



# The Voter

May 2011

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## Judge for yourself: My life as a columnist

Alan Malott, a judge in the 2nd judicial district court and *Albuquerque Journal Business Outlook* columnist will speak at the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico's Annual Meeting May 7. His talk will culminate the meeting, to be conducted at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul NE.



Alan Malott

Registration for the Annual Meeting will be from 9-9:30 a.m., followed by the business meeting from 9:30-11 a.m. and brunch at 11 a.m. Malott will talk during the brunch.

During his talk, Malott will discuss the joys and tribulations of writing a column. His columns cover a wide range of legal issues and questions.

He says he has received praise, blame and everything in between from his reading public.

Malott was appointed to the bench in 2009 and serves in the civil division of district court. He currently has 1,400 active files in areas that range from administrative appeals to guardianships and from personal injury to commercial litigation that involves both jury and non-jury trials.

He has a long history as an Albuquerque attorney prior to his appointment to the bench. He is a member of the State Bar of New Mexico where he serves on the fee arbitration committee and frequently lectures. He is a graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law.

Reservations for the brunch must be made no later than May 2 at 10 a.m. by emailing [lunch@lwvcnm.org](mailto:lunch@lwvcnm.org) or calling 884-8441. Cost for the brunch is \$20 payable at the door.

## Calendar Planning is Most Important Meeting of the Year

Please join us in June for the most important meeting in our League year. Calendar planning is the time we gather as a group to determine the subjects we will explore during the coming year.

We use this meeting to put together our areas of interest and to measure interest in subjects such as redistricting, health, drug police, environmental issues and local government activities.

If you ever wanted to have an influence on the subjects we tackle in LWVCNM, this is your chance. We will meet on June 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the Aspen Room of the Palo Duro Senior Citizen Center. This is centrally located at 5221 Palo Duro Ave. NE near the corner of San Mateo and Comanche.

### Annual Meeting May 7

Be sure to bring the April *Voter* to the Annual Meeting

Registration	9-9:30 a.m.
Business Meeting	9:30-11 a.m.
Brunch	11 a.m.
MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul NE	

### May Calendar

May 5	LWVCNM Board meeting, 5:30 p.m.
May 5	<i>Voter</i> deadline
May 7	Annual Meeting
May 13-15	LWVNM Convention
May 26	Drug Policy Study Committee, 1 p.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. It is also distributed via email.

**Drug Policy Study Committee**

The Drug Policy Study Committee will be meeting May through August. This is a good time to visit or join. We are growing enough to need to move our location. Contact Dee Watkins by phone at 505-823-2308 or [dwatkins@earthlink.net](mailto:dwatkins@earthlink.net) for this information. You can also watch the LWVCNM topics for such information. We are struggling to find a mid-town spot to meet with chairs and tables for 15. If you know of a location south of Candelaria, please let me know. The next meeting date is Thursday, May 26, 1-3 p.m.  
*-- Dee Watkins*

**In memoriam**

Condolences go to the family of Barbara Rosnagle on her passing. Barbara was an enthusiastic advocate for the Natural Resources Committee and one of the moving forces in obtaining the Petroglyph National Monument.

**Presidents' Corner**

This is our last column as your co-presidents. The Board has worked very hard on your behalf and LWVC-NM has accomplished a lot. However, given these contentious times, the League's core mission of citizen education on issues and candidates is more important than ever. Here is an important example.

Here's an update on our March 2011 Presidents' column that talked about the difference between perception and reality in policy and politics. We mentioned a study that showed that between 1980 and 2010 the average (or mean) U.S. per capita income jumped from \$24,079 to \$40,454, in real terms adjusted for inflation. That is a jump of 68 percent. This would indicate that things are improving significantly, even if many people don't seem to recognize it. However, we also mentioned that this study used the average or mean personal income and that it would be interesting to see what the results would be using the median income, where half of the incomes were below and half above. A few weeks ago there was an article in *Money* that had those numbers -- or at least close using 1982 instead of 1980. The median incomes for 1982 and 2010 were \$26,378 and \$29,264. The 1982 median was about ten percent higher than the 1980 average, but some of that was probably because it was two years later. However, the key point is that the 2010 median had grown only 11 percent (about a third of a percent per year) rather than the 68 percent (about 2.25 percent per year) jump in the average. What that means is that the half of the population with incomes below the midpoint saw very little improvement, while those with incomes above the midpoint got almost all of the gains. While GDP grew and the country became wealthier, those gains were dramatically skewed to one part of the population and away from another. Regardless of your politics and whether you think anything should be done about this, it clearly shows the importance of understanding the numbers, what they mean, and what their implications are when discussing policy alternatives and issues. Again in politics perception and reality are rarely the same and we need to focus people more on the reality.

