

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LA PLATA
COUNTY, TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2011, 4-7 PM
AT THE ROCHESTER HOTEL, 726 E. 2 AVE., DURANGO**

MINUTES

Welcome:

At 4:10 pm., Stephanie Huss, LWVLPC president, welcomed 35 members and 5 guests and recognized the five life (50 years) members Judith Aitken, Mary Ruth Bowman, Barbara Cristol, Sue Herbst and Dorothy Newell. She expressed thanks to Diane Wildfang and Kirk Komick, owners of the Rochester Hotel and LWV members, for making their beautiful place available for this meeting. Suzanne Becker was thanked for organizing the event and the members for furnishing the delicious foods and refreshments.

Announcement:

Shelley Hartney asked for volunteers to help out with organizing the 100-yr anniversary celebration of the Girl Scouts in 2012.

Introduction of the current team:

Stephanie introduced the current Board of Directors: 1st Vice President, Trish Pegram; 2nd Vice President, Jill Patton (in Texas); Secretary, Grace Deltscheff; Treasurer, Nadine Ancel and Off-Board Directors: Environment, Energy and Sustainability (EES), Deanna Collins; Legislative, Ellen Park; Membership, Suzanne Becker; Newsletter et al, Marilyn Brown; Global Outreach & Web, Ross Park; Great Decisions, Pat Chatfield; Past co-chair, Sally Bellerue and 'Et al', Marilyn Sandstrom. She thanked them for their contributions and offered each as token of appreciation a Ponderosa pine or Colorado blue spruce seedling.

Invited speaker:

Stephanie introduced this year's invited speaker, Bobby Lieb, newly elected La Plata County Commissioner. Mr. Lieb made a brief presentation of his governing style and laid out the strategic initiatives and the items the County Board is working on such as improving the county's vitality and maintaining physical space for the county's needs (example: parking issues). The talk concluded with a question and answer session that included the pros and cons of county-home rule.

Gladys McBee Spirit Award:

Stephanie announced the creation of this award in honor of an early and long time member of our LWV who had worked on many projects, specializing in water issues. She died in 2003. Deanna Collins, chair of the Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee was selected as the first recipient in recognition of her energetic involvement in, among other, Oil & Gas and Environmental Protection Agency issues, collaboration with the LWVUS and Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah State leagues for clean air in the Four Corners. The award was a LWV mug filled with Hershey kisses.

Business meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Stephanie Huss at 5:25 pm.
--Grace Deltscheff confirmed that a quorum of 18 members was present

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- Marilyn Brown was introduced as Parliamentarian for the meeting
- The Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting were approved
- Maria Baker, Mary Barter, Lois Carpenter and Sue Herbst were selected as adjusters for the 2011 Minutes.
- The agenda for this meeting was approved.

President's report:

Stephanie reviewed some of the highlights of the League year 2010-2011:

- Voter Service: We held 17 forums or ballot issues presentations, including a Colorado Gubernatorial Candidate forum co-sponsored with Fort Lewis College. Several were taped for broadcast on the local cable channel DCAT.
 - Census: Our census committee worked with Community Counts to assist with Census 2010. The committee was honored for their services.
 - Energy, Environment and Sustainability (EES): This committee was formed in 2009, led by Deanna Collins. We met with the state leagues of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah and LWVUS to advocate for Clean Air in the Four Corners area. We testified in person at two EPA hearings, coordinated testimony among the 4 state leagues and met with the staffs of both U.S. Senators to add their support.
 - Fiscal Reform: Our League has been involved with Colorado fiscal reform efforts and local League members spearheaded the La Plata County, Colorado Fiscal Responsibility Information Committee. The group is recognized as a leader in Colorado. Several programs were produced.
 - Global Outreach: We hosted the Great Decisions discussion group sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association.
 - Grant writing: We applied for and received several grants to cover a new projector, our ballot issue brochures, travel and other expenses.
 - Health Care: We have an active health care committee that followed local, state and national health care issues closely. Three Health Care meetings were held.
 - Legislative: We interviewed our State Senator, House representative and newly elected County Commissioner to understand better their decision making process. Our annual legislative lowdown was held in February.
 - Newsletter/Web: We updated our website with a collection of information, accessible to any web reader which averages over 10000 hits per month.
 - Public Relations: Several of our articles have been posted in the Durango Herald and we were invited to co-host their semi-annual Election Night Party, an event that netted our League a \$1000 contribution.
 - Membership: LWVLPC has currently 89 members: 71 women, 18 men.
 - State and National: we participated in numerous activities such as LWVUS National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, LWVUS Voter Services Webinar and Legislative Conference in Denver.
- See attached report for further details.

