



The Voter

September 2011

League of Women Voters
of Central New Mexico
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LVWCNM homepage: <http://www.lwvcnm.org>

September Unit meetings to focus on land use issues

September Unit meetings of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico will focus on land use issues. Ray Powell, New Mexico State Land Commissioner, will be the featured speaker at the Sept. 8 Luncheon Unit meeting. It will be held at 11:45 a.m. at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul NE. The luncheon cost is \$15. Reservations can be made by calling the League office (884-8441) or emailing lunch@lwvcnm.org by 10 a.m. Sept. 5. Specify whether you want a vegetarian plate.



Commissioner Ray Powell

Powell is a veterinarian who received his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Tufts University with an emphasis in wildlife medicine in 1985. Prior to his election as Commissioner of Public Lands in 2010, Powell worked with world-renowned scientist and humanitarian Dr. Jane Goodall and the Jane Goodall Institute to foster relationships with youth to make the world a better place and to empower youth to make a positive difference.

Powell is a native of Albuquerque and attended Albuquerque Public Schools. He received his bachelor's degree in anthropology and biology and a master's degree in botany and plant ecology from the University of New Mexico. He served as Commissioner of Public Lands from 1993-2002

and was president and vice president of the 22-member Western States Land Commission Association.

The LWVNM Natural Resources Committee is launching a fresh examination of land use which will culminate in a draft policy for members to consider in 2012 or 2013.

Other September speakers will include:

* Evening Unit, Sept. 13, 6 p.m., Towers Apartment community room, 5404 Montgomery -- Several board members of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District will discuss the current challenges and future outlook for the MRGCD.

* Midtown Unit, Sept. 19, 1:30 p.m., Manzano del Sol Hobby Room -- Albuquerque Senior Planner Carol Toffaleti will educate us on the city's growth and development plans and future forecast for land use planning in this area.

* Northeast Heights Unit, Sept. 26, 10 a.m., La Vida Llena Card Room, 10501 Lagrima de Oro NE -- LWVNM Natural Resources Director Lora Lucero will provide an historic timeline of state land use laws which impact local decision-making.

September Calendar

Sept. 1	Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Sept. 5	<i>Voter Deadline</i>
Sept. 8	Luncheon Unit, 11:45 a.m.
Sept. 13	Evening Unit, 6 p.m.
Sept. 19	Midtown Unit, 1:30 p.m..
Sept. 26	Northeast Heights Unit, 10 a.m.

**League of Women Voters of
Central New Mexico
Board Meeting**

**1st Thursday of each month
Offices of Sutin, Thayer & Browne,
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.

Thank you

We want to thank Carol Tucker Trelease for her hospitality hosting the new member reception on July 17. It was a lovely event, and everyone enjoyed themselves. We appreciate her support of the League.

We also wish to thank Andrea Targhetta and Josephine Porter for going the extra mile in putting together the most recent issue of the *Voters' Guide*. -- *Shelly Shepherd*

Condolences

Our condolences go to the families of League members who recently passed away. They include Frances Barbour, Virginia Crenshaw, Barbara M. Rosnagle and Don Thompson.

We also remember Meg Wente's husband Herman (not a member), who recently died.

Presidents' Corner

Mark your calendar for Sunday, Oct. 16. The LWVC-NM is co-sponsoring a program devoted to global warming and climate change with the New Mexico Chapter of the Fulbright Association and Sigma Xi National Scientific Research Society. The news media this summer has brought public attention to local, state, national and worldwide global warming and its effects. Thankfully, our Los Alamos League members were able to return to their homes without loss. I returned this week from three weeks in Kenya and Tanzania and was keenly aware of how the people in Africa are suffering from the drought. The animals are suffering from lack of water, and the Maasai people have lost most of their herds, which are their livelihood. Refugees from drought-ridden Somalia are also greatly suffering.

The LWVCNM Board is pleased to be asked to team up with the Fulbright Foundation on Perspectives on Climate Change. The event will be held at the Jewish Community Center, 5520 Wyoming Blvd. in Albuquerque on Sunday, Oct. 16 at 3 p.m. The Fulbright Association is the alumni arm of the U.S. State Department's Fulbright program, where members are all former Fulbright Scholars. Over 100 members of the New Mexico Chapter represent dozens of host countries where members are taught to conduct research. One of the association's goals is to foster dialogue on global issues, and the global issue of the New Mexico Chapter is to examine climate change. This event will be more of a tutorial than a debate, but discussion will be educational and encouraged.

