



THE VOTER

February 2009

League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico
Serving Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia Counties

2403 San Mateo NE, W-16C
Albuquerque, NM 87110
505-884-8441
www.lwvcnm.org

Diane Goldfarb
President

Aileen Gatterman
Voter Editor

FEBRUARY 2009 UNITS — VOTERS' ISSUES

Voters' issues encompasses a wide range of topics, each one concerned with an aspect of the democratic ideal and with gaining fair representation for every citizen at every level of government. LWV has always been actively involved with voter service, and often that work is the first thing the public thinks of when they hear mention of the League of Women Voters. The basic principle of voter service is nonpartisanship — providing unbiased, factual information to help citizens make their own informed decisions on election day. Unit meetings this month will focus on current aspects of the voting process in New Mexico. Come and hear any or all of the stellar roster of speakers at the Unit meetings. If you need transportation, call the League office and leave your name and the Unit that you wish to attend.

Thursday, February 12, 11:45 a.m., Luncheon Unit

Reservations are required*
Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel
2910 Yale SE

Speaker: Andrew G. Schultz, Attorney at Law
Topic: Voter Identification, What Happened in the Albuquerque Case and What It Means

Mr. Schultz recently argued the Albuquerque Voter ID case before the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. LWVCNM was a plaintiff in that case, and although the decision in district court was in our favor, the appellate court reversed that decision. Mr. Schultz will speak to us about the case and about what it will mean for voter identification requirements in the future. Mr. Schultz is a graduate of Swarthmore College, Carnegie-Mellon University, and the University of New Mexico School of Law. He is a Director in the Rodey Law Firm.

Monday, February 16, 1:30 p.m., Midtown Unit

Manzano del Sol, Hobby Room
5201 Roma NE

Speaker: Margaret Toulouse Oliver, Bernalillo County Clerk
Topic: 2008 General Election Recap

Margaret "Maggie" Toulouse Oliver filled the unexpired term of the former County Clerk and was resoundingly elected to the office in 2008. Ms. Toulouse Oliver grew up in Albuquerque and is a graduate of Highland High School. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish and a Master's in Political Science, both from the University of New Mexico. She has published research on the effects of campaign activities on voting behavior and election outcomes; on the effects of community involvement on voting both in the United States and internationally; and on systems of representation and theories of democratic participation. With this background and her position, Ms. Toulouse Oliver can present a real insider's view of the recent election.

Tuesday, February 17, 6:00 p.m.

Erna Fergusson Library
3700 San Mateo Blvd. NE

Speaker: Mary Wilson, President, LWVUS
Topic: Voter Protection

The League of Women Voters Education Fund's (LWVEF) Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project was created in order to support the League's efforts as it works to prevent the disenfranchisement of citizens, particularly underserved populations. Ms. Wilson will speak on what led to the creation of this project despite passage of the Help America Vote Act, why it is so important, and the issues on which the League of Women Voters is focusing its efforts to ensure the rights of eligible citizens to vote.

Wednesday, February 18, Noon, Sandoval County Unit

Corrales Community Center Meeting Room
4234 Corrales Road

Speaker: Mary Herrera, New Mexico Secretary of State
Topic: Overseeing the New Mexico Election Process

Ms. Herrera, New Mexico's chief election officer, is the highest ranking state elected Hispanic woman in the U.S. She grew up in Albuquerque and graduated from West Mesa High School. She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Business Administration from the College of Santa Fe and an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters, also from the College. Ms. Herrera serves on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and has served on the New Mexico Election Task Force.

MORE FEBRUARY EVENTS

February 3 — League Day at the Legislature (Page 3)

February 14 — League's 89th Birthday (Party Info on page 4)

*Cost of the luncheon is \$16, payable at the door. Reservations are required. Call the office at 884-8441 by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 9. If you prefer a fruit plate rather than the menu item, please let us know at the time you make your reservation.

**LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
CENTRAL NEW MEXICO**

Board Meeting

1st 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:

Advocacy

Delores Watkins

Drug Policy

Delores Watkins

Natural Resources

JoAnne Ramponi

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 Central New Mexico.

IN MEMORIAM

Our sympathy goes out to the
family and friends of former
League member Mary Anna
Angelios who passed away on
December 21, 2008.

