



# THE VOTER

MAY 2007

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## **James Scarantino, Attorney-at-Law, to Speak on Voter ID: The Inside Story at the LWV/ABC Annual Meeting Saturday, May 5 Wyndham Hotel 2910 Yale SE**

**Registration: 9:00-9:30 a.m. Business meeting: 9:30-11 a.m. Brunch: 11 a.m.**

James Scarantino practiced law in New Mexico for 25 years. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School, he was a prosecutor with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office before coming to New Mexico. He also worked in the New Mexico Attorney General's Office and was Executive Director of Republicans for Environmental Protection and the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance.

Mr. Scarantino was the attorney who successfully argued the case against the City of Albuquerque's photo identification requirements on behalf of the ACLU, LWV/ABC and other plaintiffs. He was honored by the ACLU as its Cooperating Attorney of the Year in 2006 for his outstanding work on the lawsuit. However, it was Mr. Scarantino's final case. He has retired to pursue a writing career. He will speak to the League membership about the suit, the decision, the appeal and voter identification in general. This is a great opportunity for League members and guests to learn the details of this case and to ask questions.

**Cost of the brunch: \$15.  
Reservations are required by  
Monday, April 30, and can be  
made by calling the  
League office at 884-8441.**

**Please bring to the meeting  
your packet "Call to Annual  
Meeting 2007" in the April Voter.**

### **2007-2008 Nominees for the LWV/ABC Board**

	<b>Officers</b>	
President	Diane Goldfarb	(07-09)
First Vice President	Josephine Porter	(07-09)
Fourth Vice President*	Dorothy Reynolds	(07-09)
Secretary	Ellen Evans	(07-09)

	<b>Directors</b>	
	Lisa Franzen	(07-08)
	Cheryl Haaker	(07-09)
	Dolores Waller	(07-09)
	Shirley Ash	(07-09)
	Michelle MacDonald	(07-08)

	<b>Nominating Committee</b>	
Chair	Therese Barts	(07-08)
Member	Carolyn Lindberg	(07-08)
Member	Marilyn Morgan	(07-08)

	<b>Submitted by the 2006-2007 Nominating Committee</b>	
Chair	Mary Mulvany	
Members	Vivian Boyle	
	Karen Gatlin	
	Donna Hill	
	JoAnne Ramponi	

\* Contingent on approval of the amended by-laws

**LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS  
ALBUQUERQUE/  
BERNALILLO COUNTY**

**Board Meeting**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month  
5:30 p.m.  
Offices of  
Sutin, Thayer & Browne  
6565 Americas Parkway NE

**Program Committees**

Check with the following  
League members about  
community activities:

**Action**

Delores Watkins  
823-2308

**Drug Policy**

Delores Watkins  
823-2308

**Genetic Issues**

Dede Eckles  
823-9120

**Natural Resources**

JoAnne Ramponi  
298-2716  
Includes transportation,  
land use, air quality,  
water and energy

All League members  
are welcome at all  
unit meetings,  
committee, and  
board meetings.

The *VOTER* is published  
each month by the  
League of Women Voters  
of Albuquerque/  
Bernalillo County.

## President's Corner

It is time once again to say "goodbye" to the old year and "hello" to the new. As one League year ends, we look forward to what the new year has in store for us.

We had a dedicated Board of Directors this past year, and to all the Board members goes a heartfelt thanks for a job well done. Many of them will remain for the 2007-08 year, and, yes, I did agree to serve a second term (if elected). We will see if that was a wise decision or not—I notice from the list of past presidents that only Sandra Browne served two two-year terms, and those were not contiguous. But I hope it will provide an opportunity to continue work begun in the last term.

What is to come? One of the first decisions the Board will make is whether to pursue a name change for this organization. We have discussed it and written about the geographical make-up of our League membership in past issues. May is the date we set to decide if we will formally recommend it to the membership.

Possible forums are being considered, a *Voters' Guide* for the October municipal election will be produced, the constituent/legislator project will be put in place, and we will work on policies for forums and the special elections we conduct for other organizations. Of course, we will continue to hold our monthly meetings with topical presentations, publish the *Voter*, run the office, maintain the website, and raise money to support all of the above. An orientation for Board members and committee chairs will be held in August. The year 2007 should not bring a lot of frenetic political activity, so it will give us time to prepare for the big elections of the following year. We will still be kept busy. I hope it will be a good year for us to bring in some more new members.

