



The

# Voter

August 2010

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of Central New Mexico  
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Lwvcnm home page: <http://www.lwvcnm.org>

## Common Cause executive director to speak at August luncheon

Steven Robert Allen, executive director of Common Cause New Mexico, will be the guest speaker at the LWVCNM Luncheon Unit meeting Aug. 12. The meeting will be at 11:45 a.m. at the Albuquerque Grand Hotel, 2910 Yale Blvd. SE.

Allen will speak about campaign financing and review the U.S. Supreme Court decision that removes limits on corporate and business contributions to political campaigns.

He manages the state office of Common Cause New Mexico in Albuquerque, organizes and

coordinates legislative programs, conducts research, directs fundraising initiatives, oversees the budget and acts as a lobbyist.

Allen holds a BA from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law. He is a member of the State Bar of New Mexico and is the former editor of the *Weekly Alibi*, Albuquerque's alternative newsweekly.

The cost of the luncheon is \$17, payable at the door. Reservations must be called into the League office at 884-8441 by Monday, Aug. 9.

## AmericaSpeaks on budget and fiscal policy – a return to civility

By Jan and Olin Bray

Many of us have been bothered by the growing rancor and lack of civility in political debates and policy discussions. There was even a guidance to the board at the convention for LWVUS to provide a clearinghouse to help local and state Leagues share what they are doing to try to restore civility to the public discourse. Then when we got back we attended an all day example of a civil discussion on the budget, deficits and fiscal policy -- topics which frequently generate far more heat than light. The session was organized and run by AmericaSpeaks, a neutral, nonpartisan organization that takes no position on the issues, but encourages public discussion and input. On LWVCNMTopics I have provided several descriptions of what they are trying to do and a summary of the meeting as I saw it.

They now have a summary based the elec-

tronic voting at and inputs from their 19 sites across the country and have provided a preliminary report to National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. We will post their written testimony on our website.

They tried very hard to have the demographics of the participants match the national demographics, although the participants were slightly older, had higher incomes, and were more liberal than the overall population. Except for Latinos, who were under represented, the racial and

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### August Calendar

August 5	Voter deadline
August 5	Board meeting, 5:40 p.m.
August 12	Luncheon meeting, 11:45 a.m.

**League of Women Voters of  
Central New Mexico  
Board Meeting  
1st Thursday of each month  
Offices of Sutin, Thayer & Brown,  
6565 Americans Parkway NE**

Program Committees

***Fair Representation Committee***

Cheryl Haaker (298-7415)

***Drug Policy***

Delores Watkins (823-2308)

***Natural Resources***

Includes transportation, land use, air quality, water, and energy

All League members are invited to all unit meetings, committee and board meetings.

The *Voter* is published on partially recycled paper each month by the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico.

### **Pain Management**

*Editor's Note: Regarding pain management.*

*This is an opportunity for certain people in pain to be part of an effort to have improved pain management. The following is a message from the American Pain Foundation's (APF) Action Network.*

Dear APF Action Network Leader:

I am writing to you again because the outreach we've achieved with your assistance through the APF's Action Network has been very helpful in attracting volunteers for our research study. As a reminder, we are seeking participants for an National Institutes of Health-funded clinical trial testing a web-based behavioral intervention for improving chronic pain self management.

We only need your help getting information about the study to people who may wish to volunteer. We are handling all participant contact, including screening, consenting, and study completion, on our end. Participants can earn up to \$175 for completing all components of the study.

We are seeking participants who are diagnosed with: chemotherapy induced neuropathy, diabetic peripheral neuropathy, phantom limb pain, post-herpetic neuropathy and post mastectomy neuropathy.

For more information, contact the Project Manager, Sadaf Charity at [scharity@inflexxion.com](mailto:scharity@inflexxion.com) or 617-332-6028, ext. 274

-- Jonas Bromberg, Psy.D.  
Senior Research Scientist

## **Presidents' Corner**

### **LWV 2010 Convention Summary**

This month our column is a summary of the national convention. The details on the 2010 convention are on the website ([www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)) and include a daily summary of activities and votes, budget, resolutions, handouts from some of the workshops and information on vote411, including support for an electronic *Voters' Guide* and a website development tool (LEW – League Easy Web). There was also a listserv, started about six months before the convention to discuss convention related issues. Therefore, this summary just hits some of the highlights.

First, two new national studies were approved. One was the board recommended study on the federal role in education. A second study, one on privatization, was proposed by Seattle and approved by a relatively close vote. This study was proposed by the Seattle League, which has completed a study (available on their web site) after one of their utilities was privatized and sold to Australian company -- a hedge fund. Interestingly they proposed a national study rather than a consensus based on their local study.

