



The Voter

July 2011

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Albuquerque mayor to speak at July Luncheon Unit

Albuquerque Mayor R.J. Berry will speak at the July Luncheon General Meeting at 11:45 on Thursday, July 14 at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul NE. Berry will speak on his vision for the future of Albuquerque.

Berry is seeking public input on a series of possible public works projects that could help shape the City of Albuquerque. The possibilities include



Mayor R.J. Berry

- * Bus Rapid TransitBuild, a new transit system of express buses that run down the middle of Central Avenue from Tramway to 98th Street. Possibly add a dedicated lane for buses only.

- * Expo New Mexico (State Fairgrounds), Partner with the State to recast the EXPO New Mexico Fairgrounds as thriving year-round arts, cultural, equestrian and recreational center.

- * Civic Plaza, Add vegetation and shade; create space for crafts fairs and food sales to make it more hospitable for visitors.

- * Convention Center Face-lift, improve the Convention Center to attract more convention business and other meetings.

- * Fourth Street Mall, Revitalize Downtown by opening the pedestrian mall along Fourth Street between Civic Plaza and Central Avenue.

- * Barelás Rail Yard, Start redeveloping the old rail yard site and buildings.

- * ABQ Culture Trail, Make it easier to get

from Old Town to the Rio Grande Zoo, Albuquerque Aquarium and other cultural destinations.

- * Regional Sports Parks, Construct sports complexes or field houses at Mesa del Sol, 98th Street, the University of New Mexico and Balloon Fiesta Park to draw out-of-state tournaments and offer more local recreational opportunities.

- * 50-Mile Bike Loop, Finish and improve a 50-mile bicycle, running and hiking loop circling Albuquerque.

- * Rio Grande Enhancements, Add scenic overlooks and boardwalks to bring more people into the Bosque. Perhaps allow kayaking in canals by the river or attract restaurants along the river.

- * Paseo del Norte and I-25 Interchange, Partner with the State to start reconstruction of the Paseo and Interstate 25 interchange, making it easier for people to commute and get across the city.

Do you think you have a better idea of what this city needs? Here's your chance to listen to the mayor and talk about where Albuquerque is going. Reservations for the lunch must be called into the office (884-8441) or emailed to lunch@lwvnm.org by Monday July 11, no later than 10 a.m. Cost of the lunch is \$15 for members and nonmembers.

July Calendar

July 2	LWVNM Board, 10:30 a.m.
July 7	Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
July 8	Membership Committee, 10 a.m.
July 14	General Meeting, 11:45 a.m.
July 28	Drug Policy Study Group, 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.

Condolences go out to the families League member **Virginia Crenshaw** who passed away in May and **Donald Thompson**, member and husband of Sally-Alice Thompson.

Attend redistricting hearings

The Fair Representation Committee is looking for folks to attend and comment at the state-wide meetings of the New Mexico Legislature's Redistricting Committee and to travel to the venues a few weeks before the meeting to distribute informational literature. You don't need to be a redistricting genius; we will supply basic information and talking points. Some travel is required. Here are the dates and locales: July 18 -- Clovis, July 19 -- Roswell, July 20 -- Las Cruces, Aug. 4 -- Acoma, Aug. -- Farmington, Aug. 15 -- Albuquerque, Aug. 16 -- Rio Rancho, Aug. 30 -- Las Vegas, Aug. 31: Santa Fe

Note that we don't yet know the times of the meetings or addresses. This information will be posted on the LWVNM Redistricting web page when available, at lwvnm.org/representation.html.

If you think you might be interested, send an email with your name, phone number, and the meetings you think you might like to cover to redistricting@lwvnm.org. We need your voice!

-- Cheryl Haaker, LWVNM Fair Representation Committee

Presidents' Corner

The summer General Meetings had a very successful beginning. Over 40 members attended the June 9 meeting, with Brian Sanderoff who gave an informative talk about redistricting. We hope you will mark your calendar to attend the July 14 General Meeting. We would like a good turnout to hear Mayor R.J. Berry present on the topic of "Albuquerque, The Plan."

Calendar Planning was held June 11. We want to thank Karen Wentworth and Dick Mason for the efficient conducting of the meeting. The attendees were energetic and creative, offering suggestions regarding the development of the calendar, possible speakers, and events for the coming year. The areas of interest for unit meetings included the New Mexico and Federal budgets, land use, education on the Public Regulation Committee, public education and how the Federal Budget will effect New Mexico, taxes and "tax breaks," the cost to the state due to alcohol abuse and how to reduce alcohol related deaths, government transparency, and eradication of poverty, among other topics.

Some events coming up are a new member reception in August, a City Councilor/County Commissioner reception in late October or early November, a Lobbying Workshop in November and Program Planning in December. We also discussed having an event to celebrate the 100th anniversary of New Mexico statehood in 2012.

-- Shelly Shepherd & Sandra Browne, Co-Presidents

Seeking open-government hero

The New Mexico Foundation for Open Government (NM-FOG) is accepting nominees for the 2011 Dixon Award awards to be presented Sept. 28.

Do you know someone who believes in transparent government at the state or local level -- and who acts on that belief? Do you know a First Amendment champion? It's time to stand up and recognize them.

NM-FOG is accepting nominations for the 2011 William S. Dixon First Amendment Freedom Award. Nominations must be received by July 8. The award, which is named for attorney and NM-FOG co-founder William S. Dixon, is bestowed upon individuals in New Mexico who advance open government or free-speech rights in the areas of government, law, business, education and journalism.