## Meet the nominees for Board members of LWVCNM

The following outstanding members of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico have agreed to have their names placed in nomination for the 2011-2012 Board and Nominating Committee. This brief biographical information is submitted so that you may get to know your League leaders better.

**Shelly Shepherd** and **Sandra Browne** have accepted the nomination of LWVCNM co-presidents for 2011-2013.

**Shelly Shepherd**, Co-president: Shelly has been a member of the League of Women Voters for nearly 25 years, serving as the president of LWV/ABC from 1993-1994. She was on the local board beginning in 1989 as a Membership Chair and served on the LWV Local and State Boards at various times as chairperson in the area of Children and Youth Issues. Over the years, Shelly has been actively involved in fundraising for the League. She recently retired from the state of New Mexico after 24 years of service. She was most recently employed with the Second Judicial District Court as a Court Clinician where she conducted mediation and assessments for the Family Court for 18 years. Shelly is a graduate of the University of New Mexico and has a Masters Degree in Counseling from Webster University.

**Sandra Browne**, Co-president: Sandra is a native of New Mexico, having lived in Las Vegas and Artesia before moving to Albuquerque to attend UNM and make this her home. She has served as League Board member and President for two terms: 1995-97 and 2003-04. Her special League interests are election issues and lobbying. At home she enjoys vegetable gardening, maintaining her fish pond with plants and, of course, her two puppies. She also enjoys reading especially history and mysteries. For many years she has supported the League and arranged a special meeting room for the Board.

**Pati Brummett**, Secretary: Pati is completing her first term as Board Secretary and has agreed to be nominated for a second term. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my term as secretary and have learned so much about LWVCNM. Getting to know the Board members has been the best part of the position. If re-elected, I look forward to working with and getting to know the new Board members." A resident of Albuquerque since 1979, Pati is an attorney with the New Mexico Public Defender Department, and is the

supervising attorney of the Metro Division. She and husband Bill have two children and two granddaughters.

**Cheryl Haaker**, Director: Cheryl has a Master of Science degree from Texas A&M. She has worked as a computer programmer and system administrator. In the last decade, she has learned how to design and maintain websites and currently is responsible for four sites, including those of the state League and the League of Central New Mexico. She also moderates and otherwise controls the four League listservs. Cheryl has lived in New Mexico since 1978.

**Mary H. Smith**, Director, a LWVCNM member since 2006, is serving her first term as a Board member. Mary is Community Education Co-Chair, and has organized a lobbying workshop and open government trainings, located speakers for unit and annual meetings and luncheons, corralled LWV activists for an open government academy's citizen lobbyist panel and is working on a judicial independence community education event and on the LWVCNM 2011 lobbying workshop. Mary returned to her cultural roots by moving to New Mexico in 1983, and has been an attorney since 1986, currently serving as a New Mexico assistant attorney general.

**Gayle Prinkey**, Director: In 1989 Gayle moved to Algodones N.M. from Brookline, Mass. where she taught occupational therapy at Boston University. She became active in the Sandoval County Historical Society, the Unitarian congregation on the west side and Algodones Volunteer Fire and Rescue. Gayle had always admired LWV and joined a few years after she and husband Bill moved to Albuquerque in 2004. As a member of the Board of LWVCNM she likes working on Voter Services--coordinating voter registration, matching up League moderators and timekeepers with local groups sponsoring candidate forums and participating in naturalization ceremonies.

**Josephine Porter**, Chair, Nomination Committee: Since moving to New Mexico from Wyoming in 1995 Josephine has been an active member of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico, serving as the *Voters' Guide* Editor or Co-editor since 1997. She has been on the LWVCNM's Board of Directors since 1997, serving as League

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## Nominees

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President from 2001-2003 and later as 4th and 1st Vice President and has lobbied on election issues for the state League. When not working on League activities she hikes and trains with her dogs Zoe and Phineas, gardens and travels with her family. Josephine is a member of the New Mexico State Bar.