What are my personal goals for 2007? My major goals are to see that we hold a couple of educational forums, concentrate on a big membership drive, and see that more fund raising mechanisms are put in place. I hope that we can also explore the possibility of publishing some voter education materials in Spanish. Some of these goals are recommendations that have been given to me by others and that are worthwhile pursuing. I also want to see that we implement the long-range plan that we so carefully crafted this past year.

As we embark on these and other projects I say thank you again to the retiring Board members and committee chairs and welcome to the new ones. I hope that all who read this will follow and support the activities of LWV/ABC in 2007-08. Happy New League Year!

*Diane Goldfarb*

## Board Highlights

**LWV/ABC Board:** ♦ The Voter ID lawsuit has been appealed by the City. Continuation of LWV/ABC as appellee in this case was approved. ♦ Diane Goldfarb was approved as representative to the LWVUS Council in Washington in June. ♦ LWV/ABC will have 14 voting delegates to the LWVNM Convention in May. ♦ The Action Committee is working on its Constituent/Legislator project and is looking at the implications of the expanding voter identification requirements. ♦ We are searching for a permanent place for West Side unit meetings. ♦ State Representative Kathy McCoy met with members from Placitas.

**LWV/ABC Education Fund Board:** ♦ \$9,000 from checking account has been put into a 1-year CD. ♦ Members of the Board will meet with new staff from the County Clerk's office. ♦ Contributions in response to the Non-Event mailing are coming in.

## Membership Update

**WELCOME,  
NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS!**

**Rosaura Arnell** 296-9482  
4105 Pitt St NE 87111

**Judith Phillips**  
1 Sanchez Road  
Veguita, NM 87062

**Shay Rose** 293-1771  
12117 St. Mary Dr NE 87111

**CHANGES**

**ADDRESS**

**Mark Hyman**  
11216 Miravista Pl SE 87123

**Jan and Olin Bray**  
7041 Prairie Ct NE 87109

**Sarah Belle Brown**  
Brown & Brown Ventures  
1401 Central NW 87104

**NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES**

**LWV of Santa Fe County**

info@santafeco.nm.lwvnet.org

Available from office or JoAnne for  
Rosaura Arnell  
Therese Barts  
Sarah Belle Brown  
Janet Espinosa  
Jon McCorkell

*Kathleen Kimler Altobelli*

# Drug Policy Study Committee

This Committee will continue to meet periodically during May, June, and July. Subcommittees will do some of the work and the full Committee will meet as needed. For dates, times and agendas, watch the *VOTER*, the LWV/ABC Topics Listserv, and/or call 823-2308.

At each meeting there are updates on Drug Policy and Pain Management. Notebooks of background information are available for check out. Planning for the development of a new position will be a priority as well as continuing study of addiction treatment programs. This is a good time to drop in and learn about League process as well as Drug Policy. You are always welcome.

The Drug Policy Study Committee continues to study and grow. Below is a book review for your thoughtful consideration of the continuing issues. We encourage you to join us and engage in open discussion to bring about changes. Many thanks to Marita Marshall for writing the review and Dean Smith for providing the material to read

*Dee Watkins*, Drug Policy Study Committee Chair

### Review: *Drug War Deadlock*

Laura Higgins, editor. Hoover Press, 2005

This short book review provides only a fraction of the arguments, but, like this interesting book, attempts to leave the reader free to make a decision about the efficacy of the drug war and its alternatives. *Drug War Deadlock* presents three sides of the current controversy on how to manage "the drug problem"--pro, con and the third way.

The pro-war forces argue that the use of drugs is inherently evil, immoral and leads to corruption, crime, chemical dependency, sin, irrational behavior, gangs, and alters one's soul. Also the drug war keeps down costs for enforcement.

The con-war forces argue that decriminalization would eliminate or greatly reduce the black market, corruption, racial discrimination, full prisons and health problems (AIDS, etc.). Drug use is a health problem and should be treated as such.

The third way argues that drugs should be decriminalized but regulated as to purity, kept out of the hands of children, and treated. Addiction and dependency should be treated as medical problems, with needle exchange, drug courts, and punishment for those who misbehave (whether or not they use drugs). Costs would be much reduced, people would be treated with dignity and encouraged to act responsibly.

