



The Voter

December 2011

League of Women Voters
of Central New Mexico
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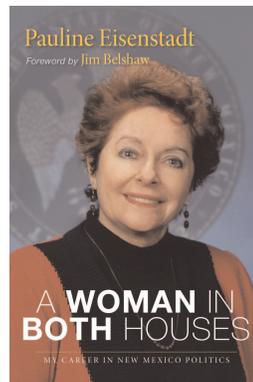
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Pauline Eisenstadt to speak at December General Meeting

Pauline Eisenstadt, the first woman to serve in both houses of the New Mexico State Legislature, will be the guest speaker at the Dec. 8 General Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico. The meeting will be held at 11:45 a.m. at the Hotel Elegante, 2020 Menaul N.E.

Eisenstadt has witnessed many exciting moments in the state's political history and made much of that history herself. She has written a soon-to-be-published book titled *A Women in both Houses* that takes readers to the floors of the House and Senate, offering an insider's view of how New Mexico's government operates -- or doesn't.



Educated at the University of Florida and the University of Arizona where she earned a Master's Degree in Social Science and Education, Pauline taught school while raising two sons as her husband, Mel, to whom she has been married for 51 years, completed two doctorate degrees and earned a judgeship. The grandmother of four, she dedicated her book to their grandchildren, citing "Lots of stories and no regrets."

Eisenstadt was president of the League of Women Voters in Manaquez, Puerto Rico during the three years the family lived there. Moving to New Mexico, she had the experience of accompanying 15 members of League of Women Voter organizations from Latin American countries to Washington, DC, Wisconsin and New York while they studied how the League functioned in this country

Eisenstadt lives in Corrales and retired after 12 years of political life. She remains active in public life, serving in officer and board positions with the Rotary Club and its Foundation, the Advisory Council of UNM West and the Albuquerque International Association and the Anti Defamation League.

(Continued on page 3)

Plans underway for Salute

The Salute to New Mexico First 100 Years and Beyond fundraising dinner is on the move. The planning committee is preparing for the statewide celebration to be held April 21 at the Embassy Hotel and Suites.

Governor Susana Martinez has been invited to keynote the event. Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry has also been invited.

The event will feature two speakers. One will talk about New Mexico's past, and the other will take a look at the projected future of the state.

The League will honor individuals who have contributed to their community or the State of

(Continued on page 3)

December Calendar

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|----------------|--|
| Dec. 1 | Board meeting, 5:30 p.m.
(All members welcome.) |
| Dec. 5 | Voter Deadline |
| Dec. 8 | General Meeting, 11:45 a.m. |
| Dec. 10 | Program Planning, 9 a.m. |
| Dec. 26-Jan. 1 | Office closed for the holidays |

**League of Women Voters of
Central New Mexico
Board Meeting
1st Thursday of each month
Offices of Satin, 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.

**Message about the Nov. 5
Lobbying Workshop**

Too bad you missed the Nov. 5 lobbying workshop! Neither the rain nor the cold deterred presenters and a handful of attendees from having a very spirited, engaging conversation about lobbying issues and techniques. A huge thank you goes out to our presenters: Erin Muffoletto, Ambitions Consulting Group; Daniel Ivey-Soto, New Mexico County Clerks Association and a League member; Wayne Johnson, Bernalillo County Commissioner; Jan Bray, LWVCNM; and Liz McGrath, Pegasus Legal Services for Children. A special shout out goes to Erin, Daniel and Commissioner Johnson for spending way more time than they had committed -- the conversation was quite lively, and everyone in the room came away energized. Thank you, Sandia Prep, for allowing us to use your space -- League member Susan Walton gets my deep gratitude for Sandia Prep's hospitality

-- Mary H. Smith, Community Education

Presidents' Corner

As the year comes to a close, the LWVCNM can be proud of its accomplishments in 2011. It is through the support and commitment of our LWVCNM membership that we can continue to operate as an organization and provide the voter services, education and publications such as the *Voters' Guide*, *Voters Key* and *Who's Who*. The deadline for membership dues was the end of October, and many of you made contributions to the operating fund in addition to payment of dues. The LWVCNM also received numerous donations to the Education Fund during the past few months. Thank you for renewing your League membership and your kind contributions.

I particularly want to thank our unsung heroes who are behind the scenes -- our office volunteers. Laura Stokes has prepared the 2012 Member Handbook. In order to complete the new Member Handbook, Kathleen Altobelli completed the huge task of data entry to update the membership data base. Bravo. Thank you to those individuals who have dedicated mornings during the week to maintain the office. Office volunteers that I am aware of for the past several months (September through November) are Judith Binder, Alice Brasfield, Linda Cotton, Karen Gatlin, Diane Goldfarb, Leah Ingraham, Susan McKinstry, Sharon Moynahan, Terry Quinn, Carol Steeves, Meg Wente and Helen Wright. Jo Porter and Andrea Targhetta are often working at the league office, preparing the recent *Voters' Guide* and for the National Indian Education (NIEA) election that LWVCNM conducted at the Albuquerque Convention Center Oct. 27 and 28. A special thank you to those volunteers who helped with the election and vote counting. I have most certainly missed some of the volunteers at the office, but I thank all of you who recently or over the years have donated your time at the office and have helped give LWVCNM a professional and respected reputation in the community. I recognize the efforts of Meg Wente managing the office for many years and Louise Prowell who has been responsible for league mailings for decades. (Louise and Bill Prowell have also managed collecting the money and checking people in at the Luncheon Unit meetings for decades as well). It is impossible to recognize all of you who have greatly contributed to the LWVCNM. Sometimes we forget to thank the people behind the scenes -- their efforts are greatly appreciated.