**Geta Gatterman**, member Nominating Committee: Geta received her BA from the University of Rhode Island. She is now retired. Her most recent employment was as assistant to a Special Master for Water Adjudication at U.S. District Court. She has served the League of Women Voters as Land Use Committee Chair LWV/ABC, as president LWV/ABC, as Vice-President LWVNM, as President LWVNM, on the Natural Resources Committee LWV/ABC, as the *Voter* editor LVCNM and on the Nominating Committee (2009) LWVCNM.

**Sharon A. Moynahan**, member Nominating Committee. A native of Connecticut, Sharon is a retired librarian, having spent about 28 years as a Latin Americanist cataloger. She has a Masters in Latin American Studies from the University of Florida and a Master of Science in Librarianship from Florida State University. Sharon worked in a public library in Naples, Fla., at Tulane University and finally at the University of New Mexico. She spent five years as the office manager of a Latin American Librarians' association. Since retiring, Sharon has been a member of the League of Women Voters and has worked in the office for the last several years. She previously agreed to be the office manager, but her eyesight started to give out. As Sharon no longer drives, she withdrew. Sharon reports that she really enjoys the League lunches and the conversations. She can still play some tennis (badly) and is taking violin lessons (awful). Sharon is married, and has a grown daughter in Colorado.

## Redistricting New Mexico 2011

The 2011 regular session of the Legislature saw some good redistricting bills -- bills that were near letter-perfect with the League's position on redistricting. This included an independent commission, strong criteria, transparency and public involvement. However, the bill that passed and has been signed by the governor, SB408, is basically same-old, same-old: a balanced partisan collection of currently serving legislators, with criteria to be selected by them.

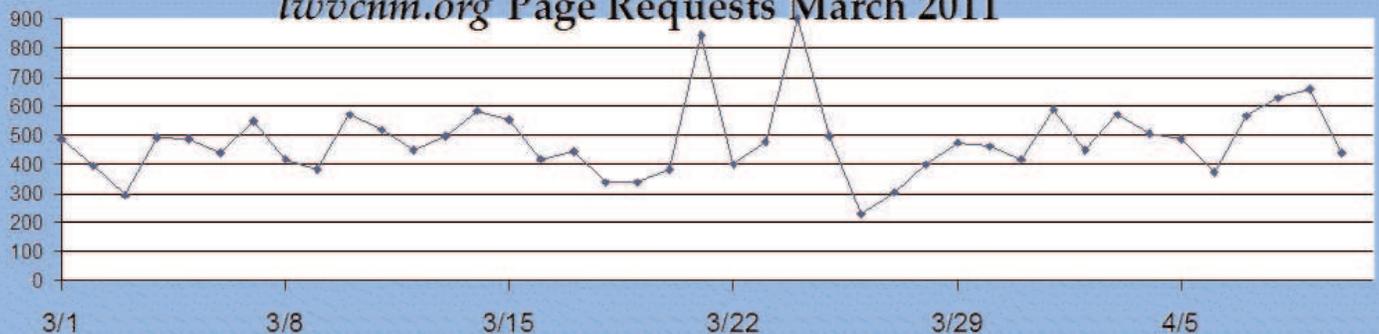
A revived fair representation committee began meeting in early April via evening teleconference. At the first meeting, there were seven attendees, representing Los Alamos, Santa Fe and Albuquerque. The goal is to create autonomous subcommittees throughout the state, which will, at the least, monitor and report, and we hope will also testify and educate.

The state's Redistricting Committee, as

defined in SB408, will begin its meetings in June. Further meetings will be held throughout the state during the summer and will be open to the public. In September a special session of the Legislature will be called to vote on the newly-redistricted maps produced by the Committee, which has contracted Research & Polling for the technical work. The goal is to have the new Congressional, legislative, PRC and PEC maps in place by Jan 1, 2012. Of course, additional redistricting within counties and municipalities will be going on at the same time.