*Marita Marshall*

**Commentary.** The debate about drugs is long-standing and complex. This book presents widely different viewpoints in a concise form. Issues such as legalization, decriminalization, harm reduction, the moral implications of drug use and the impact of government imposed restrictions are presented in a format for the reader to draw a personal conclusion. I suggest understanding the debate and the terminology used is essential to an open discussion of these issues and a first step to effecting change. Join us for some interesting discussions.

*Dee Watkins*

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## Action Corner

The next meeting of the LWV/ABC Action Committee will be Wednesday, May 2, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the LWV/ABC office. **Please note change in location.**

Agenda items: Constituent action during the state interim legislative session, city, county and regional meetings.

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## Memorial Gift to the Education Fund

In Honor of Daniel Peter Eyrich

Dianne Parker.

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## Fair Representation Proposal Approved by State Board

The LWVNM Board has recommended that the *Fair Representation* proposal be presented to the membership at State Convention in May. The study committee is looking forward to acquainting League members with this proposed Study. Meanwhile, the committee is continuing to grow.

If you would like to learn more, a resource page is being developed at [www.lwvabc.org/fair](http://www.lwvabc.org/fair). For more information and/or to join the group, contact Cheryl Haaker at [cheryl@haaker.org](mailto:cheryl@haaker.org), or phone 298-7415. *Cheryl Haaker*

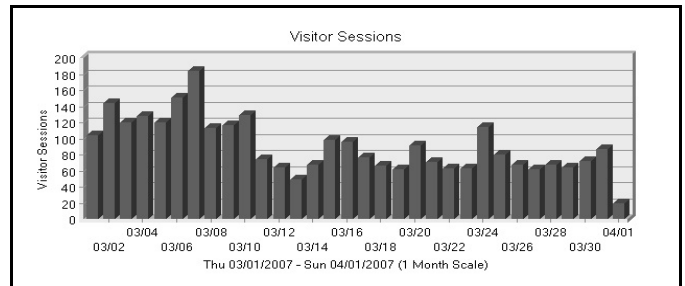
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## March Web Statistics

The number of visitor accesses to [lwvabc.org](http://lwvabc.org) declined throughout March, and was significantly lower than February, the month of the APS election. To see all the gory details, check out [www.lwvabc.org/stats/](http://www.lwvabc.org/stats/).

*Cheryl Haaker*, Technology Chair



## Proposed Study of School Governance

MAIN QUESTION: Does the form of governance affect school (education) performance, including student academic performance and why?

SECOND QUESTION: Who (what entity or entities) should be held accountable for school results?

RATIONALE: Education is of prime importance both economically in preparing workers and professionals and civically in preparing people for citizenship responsibilities.

There have been many attempts over a long period of time to improve school results. One of the latest theories is that school governance may be a big factor. Much recent legislative activity has been based on this assumption and directed at this idea. Our education position does not speak in any way to this possibility. We, as a League (state and local), should not be on the sidelines of this important issue.

Possible hypotheses are: (1) results are independent of the district's governance model; (2) certain governance model(s) produce better results than others; (3) certain governance models produce worse results than others; or (4) certain governance models at the school (rather than at the district) level produce better results than others.

RESOURCES: Tireman Education Library, UNM; Department of Education Leadership and Organization, UNM, Dr. Prescal, Chair; Dr. Jack Jecowski, organizational consultant who did a study of State School Board; Dr. Marshall Berman, former member of State School Board; Walt Murfin, statistician, Coalition for Excellence in Science and Math Education; Leagues in large cities such as Chicago, New York, Dallas, San Francisco, Los Angeles (have any cities done similar studies?)

RESULTS AND OUTCOMES: Forum; Publication

BUDGET: Publication (Fact Sheet) 500 copies, double sided pastel paper at Office Max - \$30; Refreshments for forum at clubhouse - \$50; Miscellaneous - \$20; Total budget - \$100

COMMITTEE (at present): Jan Bray, Chair; Kathy Altobelli; Olin Bray

## May Calendar

- 2 Action
- 3 LWV/ABC Board Meeting
- 5 LWV/ABC Annual Meeting
- 10 Deadline for June *VOTER*
- 19-20 LWVNM Convention,  
Las Cruces
- 28 Memorial Day /  
Office closed

## ■ □ Membership

You can join LWV  
any time of the year  
Contact  
JoAnne Ramponi,  
298-2716