The PMP was increased by \$0.30 for each of the next two years (to \$29.70 and \$30.00), in part to support these studies. Since funding was an issue with the privatization study, they passed around a bag and collected over \$3,500 from the delegates in just one day. That's putting your money where your mouth is.

Second, a number of motions were approved including the arms control update, the national popular vote, adding marriage equality to the equality of opportunity position, limiting the filibuster, advocating improved Medicare for all.

Third, there was a lot of discussion and several workshops on the use of the web and electronic support for Leagues. National is in the middle of a major audit and review of how they are and can use IT (information technology) to support League activity at all levels. There was a workshop on the use of social network and media tools to increase League exposure and build membership.

Additional workshops included ones for treasurers, new presidents, large Leagues (over 100-150), and Leagues in large cities. There was also a workshop on grant writing, but they emphasized that most grants involved advocacy rather than studies and research. One recruiting tool several League's men-

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## League members reminisce about early days of League

*Editor's Note: This year the LWVCNM celebrates its 60th anniversary. In February Judith Binder put together a retrospective program presented at all Unit meetings that consisted of members sharing in their own words memories of League. This is the fourth in a series of articles that includes some of those remembrances. In this issue Clara Moore, Henrietta Loy and Geta (Aileen) Gatterman share their memories.*

### Clara Moore, President 1985-1987

"In the early 1980's, when I first joined the League, voter registration was an important project for the League. We registered voters at the State Fair in non-stop shifts for three to four hours. This was long before organizations began collecting fees for registering voters."

"During the time I was Voter Service Chair (early 1980s), the League teamed up with KNME for a mayoral forum at Roosevelt Park. The press called it a 'Lark in the Park.' There were 10 to 12 mayoral candidates participating in this forum. One candidate suggested growing marijuana as a way to provide more income for the city. The newspaper gave us a lot of publicity along with a picture of the candidates during the forum."

"In 1986, as president, I recall Pat Freeman was a strong proponent for developing an inclusive *Voters' Guide*. One had not been published for several years. To print a large first class guide, we felt it was the time to establish the Education Fund (with the help of our now National President, Mary Wilson). It is always nice to have a project that has gone on to produce a series of successes."

"When my youngest child went to kindergarten, I went to law school. I had become friends with Pauline Eisenstadt through the League and she encouraged me to take the LSAT because -- she (Pauline) had said modestly -- 'We're as smart as my husband.' There were 30 women in my law school class that year, while in previous years there were eight or fewer. All of my League friends were very supportive of my decision."

### Henrietta Loy

"I retired in 1979 after 34 years with Albuquerque Public Schools. Mid-schools included: Washington, Lincoln, Jackson, and Jefferson. During my long teaching career, I used the League's publica-

tions in my classroom because they were interesting and up to date. This exposure let me talk about the League and urge my students to join when they were old enough. I talked up the League to all my social studies colleagues and encouraged their membership. And I was able to distribute *Voters' Guides* among my colleagues, which we used for current events."

"It continues to be important that teachers at each school learn and borrow from one another. But basically, I was interested in having League members come to talk to my civics classes, and giving out our literature in schools was most important -- letting the League speak for itself."

"When I could be an active member by attending meetings and participate in the activities, I chaired the Education Committee with Elsie Hempleman into the 1990s. For a number of years I was able to invite the best teachers and school administrators who were intellectual and erudite. You could respect their answers."

"We went to Santa Fe to lobby legislators to support those issues the League had studied. Sometimes, as a result, we had lots of legislators contact the League to see where we were on various issues. We made it clear that the legislators knew when we were speaking for ourselves and when we were speaking based on a League position."

"I developed a social studies curriculum for grades 7 and 8. It included geography anthropology, U.S. and world history and sociology. I always concentrated on civics. It is most important 'because we are a democracy.'"

