



The *Voter* November 2010

League of Women Voters
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Lwvcnm home page: <http://www.lwvcnm.org>

November League meetings to focus on legislative issues, water

Topics for November League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico unit meetings will focus on legislative issues and water.

The following are units, topics and speakers.

Luncheon Unit Meeting: Nov. 11, 11:45 a.m., Airport Grand Hotel

Speaker & Topic: Jody Larson, action chair of the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County (LWVSFC) will speak on "Transparency in Local Government." LWVSFC has studied transparency issues at the local level for the past several years. For more than a year, the LWVSFC, partnering with the local ACLU branch and the New Mexico Foundation for Local Government, conducted transparency audits in county government, interviewed county employees and performed research on transparency around this country and as an international issue, learning how greatly transparency affects democracy all around the globe.

The project team issued a report with findings and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners in June 2009, and followed up with the County Manager and staff to ensure that the recommendations were understood and acted upon. Afterward, the LWVSFC adopted transparency as a local study, arriving at a local position on transparency this spring through the League's consensus process. In November, we will hear about these projects from Jody Larson, who chaired the audit project team and the study team. Both the project report and the local position are available at the LWVSFC web-

site, http://lwvsfc.org/hot_topics_news.html.

The LWVNM board is considering a proposal to adopt the LWVSFC position at the next state convention by concurrence. Jody will provide a brief

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League members participated in the Cut the Carbon Rally Oct. 10 at Albuquerque Academy. Some 200 people attended the event. Dr. Fogarty of the New Energy Economy spoke, along with Senator Tom Udall. Senator Jeff Bingaman spoke via a video. Groups rallied around the world to cut carbon use on 10-10-10.

November Calendar

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| November 4 | Board meeting, 5:30 p.m. |
| November 5 | <i>Voter</i> deadline |
| November 9 | Evening Unit, 6 p.m. |
| November 11 | Luncheon Unit, 11:45 a.m. |
| November 15 | Midtown Unit, 1:30 p.m. |
| November 22 | Heights Unit, 10 a.m. |

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

Membership Report

Welcome to new and returning members:

Luella Phelps

416 Montclair Dr. SE, 87108
(650) 493-4179

Rachel McHugh

239 Jefferson NE, 87108
507-9035

Alice Sobczak

P.O. Box 2234 Edgewood NM 98015
385-5592 (work 284-5250)

Elena Spielman

1603 Calle del Ranchero NE, 87106
265-3868 (work 242-9311)

Member address changes:

DeAnza Valencia

1801 Calle del Vista NW, 87105

December events

Reminder for December events, in case you don't
receive your *Voter* by then:

- * Saturday, Dec. 4, LWVNM Lobbyists Training
Workshop in Santa Fe, see *La Palabra* for details.
- * Sunday, Dec. 5, LWVCNM legislative reception,
call office for details.
- * Saturday, Dec. 11, LWVCNM Program Planning
Meeting, call office for details.

Presidents' Corner

Three big thank yours are due this month.

First, to Andrea Targhetta and Jo Porter, for organizing and editing the *Voters' Guide*. We printed 50,000 copies and it is also on our web site. Second, to Carol Tucker Trelease, for spearheading the effort for corporate contributors. We had several new donors this year thanks to Carol's efforts. Third, to Louise Prowell, who has been the Voter mailing guru for many years. She is retiring at the end of the year, so new arrangements are under consideration. If you would like a vital behind-the-scenes job, Louise has offered to train you. Give her a call.

Speaking of vital jobs, Donna Hill and the nominating committee are gearing up. LWVCNM and the Board always need fresh blood and new perspectives. If you are interested give Donna a call at 291-3454.

The Board has decided to retire our "Southwest style" logo in favor of the national logo – the blue box with red slash and the letters LWV. The transition will begin soon.

We participated in the "Cut Carbon Rally" on Oct. 10. Lora Lucero, the LWVNM natural resources chair, had an action table for people to write letters to the candidates for governor. Jan distributed *Voters' Guides* and *Who's Whos*. Jan and Olin represented LWVCNM at the Foundation for Open Government awards dinner Oct. 8.

Dues Renewal

Renewal of Membership letters were mailed last month. Please see that yours is returned to the League office by Nov. 12, the absolute deadline for your accurate and up-to-date information which is to be printed in the Member Handbook.

The Member Handbooks for 2011 will be compiled, proofed, printed and then mailed to you in December. We also need your input as to whether you would prefer a printed copy of our monthly newsletter, the *Voter*, mailed to you or have an email version sent. This survey is located in the lower right corner of your renewal letter.

-- Andrea Targhetta

Units

(Continued from page 1)

update on the status of that project as well, and an overview of what concurrence means when a position is adopted from the local to the state level.