Financial Report:

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Nadine Ancel, Treasurer, reviewed the LWVLPC financial report. The report is attached.

Budget: On behalf of the Budget Committee (Shaila Van Sickle, Nadine Ancel and Ellen Park), Ellen presented the proposed budget for 2011-2012. One Committee meeting was held, followed up by e-mail correspondence to arrive at the budget, a copy of which is attached. As the report indicates the budget is tight despite the three grants (Ballentine, LPEA and LWVCO) and Durango Herald contribution we received. As one of the committee members during the committee discussions observed "it would be helpful if the amount of donations" were to increase.

Upon discussion and with no questions asked, Ellen made the motion to adopt the LWVLPC budget of 2011-2012. The motion passed.

Re-adopt local Program:

Marilyn Brown moved the adoption of our current program positions. No new local study was recommended by the board because we have two national studies:

1. A study of the federal role in pre-K through grade 12 public education to be limited to issues of equity, funding and standardized assessments. Ann Flatten, Mary Barter and Bev Wells have agreed to serve on this study committee whose work will be completed by the end of November.
2. A study of the privatization of governmental services, whose scope is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

Ellen Park has agreed to serve on the committee to study this subject.

We continue to seek other volunteers to serve on either committee.

We also have a state board recommended study item, i.e. an update (to our state natural resources position) on natural resource extraction with a focus on hydraulic fracturing (hydro-fracking) and its impact on water quality, proposed by five CO LWVs. No doubt this study will be adopted at state convention May 21-22 in Fort Collins. This convention will be attended by Stephanie Huss, Deanna Collins, Suzanne Becker, Trish Pegram and Marilyn Brown.

After discussing whether we should retain positions on completed items such as past mill levies like the health services district and library bond issue, we voted to re-adopt all current positions. All positions, accomplished or not, provide historical background, give website visitors the flavor of what issues our League gets involved in and may save future time/effort because they could be used as a base from which to do a new similar study or update.

Minor bylaw change:

A minor bylaw change was proposed, i.e. to **remove** the word *honorary* before *life member* in Article III, section 2 (a) (1) (3) in order to stay compatible with our national and state bylaws. The word *honorary* implied that life (50 years) members are inactive or

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retired when in fact they are very active and an integral part of their LWVs. Marilyn made the motion to adopt the change. The motion passed.

Report of Nominating Committee:

Sally Bellerue, on behalf of the nominating Committee (Suzanne Becker, Ann Flatten and herself) proposed the election of the following officers: Trish Pegram, President; Marilyn Brown, 1st Vice President; 2nd Vice President, open*; Laura Alsop, Secretary and Nadine Ancel, Treasurer. A motion was made to elect the nominating committee's choices. By acclamation, the motion passed.

* optional position.

2011-2012 Nominating Committee:

A motion was made to elect at-large members Jill Patton and Missy Rody to the 2011-2012 Nominating Committee. The Board will designate a third member at a later time. By acclamation, the motion passed.

Presentation of the new Board and Off-Board directors:

Trish Pegram presented the new Board officers and thanked Stephanie Huss for the leadership and enthusiasm she had brought to the past Board. As a 'thank you' Stephanie was presented with a LWV mug filled with Hershey kisses and some Durango Dollars to be used by her and her husband.

Member Direction to the new Board:

--Buck Skillen announced that another session of Water Law 101 was scheduled to be held in Durango this summer and that we all were encouraged to attend.

--Ross Park announced the series on water, sponsored by LWVLPC and the Durango Library, in the format of Great Decision discussions, to be held for four successive Tuesdays 12-2 pm beginning September 6 in the Library Room. The discussions will be led by Dr. Dennis Lum, based on his FLC lectures. Ross will make sure that Dennis knows of the Water Law session.

The meeting was adjourned by Trish Pegram at 6:25 pm, followed by a social till 7:00 pm.

Attachments: Details of President's report (pg. 2)
Treasurer's report (pg. 3)
Budget report (pg. 3).

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Deltscheff, Secretary, May 19, 2011