President's Corner

As this column is being written change is in the air. We will be ushering in a new national administration, four of the five members of our New Mexico Congressional delegation will be new to their positions, and our state legislature will go back into session with some new members. As League members we should find this year interesting and exciting, and we should all make a point of trying to meet our new legislators and Congressional representatives.

Many of you did attend our December "Meet the Legislators" reception. League Day at the Legislature on February 3 will present another opportunity to meet legislators and to attend committee meetings. I urge any members who have never attended this special day to join League members from around the state for an informative look at New Mexico politics. Dee Watkins, LWVCNM Advocacy Chair, and I have scheduled a meeting with the new Congressman from the First Congressional District, Martin Heinrich. Other Leagues are also arranging meetings with members of the NM Congressional delegation. We hope that in due course the new lawmakers will know the League and respect our efforts.

Please remember that also on February 3 some of us will be electing several members of the Boards of APS and the Central New Mexico Community College.

Another change that seems destined at the national level is health care reform. Elsewhere in this issue of the *Voter* you will see an article on a recent LWVCNM-sponsored discussion of this topic. This event, which Dick Mason put together quickly at what seemed to be an inopportune time, was quite a success. It looks like health care is an issue whose time has come. Thanks to Dick for not only organizing this project but for doing an excellent job in leading the discussion. Thanks also to Josephine Porter for writing down the comments from the audience and to Michelle MacDonald who did her usual thorough job of assembling the report to the transition team.

Diane Goldfarb

JANUARY 2009 BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- LWVCNM has been advised that the building where the office is currently located will be available for another year.
- Diane Goldfarb and Dee Watkins are scheduled to meet with newly elected Representative to Congress Martin Heinrich.
- Arrangements are being made to meet with potential League members in Los Lunas. The meeting will be in the Rail Runner depot. A membership meeting in Torrance County will take place in March or April.
- Updates to our name were approved for the Board Policy which governs day-to-day operations and the Coalition Policy which contains guidelines on working in coalition with other organizations; the updated policies then were adopted.

EDUCATION FUND BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- The Board determined that a policy for moderating candidate forums should be developed.
- The 2009 *Who's Who* is in the final editing process; a motion was passed to authorize printing 12,000 copies.
- The *Voters' Guide* policy was updated and re-adopted.

Still time to plan your trip for League Day!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

NEW MEXICO STATE LAND OFFICE

MORGAN HALL

310 OLD SANTA FE TRAIL, SANTA FE

(just down the street from the Round House)

The 2009 sixty-day Legislative Session will be dealing with many bills that have been prioritized by the League of Women Voters. Legislation will be considered in areas such as: health care reform; natural resources; water; climate change; public education; campaign finance and ethics reform; election reform; rights for domestic partners; repeal of the death penalty and replacing it with life without parole; a woman's right to choose and drug courts.

Although reservations are not required we would like to have an idea of the number of attendees. Please e-mail Dick Mason at the following: polirich@aol.com; or call the LWVCNM office at 505-884-8441. Further information on League Day can also be obtained from the office or visit the state website at www.lwvnm.org.

Transportation: Contact the LWVCNM office if you can drive or if you need a ride. Parking near the State House is hard to find during the session. The state does operate a shuttle from other parking lots. Get the schedule and locations here: <http://nmshtd.state.nm.us>. The Rail Runner is operating and the stop nearest the Round House is the Santa Fe Depot stop. Check schedules at www.nmrailrunner.com.

Lunch: Bring or buy a lunch. For \$10, you may purchase a sack lunch that will include a veggie or meat sandwich, chips, cookie and drink. The deadline for ordering a lunch is 3 p.m., Thursday, January 29. Call in your order and choice of sandwich to the League in Santa Fe, 1-505-982-9766, or e-mail Jody Larson at dtlars@aol.com. Questions? Call Dick Mason at 1-505-884-8441.

Accommodations: **Garrett's Desert Inn**, which is located across the street from the Land Office at 311 Old Santa Fe Trail, offers a legislative rate of \$59 plus tax. That doesn't include breakfast, but they have an attached restaurant. You may leave your car parked at the Inn after checking out but as a non-guest you could be charged \$8.00. Call 1-800-888-2145 to make a reservation; say you are lobbying for the League of Women Voters.

