



The Voter

April 2012

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

What services do citizens want from government? How do they want to pay for those services?

After the 2012 elections the debate about the federal budget will really heat up. The time for citizens to start thinking about that debate is now. If you think about it, the debate really comes down to the services that citizens want from the government and how they think we should pay for those services. This is true on all levels of government.

The LWVCNM April units will deal with this subject as it concerns the federal budget.

Luncheon Unit: April 12, 11:45 a.m.,
MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul N.E.

Speaker will be Libby Washburn, new State Director for Senator Jeff Bingaman. The topic will be "Issues in the Federal Budget." Washburn will discuss the issues that have to be dealt with in the 2014 budget that will be debated in early 2013. Bingaman is an influential member of the Senate Finance Committee. The senator will not be running for reelection this year, but has a deep understanding of the issues that must be dealt with in future federal budgets.

Reservations for the lunch must be called in to the office (844-8441) or emailed to lunch@lwvcnm.org by 10 a.m. Monday, April 9. Specify if you want a vegetarian lunch.

Evening Unit: April 10, 6 p.m., Erna Fergusson Library Community Room, 3700 San Mateo N.E.

The speakers will be Angela Merkert and JoAnne Dutcher, both members of What Next NM (WNNM). They will discuss "Deliberative Democracy and the Budget." WNNM was formed to develop a deliberative democracy project in New Mexico. They are planning an event early next year

on the theme: What public services do you want and expect from your government, and how do you wish them to be paid for.

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In this Voter

Call to Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 5, 2012
MCM Elegante Hotel
2020 Menaul N.E.

Speaker: Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Bernalillo County Clerk
Topic: "A Review of the Voter Fraud
Investigation Conducted by the
NM Secretary of State"

Schedule of Events

Registration: 9-9:30 a.m.
Business meeting: 9:30-11 a.m.
Brunch: 11 a.m.

Your Annual Meeting packet is included in this *Voter*.

Please make your reservations by Monday, April 30. Reservation form is on page 16.

April Calendar

April 5 LWVCNM Board meeting, 5:30 p.m.
April 5 *Voter* deadline
April 10 Evening Unit, 6 p.m.
April 12 Luncheon Unit, 11:45 a.m.
April 16 Midtown Unit, 1:30 p.m.
April 23 Northeast Heights Unit, 10 a.m.
May 5 Annual Meeting, 9 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.

April meetings

(Continued from page.1)

Midtown Unit: April 16, 1:30 p.m.,
Manzano del Sol Hobby Room (first floor),
5202 Roma Ave. NE

Speaker will be Dick Mason, chair of the Action Committee of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico. The topic will be LWVUS and the Federal Budget Where does the LWVUS stand on issues involving the federal budget? How involved should the League be on the issue?

Northeast Heights Unit: April 23, La Vida Llena Retirement Community, 10501 Lagrima de Oro N.E. The speaker will be a representative from the New Mexico League of Postmasters. The topic will be the U.S. Post Office as a metaphor for debate about government budgets. Citizens want the USPS to be economically self sufficient, but demand services and pricing that keep it from being self sufficient, Think of the scrutiny that a closing of a post office gets from politicians and the media. That doesn't happen when FedEx or UPS chooses to close an office or change a price.

Presidents' Corner

It is hard to believe that we have completed another LWCNM fiscal year and will be holding Annual Meeting next month on May 5. A special thank you is due Josephine Porter, Getta Gatterman, Sharon Moynahan, Carol Tucker Trelease and Pati Brummett, the 2012-13 nominating committee, for their diligent efforts in obtaining an outstanding slate for the LWVCMN board this coming year. We are indebted to Richard Mason, Don Goldfarb and Terry Quinn for their efforts in developing a two-year budget for 2012-14. We were truly blessed with the 2011-12 LWVCMN board. Thank you Andrea Targhetta, Karen Wentworth, Dan Rudolph, Pati Brummett, Richard Mason, Chris Burroughs, Cheryl Haaker, Gayle Prinkey, Mary Smith and Carol Tucker Trelease for your dedication and support, both when board decisions are easy and when they are challenging. Happily, most of the 2011-12 Board have already agreed to stay on the board another year.

LWVCMN Annual Meeting will be held at the MCM Elegante, 2020 Menaul, NE. Registration begins at 9 a.m. The business meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. A brunch will be served following the business meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with the business of League, meet and greet new board members, ask questions and make suggestions.

LWVCMN will be hosting LWVNM Council May 12 at the MGM Elegante. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m., and the business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. LWVCMN will have two delegates, but all members are welcome to attend. Registration information will be included in the spring *La Palabra*. The luncheon speaker will be Peggy Hill, our LWVNM Liaison to National Board. Peggy has worked on the National Education Study for the past two years with a very professional team of seven other Leagues from across the country who researched, wrote, reported, developed and analyzed the consensus, and finally wrote the national education position.

The LWVUS Convention will be held in Washington, D.C. June 8-12. LWVCMN will have three delegates. All members are welcome to attend. This should be a very special convention, being the 50th year since the first National Convention. Registration may be completed on line.

Later in the year we will have a function to celebrate the Centennial of New Mexico Statehood. For several reasons, the board decided to postpone the event. Details about the event will be provided later in the year.

We hope to see you at the May 5 Annual Meeting, and perhaps at the State Council and National Convention as well. -- *Shelly Shepherd and Sandra Browne, Co-Presidents*

Call to Annual Meeting 2012

League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico

Saturday, May 5, 2012

**MCM Elegante Hotel
2020 Menaul N.E.**

**Speaker: Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Bernalillo County Clerk**

**Topic: "A Review of the Voter Fraud Investigation
Conducted by the NM Secretary of State"**

Schedule of Events

Registration 9-9:30 a.m.