This past fall was a very busy month. Besides the election, the *Voters' Guide* and the NIEA election, a reception was held for Albuquerque City Councilors and Bernalillo County Commissioners at the home of Carol

(Continued on page 3)

Eisenstadt

(Continued from page 1)

As an artist who paints with watercolors and oils, she helped found the Corrales Society of Artists and is proud to have had a painting juried into the Fine Arts Exhibit at the State Fair.

In the fall of 2009 Pauline began work on her book, a two-year project from conception to its publication by UNM Press. The book launch will be in Santa Fe in January.

The cost of the luncheon is \$15, payable at the door. Reservations must be either called in to the League office at 884-8441 or emailed to lunch@lwvcnm.org by 10 a.m. Monday, Dec 5. Be sure to specify if you prefer the vegetarian option.

Salute

(Continued from page 1)

New Mexico at the event. Nomination forms are currently being developed. A committee consisting of members from all state Leagues will make the selections.

There will also be a silent auction at the event. If you have items to donate, please set them aside. These items will be greatly appreciated.

We will let you know about further progress in forthcoming *Voter* articles.

Discounted room rates will be available at the hotel for out-of-town participants. The Embassy Hotel and Suites is a Three Star, Three Diamond property.
-- Daniel Rudolph

Membership Report

Welcome to new and returning members: Nadine Allen, James F. Dudley, Martha & Hal Erwin, Marilyn Fifield, Alisa Hadfield, Anne H. Letherer, Mrs. Claiborne M. O'Connor, Nadine Scala and Jennifer Smith. Please see the membership directory in the new 2012 Handbook for their address information as well as for changes for other members.

-- Kathleen Kimler Altobelli

Program Planning set for Dec. 10

Program Planning for LWVCNM will be held at La Vida Llena Card Room on Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Please bring your ideas.



Councilors and commissioners attending the Oct. 30 reception sponsored by LWVCNM are, from the left, Dan Lewis, Art DeLa Cruz, Wayne Johnson, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Isaac Benton, Ken Sanchez, Rey Garduno.

(Photo by Cheryl Haaker)

Presidents' Corner

(Continued from page 2)

Tucker Trelease on October 30th. City Councilors Isaac Benton, Dan Lewis, and Rey Garduno were in attendance as well as County Commissioners Michelle Lujan Grisham, Art DeLa Cruz and Wayne Johnson. Their attendance was greatly appreciated, and the event gave attending league members an opportunity to become better acquainted with the city councilors and county commissioners present, discuss their priorities and plans and learn how the League can be effective in working with them. On Nov. 5 LWVCNM presented a Lobbying Workshop organized by Community Education Chair Mary H. Smith. Mary's efforts are greatly appreciated. The materials and presenters were first rate. The presenters were Erin Muffoletto, Government Relations Director, Ambitions Consulting Group; Daniel Ivey-Soto, New Mexico County Clerk's Association; Bernalillo County Commissioner Wayne Johnson; Liz McGrath, Pegasus Legal Services for Children; and Jan Bray, past Co-President, LWVCNM. Their participation on a cold, rainy and windy day was beyond the call of duty. Several of the presenters stayed throughout the workshop, and the discussions were lively and educational.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

-- Shelly Shepherd, Co-President

Drug Policy Report

Editor's Note: Part II of the history of the Drug Policy Study Committee (DPSC) is postponed until January because of these emerging and important news items.

1. The LWVNM Alcohol Study committee continues to learn about prevention strategies such as increasing the excise tax on liquor, parent awareness publications, creating safer drinking environments, and control of physical availability of alcohol. Currently reports focus on binge drinking and heavy drinking. This is important since in New Mexico binge and heavy drinking behaviors are reported as the primary problems related to alcohol-related deaths. (Binge drinking is considered to be five plus drinks on a single occasion for men and 4 plus for women. Adult heavy drinking is considered to be more than two drinks on the average per day for men; more than one drink on average per day for women.) In the 2011 New Mexico Epidemiology Profile a new finding places alcohol-related injury deaths replaces alcohol-related chronic disease deaths. Further, the numbers and rates of this type of death is found highest in males -- the 0-25 age group -- and in McKinley, Rio Arriba and Torrance counties.

2. Movement toward a health centered approach to drug use and abuse is occurring. At a recent meeting in Albuquerque sponsored by the Drug Policy Alliance and included a variety of other prominent organizations, new recommendations regarding the war on drugs were considered. (See Global Commission report below.) A new publication suggests drug courts are not the answer to a "health-centered approach to drugs." With new information, times change but

what does our position tell us. Perhaps the concept of priorities for support should be considered.

Our Alcohol Study aims to review our state position on DWI to see if it needs revision in order to give direction to action through a priority of remedies.

A June 2011 report of the Global Commission on Drug Policy admits the failure of 50 years spending money, of criminalizing and fighting down producers, traffickers and consumers of illegal drugs. Instead of this, open up discussion of current scientific evidence based policies and looking at better ways to measure progress showing the benefits and harm to individuals and communities.

The 2010 Affordable Care act provides two benefits of interest to DPSC. One is the provision for treatment of drug use and mental health. Secondly, requiring the Institute of Medicine to report on the state of the science regarding pain research, care and education as well as to make recommendations in each of these areas.

Both these reports state the great need to improve treatment and reduce stigma. I also find it very interesting that a common denominator for both is Drug Policy. This policy reaches huge numbers of people and into many aspects of our lives. No wonder the drug policy study committee continues its work.

Watch your local media outlets for many more details and recommendations. Join us at the next Drug Policy Study Committee meeting Thursday Jan. 26. There will be no meeting in December.
-- Delores Watkins



Return Service Requested
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