### Geta (Aileen) Gatterman

"One of my strongest memories was how we handled the study and the National Consensus on Reproductive Rights -- or CHOICE. At the National Convention in 1982, after many votes, consensus was reached. Each local League and/or each state League could -- or decide not to -- undertake concurrence with the position that the Massachusetts and New Jersey Leagues had already reached. These Leagues had gathered well-balanced information and it was distributed by the LWVEd Fund. Since this was a fairly hot issue we didn't want emotional arguments where people stop thinking and only say what they feel—which may not be logical. We had 'Vote by Mail.' We used our Voter to publish the information

# League of Women Voters Central New Mexico 2010 -2011 Calendar

## July 2010

- 5 Deadline for Voter, Office Closed
- 6 Membership Committee
- 7 Advocacy Steering Committee
- 8 General Meeting – Luncheon
- 22 Drug Policy Study Group
- 16/26 LWVNM Board Meeting
- 25 Deadline for Summer La Palabra
- 28 Fair Representation Study Group

## August 2010 – November Election

- 5 Deadline for Voter
- 6 LWVCNM Board Meeting
- 12 General Meeting – Luncheon

## September 2010 – Budget, Health Care Redistricting, Ethics, Legislative Preparation Fair Representation

- 4 LWVNM Board Meeting, Time Keeper Workshop
- 5 Deadline for Voter
- 9 Luncheon Meeting
- 14 Evening Unit Meeting
- 15 Sandoval Unit
- 20 Midtown Unit December 2010 – Election Review
- 27 NE Heights Unit

## October 2010 – Climate Change

- 5 Deadline for Voter
- 7 LWVCNM Board Meeting
- 12 Evening Unit Meeting
- 14 Luncheon Unit Meeting
- 16 In person Early Voting Begins
- 18 Midtown Unit Meeting
- 20 Sandoval Unit Meeting
- 25 NE Heights Unit Meeting

## November 2010 – Transparency, Water Assembly, Redistricting, Fair Representation

- 2 General Election
- 4 LWVCNM Board Meeting
- 5 Deadline for Voter
- 9 Evening Unit Meeting
- 11 Luncheon Unit Meeting
- 13 LWVNM Board Meeting
- 15 Midtown Unit Meeting
- 17 Sandoval Unit Meeting
- 22 NE Heights Unit Meeting

## December 2010 – Election Review

- 4 LWVCNM Board Meeting
- 5 Deadline for Voter
- 8 Luncheon Unit Meeting

- 14 Evening Unit Meeting
- 20 Midtown Unit Meeting
- 24 Office Closed

## January 2011 – Local Government Structure, Council of Governments, Petroglyph Monument Project

- 2 Office Reopens
- 5 Deadline for Voter
- 6 LWVCNM Board Meeting
- 8 LWVNM Meeting
- 11 Evening Unit Meeting
- 13 Luncheon Unit Meeting
- 17 Midtown Unit Meeting
- 18 Opening of NM Legislature
- 19 Sandoval Unit Meeting

## February 2011 – Relationship Between National League and Local Leagues

- 3 LWVCNM Board Meeting
- 5 Deadline for Voter
- 8 Evening Unit Meeting
- 10 Luncheon Unit Meeting
- 16 Sandoval Unit Meeting
- 21 Midtown Unit Meeting

## March 2011 – Privatization, Government Restructuring

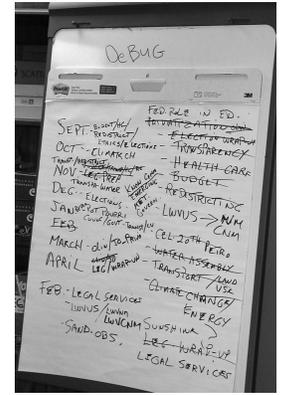
- 3 LWVCNM Board Meeting
- 5 Deadline for Voter
- 8 Evening Unit Meeting
- 10 Luncheon Unit Meeting
- 12 LWVNM Board Meeting
- 13-19 Sunshine Week
- 16 Sandoval Unit Meeting
- 19 Closing Day of NM Legislature
- 21 Midtown Unit Meeting

## April 2011 – Legislative Wrap Up, Sunshine Week

- 5 Deadline for Voter
- 7 LWVCNM Board Meeting
- 12 Evening Unit Meeting
- 14 Luncheon Unit Meeting
- 19 Midtown Unit Meeting
- 20 Sandoval Unit Meeting

## May 2011 – Annual Meeting

- 5 LWVCNM Board Meeting
- Deadline for Voter
- 7 Annual Meeting
- 4 13-15 LWVNM Convention



*Calendar Planning for 2010-11 was held June 19. Here is a planning board from the meeting.*

## America Speaks

*(Continued from page 1)*

ethnic demographics were very close.