The program is as follows:

Introduction: "Current views in Congress on the threats of global warming," Senator Jeff Bingaman (by video)

Panel: "The scientific evidence that growing carbon dioxide levels and global warming are largely of human origin"

Panelists include:

* Professor David Gutzler of UNM who will talk about "Predicted climate changes caused by global warming and their likely consequences"

* Dr. Mark Boslough of Sandia National Laboratories who will talk about "Obstacles standing in the way of addressing global warming- a business community"

* Jeff Sterba, CEO (retired) PNM

Q & A, moderated by John Fleck, science writer for the *Albuquerque Journal*

The event is open to the public. Please invite your friends and acquaintances to attend, as the event will be very informative.

-- *Shelly Shepherd, Co-president*

Newly designed LWVCNM website: Something entirely different



League members attended redistricting public hearings held throughout the state all summer in preparation for the upcoming fall special legislative session. They testified and offered the League's assistance. Torrance County member Joseph Keefe attended all ten public meetings this summer and videotaped each one for the legislature at no charge. Pictured here are redistricting maps erected at the Farmington public hearing.
(Photo by Cheryl Haaker)

The LWVCNM website was looking a little old and tired, certain pages had either been phased out or had never developed, some of the color combinations were hard to read, the buttons were kind of passe, and it seemed like time for a new look. If you haven't looked at the League's website at www.lwvcnm.org recently, please check it out.

If you're not surprised, then click the "refresh" button on your browser. Often, browsers will redisplay the older content, particularly if you're using Safari on a Mac, and you have to force it to download the new stuff!

-- Cheryl Haaker, Technology Chair

Voter Services Fall Round-up

Voter Registration--Training is available at one brief session for how to register voters. If you have already been trained, you are "set to go." Just remember your number, and if you forget, the County Clerk's office can help you. Of course you are welcome to take the training as a refresher. Registration is an important service that the League provides, and you can work on this at your own pace and schedule.

E-mail Gayle Prinkey at gayle333@aol.com or call 872-3933 with questions

Voter Protection is another service you can provide. This involves being an observer at the polls on Election Day. You note whether the polling place opens/closes at the promised time and you pay attention to how voters are treated, reporting any irregularities you observe. Common Cause provides training and places you in an observer team with others. The

polls are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and if you can't work a full day, you can be scheduled to a team with shifts. Again, contact Gayle Prinkey (see above). Training sessions will take place late in September.

How to apply for absentee ballot -- The deadline is Sept. 30. 1) Go to City Clerk's office in ABQ-Bernalillo City-County Hall; 2) Email request to absenteeapplication@cabq.gov; 3) Call 311 and that service will submit your request to City Clerk. This is the easiest way, and you will be given a confirmation number.

Absentee ballots will be mailed starting Aug. 30. They may be mailed or taken to clerk's office or voting site by the voter or immediate family member. They must be received by 7 p.m. on election day.

-- Gayle Prinkey, Voter Services

Join League

The membership year for LWVCNM is Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. You can join any time. Dues are \$60 for the first member of a household and \$30 for each additional household member. Send a check made payable to LWVCNM and fill out the information below for new members.

____ Yes! I want to join LWVCNM (This includes LWVNM and LWVUS.)

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Send your membership check to:
League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico, 2315
San Pedro Dr., Suite F-6, Albuquerque, NM 87110

If you have questions, call us at 505-884-8441.

LWVNM receives \$5,000 grant

LWVNM has received a \$5,000 grant for public advocacy for voter protection from the LWVUS. The focus will be on the Santa Fe and Central New Mexico areas.

The scope of work will include: opposing voter photo ID wherever it arises -- whether in the upcoming special session of the Legislature, in the regular session or in Rio Rancho should the ballot initiative on photo ID pass in their upcoming municipal elections.

Advocacy also includes increasing compliance with the National Voter Registration Act; protecting voter rights, particularly in underserved communities, and improving polling management by monitoring and training election observers for the Albuquerque municipal election on Oct 4.

This is LWVNM's second grant on the PAVP project, and there may be more funding next year, 2012, a very busy election year.



Return Service Requested
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