Dick Mason, LWVCNM 3rd Vice President

ADVOCACY CORNER

There will be no meeting of the Steering Committee in February. Members will be attending the ongoing Charter Task Force meetings every two weeks to learn about what is planned for changes, if any, to the charter in regard to ethics and public financing of campaigns. This is a good time to join in the action activities of this Committee. Call the Chair of the Committee at 884-8441 for more information.

Advocacy Never Sleeps! There are new members of Congress and the effort for Pay Equity legislation continues. On January 7, 2009, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) issued this call for action:

"As one of the first actions of the new 111th Congress, the House is expected to vote this week on both the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, providing a critical opportunity for Congress to make real progress on pay equity.

According to new data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2007 the ratio of Women's and Men's median annual earnings reached almost 78 cents on the dollar for full-time, year-round workers, up from just under 77 cents in 2006. This is the narrowest the wage gap has ever been but it's only an additional one cent on the dollar. One cent is chump change. It isn't real change.

While women have been hard at work to earn their extra penny, congress has failed to pass legislation that would give women effective equal pay protections. In light of this, join AAUW in telling Congress that passing the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act is an urgent priority. ... The 2007 AAUW report *Behind the Pay Gap* can be found at: <http://capwiz.com/aauw/utr/1/DHZEJOCPVV/AALWUJODTEI/2748440081>"

This is a fine comprehensive report. Our thanks to Jan Bray and Karen Douglas who are keeping the Advocacy Committee up to date on this topic. We are developing a resource notebook on this topic and on others. Let us know if you are interested in looking through the information that we have.

Watch LWVCNM Topics for details and information on easy access to your Congressional Delegation.

Dee Watkins

Chair



Classic Theater for LWV's 89th Birthday

Come for the Sunday, March 8, 2:00 pm matinee to enjoy *Arsenic and Old Lace* at the Adobe Theater. Arrive early for your choice of seats; stay afterwards for food, beverages, a birthday cake and social time with Leaguers and their guests. Your contribution to LWVCNM includes seeing Adobe's gifted actors stage a famous oldie, and partying in expanded areas. League Board and Finance Committee members are again donating those delectable hors d'oeuvres.

But 1st, after you block out the date, write that check for \$25.00 for you, or in multiples of \$25.00 to include guests. Then mail the check and names of those attending to the LWVCNM office, 2403 San Mateo NE, W-16C, Albuquerque, 87110. Include individual names, as they are needed for the nametags. You and your guests will receive your name tags when you arrive at the theatre on March 8.

Your check is your reservation and birthday gift to LWVCNM. Proceeds over expenses go in the Operating Fund budget. See you on March 8 for fun and friendship.

Diane Goldfarb and Donna Hill



DRUG POLICY STUDY

The Drug Policy Study Committee will meet on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at Manzano del Sol, 1-3 p.m.

Questions for discussion will be:

- What have we learned about addiction treatment from the January Units?
- Which of the study questions should be the focus?
- What are your interests in the study?

Additional items for discussion are:

- Report on outreach and legislation about pain management;
- Update on 2009 legislation related to Drug Policy.

Visitors are always welcome. If you have questions about the meeting, please call 884-8441.

Dee Watkins, Chair

A NEW YEAR, A NEW NAME, A NEW LISTSERV

A new mailing list will be replacing the old *LWVABCTopicsListserve* that many of us have been subscribed to: *LWVCNMTopics*. Existing members of the old list have been added to the new list; the old list will be terminated on January 31st. If you're not yet on the mailing list and want to join, there is a convenient link on the News page, www.lwvcnm.org/news.html, or you can send an email to: LWVCNMTopics-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Remember, when you want to send out an announcement to League members, use: LWVCNMTopics@yahoogroups.com and not the older (ABC) address!

Cheryl Haaker, Technology Chair

SIGN UP FOR ACTION ALERTS

The 2009 New Mexico Legislature will be considering many bills that are of interest to the League. The LWVNM Action Committee will be sending out email Action Alerts on these bills throughout the 2009 session. If you are not part of the LWVNM Topics List please go to www.lwvnm.org and sign up.

Dick Mason

A BIT OF HISTORY

In 1994 when the League of Women Voters was planning for its 75th anniversary celebration, former LWVUS president Nancy Neuman wrote a history of the League's first 75 years. The following is taken from the Introduction in her book:

"... In 1919, at the 50th convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), president Carrie Chapman Catt proposed a League of Women Voters 'to finish the fight' ... The fight to be finished was winning national woman suffrage and eliminating other forms of political and legal discrimination against women. ...