If you'd like to participate, subscribe to the LWVNMFair listserv: Just send an email to LWVNMFair-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or send me an email (cheryl@haaker.org). There will be a lot that we can and should do, and we need energetic folks!  
-- Cheryl Haaker

### lwvcnm.org Page Requests March 2011



## More League Memories: Louise Prowell

*Editor's Note: These League memories of Louise Prowell are part of a series of reminiscences compiled by Judith Binder for the Voter.*

### Louise Prowell

I was a Texas gal when I joined the Dallas League in the fall of 1957. This was about the same time the Russians launched Sputnik, demonstrating the viability of using artificial satellites to explore the upper atmosphere. Not surprisingly, the Dallas League was undergoing its own exploration: a study of public school education. Each part of the system was carefully evaluated, as decisions in the Dallas District were not being handled effectively. A number of recently hired young teachers suffered from job insecurity because tenure was lacking; some had chosen to leave. Many of the smaller schools did not provide lunches for the children, but more important, segregation was still evident throughout the system. The League's study unveiled so much dissatisfaction that the superintendent was forced to leave.

When we moved to Westport, Conn., I joined a League Unit and participated in the process of lobbying to allow men to become League members. After attending a state convention and winning approval, I headed for my first

national convention where after days of debate we achieved our goal and Bill could join!

In 1988, Bill and I moved from Thousand Oaks, Calif. to Albuquerque and into the home we have today. One of my early commitments was to join the Albuquerque Affordable Housing Committee. Over the next six years, the committee bought two sets of apartments that were rented to low-income families, one was near the Rio Grande and the other was in Northwest Albuquerque.

I was among the first League members in the mid 1980s to publish our *Voters' Guides* -- for which we have had so much success, and for several years, our League has supervised elections for civic groups. Sandra Browne and I administered elections for local unions, Indian tribes and the UNM Student Association. We made a bit of money that way.

Trula Johansson, a former Albuquerque League president, was the Luncheon Unit chair who asked my help. I began to sign in and collect payment for our monthly luncheons. It has been memorable, and one time, when Senator Pete Domenici was our guest speaker, we had to go to another hotel in order to accommodate all those who wished to attend.

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## LWVNM to hold state convention May 13-15

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico will hold its state convention May 13-15 at the Holiday Inn Express, 60 Entrada Drive, Los Alamos.

The convention's schedule is as follows:

### Friday, May 13

6-8 p.m. Reception at home of Kyle and Mike Wheeler, 1855 Los Pueblos. Carpools will form in the lobby of the Holiday Inn Express starting at 5:30 p.m.

### Saturday, May 14

8 a.m. Registration, Silent auction begins  
8:30 a.m. Convention 2011 Convenes  
First Plenary Session  
Noon Lunch  
Speaker: Dick Mason  
"Deliberative Democracy"

1:30 p.m. Workshop: Mary Wilson  
"Redistricting"  
3:15 p.m. Tour of Los Alamos (or sightseeing on your own)  
5:30 p.m. No-host bar at Best Western Hilltop House, 400 Trinity Drive  
6:30 p.m. Banquet  
Best Western Hilltop House  
400 Trinity Dr.  
Speaker: NM Senator Tim Keller on  
"Building Healthy Communities"

### Sunday, May 15

8:30 a.m. Second Plenary Session  
10:30 a.m. Silent auction ends  
Noon Convention 2011 adjourns

**Please bring the Spring issue of *La Palabra* with you to the convention.**

## Local members among LWVNM elected officer nominees

Several LWVCNM members are among the slate of nominees for elected office of the LWVNM.

They include: Chris Burroughs for secretary and Cheryl Haaker for treasurer.

LWVCNM nominees for director positions are Joe Keefe, Legislative Action co-chair; Joe Keefe, communications; and Lora Lucero, Natural Resources co-chair.

Nominations are still being sought for president and vice president.

## Summer office hours

Summer hours for LWVCNM office will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to noon.

## Become a LWVUS Facebook fan

LWVUS invites all League members to become a Facebook fans. This page is for those who get really passionate about issues and want to provide great feedback. Don't miss out on the stimulating conversations. You can become a Facebook fan by going to [www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters](http://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters). On Facebook LWVUS shares news articles about issues and local Leagues. LWVUS wants to hear from you. LWVUS also recently joined Twitter! Find it as @LWV or [www.twitter.com/LWV](http://www.twitter.com/LWV). Tell your friends to find LWVUS on Facebook and Twitter, too.

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