The cost of the luncheon is \$17, payable at the door. Reservations must be called in to the League office at 884-8441 by Tuesday, Nov. 9 at 9 a.m.

Evening Unit, Nov. 9, 2010 Erna Fergusson Library

Topic & Speaker: Bob Wesseley, Rio Grande Water Assembly, Regional Water Policy Issues. Wesseley has long worked with the Rio Grande Water Assembly, which is a grass roots all-volunteer organization that focuses on water-related issues for Valencia, Sandoval and Bernalillo Counties in New Mexico. The Assembly's purpose is to assure effective implementation of the Middle Rio Grande Regional Water Plan through an open, inclusive, and participatory process so as to achieve the common interests of the people and stakeholders of the region for a sustainable water future that balances water use with renewable supply in accordance with the stated

goals of the plan.

Midtown Unit Meeting, Nov. 15, 1:30 p.m., Manzano del Sol Hobby Room, 5201 Roma NE

Topic & Speaker: Mary Mulnane, president of the Water Dialogue, is about listening actively to try to understand -- and not judge -- another person's viewpoint about a strongly-held value, you share in order to discover whether at some level you share common ground. "Water dialogue" encompasses their board's attempts to discover ways to address contentious issues about how we will share, manage and protect this scarce and vital substance, and be stewards of its sources, so that they will continue to sustain us and those who will follow us. West of the 100th Meridian people like to quote the adage, Whisky's fer drinkin'; water's fer fightin'! Water Dialogue participants don't believe that has to be true.

Northeast Heights Unit, Nov. 22, 10 a.m., La Vida Llena Card Room, 10501 Lagrima de Oro NE

Topic & Speaker: Cheryl Haaker, Fair Representation Committee chair, will speak on the latest activities of the Fair Representation Committee as they prepare for the 2011 New Mexico Legislative session.

Members take a retrospective look at League of Women Voters

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 sixth in a series of articles that includes some of those memories.

Shelly Shepherd

"My experiences with the League began in 1986 when Henrietta Loy, Elsie Hampleman and I attended a Legislative Foun on Children & Youth, sponsored by Mrs. Bruce King.

"When I first came to Albuquerque early in the 1980s. I was working for Judge O'Toole. Judge O'Toole and Bonnie Davies (a supervisor in Metropolitan Court and friend of Gov. and Mrs. King) took me to Santa Fe during the legislative session where I then met Governor Bruce King. I noticed how the Governor liked to shake hands with everyone, and he gave Bonnie a hug and and a kiss. Then he turned

and gave me the same, saying, 'Oh, it's so good to see you again.'

"Getting back to the Forum, I was impressed by the intelligent questions the women asked; their dedication hooked me. My interests were allied with what the League was accomplishing. In fact, I ran for office – state representative in 1988."

"When I was membership chair on the Board, we focused on growing the membership. I had been handed 'the box' by Tooker Walton and worked with Tooker and JoAnne Ramponi's guidance. Alice Mehlberg and then Carol Pierce were presidents. While I was membership chair, we inaugurated the Roll of Honor to acknowledge those women who really deserved the honor. Then we developed the Dorothy Kline Award, first presented at The Salute to Albuquerque dinner, which I co-chaired with Dan Rudolph. He was a great resource in fundraising and lobbying efforts at the Legislature.

"At the Salute we honored our League mem-

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Member Memories

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bers and also provided entertainment. It was not without some very nervous moments! Martin Chavez was the speaker one year. It wasn't until the very last minute that he and his wife showed up. Another year, Gov. Gary Johnson was the speaker. He came into the ballroom through the kitchen, having proclaimed that he didn't want to be seated with any politicians!

"The highlight of the 1993 LWVUS Council meeting in Washington D.C., was when the Council was invited to the Rose Garden when President Clinton announced his plan for National Health Care. Dorothy Gardner, chair of Health Care at the time, was there, as was Christina Little. I visited with Rep. Steve Schiff and Sen. Pete Dominici during the trip.

Steve Schiff was called to a vote, and he took me through back passages to the House Floor. These are examples of the kindness and the level of respect they both had for the League.

"I was President of LWV/ABC from 1993 to 1995 during which time we celebrated League's 75th Anniversary. We received lots of recognition, including a presentation at the Roundhouse by the House and Senate. I wrote an article on Suffrage that Senator Domenici read into the Congressional Record on February 14, 1995. Carole Pierce arranged a luncheon with past presidents to initiate me into being president. They would offer their support if I had any questions. I recall that Alice Mehlberg, Louise Dean, Julia White, Carol Moore and Nancy Swigger were present. My greatest support came from the League where 'people do what they say they will do.'"

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