Initially, the LWV was created as an auxiliary to the NAWSA. ... On February 14, 1920, six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was finally ratified, the LWV was launched as an independent organization....

The League of Women Voters was designed to be different, a 'mighty political experiment.' The LWV

(Continued on page 6)

We Gave a Party and Everybody Came

In December the Obama-Biden Transition Project contacted people around the country and asked them to help facilitate discussion about the concerns Americans have regarding reform of our health care system. They requested that small groups meet in informal settings to answer questions and express opinions on this topic. Board member Dick Mason approached LWVCNM about sponsoring such a discussion. It had to be done by the end of the year, and at that point the only choice was to have it in the week between Christmas and the New Year. We agreed that the timing was terrible but that we should go for it. Thanks to Dick's initiative, a room at the First Unitarian Church was secured and notification of the event was sent out via e-mail to League members and to the e-mail list for Health Action New Mexico. There was no time to put out more publicity.

The result was a total of 91 persons attending our Health Care Community Discussion on Monday afternoon, December 29. The estimate was that 1/3 of those attending were health care professionals. The transition team provided a guide for moderators and participants with questions such as "What do you perceive is the biggest problem in the health care system?" and "How do you choose a doctor or a hospital?" Dick led the lively discussion, and all comments were carefully compiled and sent to on the transition team.

It is apparent that health care is a major concern of Americans today. This method of engaging citizens in the decision-making process has sparked great interest and enthusiasm, and it was a worthwhile project in which to involve the League. The thanks that League members received that day from participants made it especially rewarding.

Diane Goldfarb



Dick Mason moderated the Health Care discussion while Jo Porter recorded and a volunteer from the audience signed.



There was a full house for the Health Care discussion despite the short notice.

PHOTOS BY DIANE GOLDFARB

FAIR REPRESENTATION: A NEW POSITION ON REALLOCATION AND REDISTRICTING

The Fair Representation Study Group presented a new position, based on the consensus of League members throughout New Mexico, to the LWVNM Board at its Jan. 10th meeting. The Board made a few amendments and approved the following:



LWVNM supports a redistricting process and standards that provide the people with a meaningful choice in electing their representatives and facilitate holding government accountable.

The criteria for preparing redistricting maps should require that districts meet all Federal criteria, including equal population and the provisions of the Voting Rights Act. In addition, it is important that districts:

- be contiguous
- be reasonably compact, in terms of travel time from one part of the district to another
- avoid crossing geographic barriers to travel, such as mountain ranges
- minimize the partition of major jurisdictions (counties, municipalities) to the extent possible
- not intentionally favor any political party.

The League supports having an independent commission or other independent group develop redistricting plans meeting these criteria, to be considered by the Legislature.

The public must have access to all information used in the redistricting process on a timely basis, and have the opportunity to comment and be heard on the proposed redistricting processes, criteria, and results.

Preparations are underway for lobbying the Legislature and informing the public on issues relating to redistricting. If you'd like to get involved, your help will be welcomed! For more information, check out the web page, www.lwvcnm.org/fair/ and join the listserve by sending an email to: LWVNMFair-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Cheryl Haaker, Chair of the Fair Representation Study Group

**WEB STATISTICS
DECEMBER 2008**

The number of visitors to lwvcnm.org declined slightly as the holidays approached, as the graph at right indicates. For more information, check out www.lwvcnm.org/stats/.

Cheryl Haaker
Technology Chair



(Continued from page 4)

would be ‘the big, composite, nonpartisan body, with its clarification place for partisan complexities, its common meeting ground for the furtherance of principles, ideals and issues.’

Carrie Chapman Catt...said the LWV would be ‘an anomaly: we are going to be a semi-political body. We want political things; we want legislation; we are going

to educate for citizenship...we have to be non-partisan and all-partisan.’

Seventy-five years later, the LWV is still an anomaly in American politics. It is nonpartisan and political. It educates and advocates. ...”

