe Gallegos of the North Central Regional Transit District Authority to speak about the reauthorization of the existing County Regional Transit Gross Receipts tax of one-eighth of one percent to finance the operational costs and capital expenditures for the Regional Transient System (Blue Bus). This question will be on the ballot in November. We would also need to invite someone in opposition.

Registering Voters

The 2018 general election is 11/06. Voter Registration closes 10/09. Absentee voting begins 10/09. Early voting begins 10/20 at the White Rock Fire Station and the County Building.

Leslie recommended the LWVLA register voters at the Gordon’s concerts, the County Fair, UNMLA, and the High School—specifically to register seniors to vote when they register for classes. The County Clerk’s office will go to UNMLA and is also at the concerts and many other events. We might like to join them.

Recommendation for Another Program

Margo Batha thanks the LWVLA for its work, and recommends the League sponsor a contest to talk about the platforms of *all* the parties so people can compare proposed policies and values *prior* to first-time voters registering for a party to they know what the party stands for. Karyl Ann will talk to Margo.

Observer Corps Reports:

BPU Report

The BPU met on Wednesday, July 18th. An early investigation into electric vehicle charging stations was presented by staff. It identified various kinds of charging stations, customer payment options, and locations. Some of the recommended sites were at the White Rock visitor center, both county libraries, the parking lot at Ashley Pond, and the Municipal building and Pajarito Cliffs site.

Staff also discussed the need to raise sewer rates in anticipation of a new loan to replace the White Rock wastewater treatment facility. The DPU needs to demonstrate to the lending institution that rates will support monthly payments. Staff will request at the August 14th public hearing that the BPU approve increases for the monthly service fee from \$10.27 to \$11.09 and for the fixed sewer rate for single-family residential customers from \$37.18 to \$40.15. The variable rate for commercial customers would increase from \$17.50 to \$18.90 per thousand gallons based on their average winter water consumption.

County Council Report

The Ski Hill transfer is completed. The County declared August as Bear Month, and discussed issues related to the decline of gross receipts taxes and support of the transit system. The County discussed an ordinance to sell County-owned property that is a portion of the Fire Station 6 on East Road to be developed for parking by whoever buys

the adjacent property. The County Manager Report included: Tourism Marketing; Los Alamos branding; County summer activities.

Newsletter

The next Newsletter deadline will be August 22.

Next Board Meeting will be Tuesday, August 28, 2018. This board meeting will be at White Rock Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Jody Benson