Their emphasis was on a long term solutions that balanced spending and revenue changes. Their target was a deficit reduction of \$1.2 trillion by 2025. Overall 47 percent of the 350 tables at 19 sites across the country meet that target. Reduction of at least \$1.0 trillion was reached by 65 percent of the tables, while only 10 percent of the tables reached less than \$600 billion in reductions. Their options workbook listed 42 options in spending and revenue changes. (For more detailed information, the budget primer and options workbook are on their website – [usabudgetdiscussion.org](http://usabudgetdiscussion.org))

There was little support for reducing Social Security benefits, with the strongest support for gradually increasing the full retirement benefit age to 69 by 2025. There was significant support for raising payroll taxes by lifting the cap on earnings to where 90 percent of earnings are covered. This is where the cap was when Social Security started, but over time the cap has not kept up with wage growth and now covers only 70 percent of earnings. There was also a reluctance to reduce spending supporting the most vulnerable populations. A majority supported reduction of health care spending and all other non-defense spending by 5 percent, and defense spending by 15 percent. One of the things

that bothered some people was that the option choices were very crude in some areas -- cuts of 5, 10, or 15 percent, or no change. Many groups specified that when they recommended cuts they should be very targeted and not simply across the board cuts.

In terms of taxes, there was little support for across the board rate increases for all taxpayers. However, there was support for increasing the rates on the higher brackets and on those earning over \$1 million. There was also significant support for raising the top corporate tax rate by 5 percent and raising the capital gains tax rates. A majority supported both a carbon tax and a securities transaction tax.

There was little support for a Value Added Tax. Most did not support reforming the tax code by removing most deductions, but those that did wanted more of the revenue applied to deficit reduction rather than tax reduction.

While probably no one liked all of the recommendations, the important point is that they were able to spend the whole day intelligently and civilly discussing the issues and agreeing on acceptable compromises. When asked what messages they wanted to send to the leaders, one key one was, "Abandon the failed politics of partisanship. You can't demonize each other and expect us to trust you."

I think the League can and should build on these efforts since these fiscal and budget issues are not going away.

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## Presidents' Corner

*(Continued from page 1)*

tioned was an introductory, half price first year membership. The Leagues that tried it seemed to like it, in spite of the fact that virtually the entire first year dues went to national as PMP. I proposed a guidance to the board that they waive the PMP on these first year memberships and got a very positive response from several board and staff members. Another guidance was that national establish a clearinghouse so that local and state Leagues can share what they are doing to try to restore civility in the political arena. Much more detail is available on the website. Take a look. There may be several ideas we want to consider and adopt, with or without modification.

*-- Olin and Jan Bray*

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## CO<sub>2</sub> work parties planned

Save the date, 10-10-10

On Oct. 10 Leagues around the country will be participating in work parties to draw attention to the need to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere to 350 ppm, a safe level for humanity. The current level is approximately 392 ppm.

We are planning several tree planting work parties on Sunday, Oct. 10, and we hope you will join us. Our goal will be to plant 350 trees. So please save the date, more information to follow. If you would like to help organize, contact Lora Lucero at 247-0844 or [LoraLucero@aol.com](mailto:LoraLucero@aol.com)

# League Memories

(Continued from page 3)

from the Massachusetts/ New Jersey consensus, and the special mailing included the ballot.”

“Overwhelmingly, our Albuquerque members concurred with the position from Massachusetts and New Jersey. Sadly, we did lose a few members. On Jan. 20, 1983, the *Albuquerque Journal* noted that the League of Women Voters, with 110,000 national members, ‘92 percent of the chapters polled supported the position.’”

“The Elena Gallegos Open Space was another cross roads, especially since -- this may seem strange-- it took so long to accomplish. The League supported acquiring the Elena Gallegos Grant, which was owned by the Albuquerque Academy. Land was exchanged between the city and federal government plus some money that the city had to come up with. Of course, they set a tax to raise the funds, but Counselor Tom Hoover was finally able to write a bill that the League could support. It included a local three-year quarter-cent sales tax and called for the city to trade off the grant land to the Forest Service for the federal surplus

lands. Those lands would then be sold by the city with the proceeds placed into a permanent trust fund for open space management. The plan won the early support of mayor Harry Kinney and the leadership of the City Council.”

“It was a massive public campaign and over 15,000 people signed petitions urging the City Council to impose a quarter cent tax. The grant was purchased in July of 1982. The triumph was that Albuquerque retained a 640-acre mountain park site in the grant by trading over 7,000 acres to the Forest Service.”

[<http://www.cabq.gov/openspace/history.html>]

“I found an article from the *Albuquerque Journal* dated Feb. 10, 1992 where League of Women Voters was one of six entities to win the United States Senate Productivity Award which was given ‘to organizations that make large strides to improve productivity through the use of effective time management and flexible scheduling of meetings has enabled its members to participate fully in the League’s activities.’”

“What has impressed me most is the non-partisanship stance members maintain. The League, so to speak, truly has had its ‘finger in the pie.’”

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