Nancy M. Neuman

The League of Women Voters In Perspective: 1920-1995
May 1994, pp 4-5

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Welcome to new and returning members

Doris Buckman and Peter Snow
1529 Catron Ave SE 87123

Axel Haaker
Rosetta C. Haaker
5701 Klondike St NE 87111

Cornelia Lange, MD, and Joel Davis
1310 Constitution Ct NE 87112

Glenelle G. Butler
3113 Dakota St NE 87110

Mary Anis Johnson
820 Rio Arriba SE 87123

Lenore W. Reeve
300 Mission Ridge Rd
Corrales 87048

Herbert M. and Diane D. Denish

Norton and Summers Kalishman
1043 Columbia Dr NE 87106

Carol C. Schwarz
6625 Ruby St NE 87109

Karen Giannini
2226B Wyoming Blvd NE, #307 87112

Tim Keller
11023 Vistazo Pl SE 87123

Iris S. Weinstein
1101 Washington St NE 87110

New email addresses are available from the Membership Chair, JoAnne Ramponi, for Glenelle G. Butler, Herbert M. and Diane D. Denish, Karen Giannini, Axel Haaker, Rosetta C. Haaker, Mary Anis Johnson, Norton & Summers Kalishman, Tim Keller, Cornelia Lange, Lenore W. Reeve, Carol C. Schwarz, Iris S. Weinstein.

Submitted by Kathleen Kimler Altobelli

Membership Handbook correction: the email address for Donna Hill on the list of LWVCNM Officers and Directors on page 17 is incorrect; please consult page 24 of the alphabetical membership list for the correct email address.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES

APS and CNM ELECTION FEBRUARY 3, 2009

On February 3 voters will chose four members for the Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) Board and four for the Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) Board. The APS Board districts in this election are 3, 5, 6 and 7. The CNM districts are 1, 3, 5 and 7.

Precincts for this election have been consolidated into 134 polling places. A list of the polling places and the precincts which will be voting at each place is available on the Bernalillo County Clerk's website. Also available are lists of all of the candidates for the APS and CNM Boards.

Much more information is available at the Bernalillo County Clerk's website. The website address is www.bernco.gov/clerk.

ADVANCE NOTICE: ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS DUE MARCH 1

This is a reminder to everyone who will be writing an annual report for the April Call to Annual Meeting *Voter*. The deadline for the April *Voter* is March 1.

The reason for this early deadline is that the LWVCNM Bylaws, Article VI, Sec. 4, state that the proposed budget for the ensuing fiscal year shall be sent to all members one month prior to the Annual Meeting. The same deadline applies to the report of the Nominating Committee (Article VIII, Sec. 2), to the proposed program (Article IX, Sec. 3.b) and, by default, to any other report or article to be included in the Call to Annual Meeting. Since the date of the Annual Meeting is May 2, the April Call to Annual Meeting *Voter* must reach the members by April 2. Because the April *Voter* is twice the size of the other issues it takes much longer to edit and longer to print so it is best to start early. If you wish to submit your article or report even earlier it will be happily accepted. — Ed.

UNIT	LOCATION	LEADER	MEMBERSHIP
Luncheon 2nd Thursday 11:45 a.m.	Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel 2910 Yale SE Reservations required \$16*	Marilyn Morgan	Vacant
Midtown 3rd Monday 1:30 p.m.	Manzano del Sol 5201 Roma NE Hobby Room (on first floor)	JoAnne Ramponi	Lois Reed
Evening 3rd Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	Erna Fergusson Library 3700 San Mateo Blvd. NE Optional dinner after meeting	Jan Bray	Delores Watkins
Sandoval County 3rd Wednesday 12 noon	Corrales Community Center Meeting Room 4234 Corrales Road Brown Bag Lunch	Carolyn Lindberg	Mary Mulvany

* Luncheon Unit reservations: call the League office (884-8441) by 10:00 a.m. the preceding Monday. If you do not attend and have not cancelled by the deadline, you will be billed for the cost.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 3 League Day at the Legislature
- 3 APS and CNM Election
- 4 Advocacy Committee, 1 p.m.
- 5 LWVCNM Board, 5:30 p.m.
- 5 Deadline for March Voter
- 12 Luncheon Unit, 11:45 a.m.
- 14 League's 89th Birthday
- 16 President's Day: Office Closed
- 16 Midtown Unit, 1:30 p.m.
- 17 Evening Unit, 6 p.m.
- 18 Sandoval County Unit, Noon
- 24 Fair Rep. Committee, 1 p.m.
- 26 Drug Policy Committee, 1 p.m.

Membership:

You can join LWV anytime of the year. Contact Membership Chair JoAnne Ramponi at 884-8441.

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Albuquerque, NM 87110
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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.