If you know someone who deserves the 2011 Dixon Award, please submit a nomination letter describing the person's transparency accomplishments or initiatives to info@nmfog.org or NM-FOG, 115 Gold Ave. S.W., Suite 201, Albuquerque, NM 87102. Award recipients will be selected by a panel of FOG directors and honored at an award's luncheon on Wednesday, Sept. 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Voters' Guide needs your help

LWVCNM's 2011 Municipal *Voters' Guide* will be published in early September, and Andrea Targhetta and Josephine Porter, your co-editors, need your help. Councilors in even-numbered districts 2, 4, 6 and 8 are up for election. We will also be covering the bond issues and any additional ballot propositions.

We are intently looking for "editors in training" to work on this year's publication as this will be both Andrea's and Jo's last stint as editors. We also need members who would be willing to serve on the Questions Committee meeting in July and,

of course, proof readers for mid-August and distributors for late August. Absentee voting begins Aug. 30 so we will aim to have the *Voters' Guide* available when absentee voting begins. The election is Oct. 4.

Please contact either Jo joporter@nmia.com or Andrea atarghetta@comcast.net if you want work on this year's publication or if you want to serve on the Questions Committee or call the office 884-8441. This is the League's premier voter education publication and we look forward to everyone pitching in. It's FUN!
-- Jo Porter

More League Memories: Marilyn Morgan

Editor's Note: These League memories of Marilyn Morgan are part of a series of reminiscences compiled for the Voter.

My introduction to the League of Women Voters was at an Open House for potential new members held in a courtyard. Tables with literature and posters from different League study groups circled the area, and at each, a League member told us about the posters and the purpose of the study group. I was impressed. Later I attended the meetings of the group concerned with attempts to have a Festival Marketplace and tear down the Sunshine Building on Central Avenue.

In 1984 I had moved from Las Vegas, Nev. as a transfer from the home office of EG&G, Energy Measurement Group to become the Albuquerque division's EEO/Affirmative Action officer. In Nevada, I belonged to the AAUW and participated with other working women to learn about businesses, and I was training to run for office as a state senator. When I transferred to Albuquerque, I wanted to learn more about the city and New Mexico. Because I worked on Kirtland AFB, I attended the League's Luncheon Unit at the airport hotel near the base. I was asked to chair the meeting when Zella Hammond wanted a replacement. I loved the role, and I learned much from the enlightened luncheon speakers. Then I joined the Land Use study group. JoAnne Ramponi and Geta Gatterman were strong leaders. I felt intimidated at first by my ignorance of Albuquerque, but soon I learned, just from working on the committee.

Trula Johansson invited me to lunch with two other Leaguers. They were the nominating committee, and asked me to become an officer for the

Albuquerque League, but I declined because I was so new in town. Years later, I was on another nominating committee and accepted the 3rd Vice President position as Program Chair. I liked the job. Mary Wilson was 1st VP and Sandra Browne was President, and serving on the Board of Directors was a lively experience.

From 1999-2001, I was president of LWV-ABQ. We had some innovative fundraisers. Examples: Salute to Albuquerque at the Albuquerque Country Club, where we honored students and non-League Albuquerque adults; we listened to good music and speakers, and held silent auctions to raise funds. We sold Entertainment Books and added advertising space to "Friends of the League" in our Member Handbook; we began celebrating the League's birthday with theater parties. We moved our office to 2403 San Mateo and used a large conference room for Unit meetings and training sessions for voter registrars. Visitors came to the office to pick up *Voters' Guides* and often thanked us with their donations. As local president, I was a member of the State Board: another learning experience with a new level of projects. In 2003, I was elected for two terms as state president.

I was also a member of Isobel Davis's Drug Policy study group. When she retired, I became chair. Once we achieved consensus, we moved on and in 2000 gained approval from the state and national conventions. The committee is still actively at work with chair Dee Watkins.

It's been a great run, and should the Nominating committee contact you -- don't be afraid to accept a position. Thank you!

What is the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance?

Editor's Note: This interesting commentary on the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance is a Fourth of July gift to us all. The author is unknown but the idea, according to several internet sites, seems to have been credited to Red Skelton back when we were 48 states.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

First published in 1892 in a juvenile periodical The Youth's Companion, The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by some 12 million American school children to commemorate the 400-year anniversary of Columbus' voyage on Oct. 12. However, the Pledge was not officially recognized by the U.S. Government until 1942. The following year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that public school students could not be forced to recite it. Earlier (1939) a committee of the U.S. Flag Association ruled that the author was Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister and assistant editor of the Companion.

Public education in the United States has been a method for future generations to understand and appreciate the arts and sciences and to develop a national consciousness and the moral values necessary to assume the responsibilities of citizenship. School children across this nation recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Do they really understand its meaning?

I -- me, an individual, a committee of one.

Pledge -- promise to fulfill a contract.

Allegiance -- my love and my devotion.

to the flag -- our standard, a symbol of freedom, Old Glory.

of the United -- we have all come together for a common purpose.

States -- individual communities that have united into 50 great states, divided by imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose.

of America -- a political community

and to the Republic -- where sovereign power to govern is invested in representatives chosen by the people in free and open elections. A government by the people.

for which it stands -- placed in upright position

One Nation -- we are the newcomers and the descendants of many people who have chosen to come here from across the globe.

Indivisible -- incapable of being divided. To live together.

with liberty -- without threats, fear of retaliation

And Justice -- the principle and the quality of dealing fairly with others.

For all -- a country as much yours as it is mine.



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