Business Meeting 9:30-11 a.m.

Brunch 11 a.m.

**The cost of the brunch is \$20. Reservations for the brunch must be called in to the office (884-8441) or emailed to lunch@lwvcnm.org by Monday, April 30. Specify if you want a vegetarian lunch.*

Annual Meeting Agenda

Adoption of Agenda
Recognition of Board and Committee Chairs
Adoption of Rules for Annual Meeting
Minutes of 2011 Annual Meeting
Appointment of Readers for 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Finance Report
Adoption of Program for 2012-2013
Adoption of Budget for 2012-2014
Bylaws Changes
Nominating Committee Report
Election of Officers and Directors
Other Business
Announcements
Directions to the Board

Rules for Annual Meeting

1. No person may speak twice to the same motion until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so.
2. Each speaker is limited to two minutes.
3. All motions must be made in writing and a copy given to the Secretary.
4. Only members in good standing will be allowed to speak on a motion.

Local Positions

Drug Policy

LWVCNM supports drug court programs; treatment for all persons with drug addiction; and syringe exchange programs in Bernalillo County. These programs should be prudently and appropriately funded.

LWVCNM supports pain management for all persons through:

Cooperation among consumers, health care professionals and regulatory agencies to promote pain relief and to decrease abuse, trafficking, and diversion of pain medications;

Education of consumers including: awareness that pain can be treated; the variety of therapies available and how to describe to health care professionals the levels and types of pain they are suffering;

Training of health care professionals and providers including: awareness that pain can be treated; how to identify and treat pain; and when to refer for specialized treatment; and

Research on more effective pain treatments and therapies and widespread dissemination of research results.

LWVCNM believes pain management is the process of providing care to alleviate or reduce acute and chronic pain, which can also cause secondary disease processes (e.g., high blood pressure). This care may include pain medications and a variety of therapies proven by research to be effective. (2002, Rev. 2003, 2007, 2008)

Education

Support of a requirement that functional competence in basic skills be demonstrated before a high school diploma is awarded.

Emphasis on basic skills that should include the fine arts (including music, art, and drama) and ongoing technological developments. Identification of children at risk should begin early in the educational process and continue through high school.

Remediation should be provided as early as possible.

An alternative path to a high school diploma should be available.

Support for community colleges that should offer certificates and associate degrees for a variety of careers. Such degrees could be terminal or transferable toward a four-year program.

Support for the protection of the First Amendment rights of public school students and library patrons.

Support for a selection policy for school and public libraries that allows for access to a wide variety of materials.

Support for a purchase and distribution system of instructional materials for public schools that is timely and cost effective.

Support for the selection of basic instructional materials for the public schools by a committee which consists of administrators, teachers, and parents and that represents a cross section of the ethnic, geographic and economic population of the community.

In addition, resource persons who have expertise in the subject under consideration will serve in an advisory capacity.

Support for a selection procedure that includes:
a. A fair and thorough evaluation of materials;
b. A method for public examination and input;
c. A strong conflict of interest policy.

Support for a policy that allows for informal resolution of controversy and a systematic reconsideration procedure for textbook and library materials. (rev. 2009)

Health Care

LWVCNM supports health care, mental health care, preventive and educational health programs, comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion, and home health care.

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Local Positions

(Continued from page 4)

LWVCNM believes society has a responsibility to provide comprehensive health care for the indigent and supports mill levies as a means of funding such health care. (rev. 2009)

Housing

Local government has primary responsibility for making available, facilitating, and coordinating provision of affordable, decent, and safe housing using federal, state, county, or city funds. This may also be done by coordination with private builders, non-profit organizations, and/or foundations.

We support the following guidelines for government assisted housing:

- a. Assistance for private affordable housing projects under the following conditions:
 1. The surrounding neighborhood has been involved early in the planning for the project
 2. Regulatory variances which may be granted do not permit unsafe or unsightly conditions.
- b. Design review by a qualified panel.
- c. A variety of home ownership and rental opportunities in public or private affordable housing projects
- d. An adequate maintenance system in all affordable housing projects. This system should include education and training for residents in maintenance skills.
- e. Encouragement of the formation of tenant organizations.
- f. Long Range planning, accountability, and neighborhood involvement in expenditure of federal Community Development Block Grant funds for housing rehabilitation.
- g. Leadership in assistance for homeless programs which provide both shelter and services for targeted populations, particularly families and the mentally ill.
- h. Boarding houses as a way of meeting housing needs.
- i. Community-based residential care for the mentally ill. (rev. 2009)

Initiative and Referendum

The LWVCNM supports the Initiative & Referendum process. However, we have reached a consensus on the need for revision of four specific sections of the Albuquerque City Charter. We support the appointment of a Charter Revision Committee to study the process for qualifying Initiative and Referenda, with a view to revising Article III, Section 3 of the Albuquerque City Charter that would:

- a. Increase the number of initiators needed to start the process;
- b. Increase the number of signatures required to compel an election;
- c. Refine the process of reviewing the petition title and summary; and
- d. Eliminate the requirement that the election must be held within 90 days after the date of filing the petition with appropriate signatures. (rev. 2009)

Local Government

Support for the development of budgets that provide for long-range planning and evaluation programs.

Support for municipal and county officials providing the media and citizens' groups with simplified budget information. This should occur prior to public hearings as a means of preparing citizens for the budget process.

Support for assessing the cost and effectiveness of programs supported by federal funds.

Support for local governments to share in the New Mexico personal income tax as the most effective and equitable source of revenue.

Support of combined form of government for Albuquerque and Bernalillo County.

Support for coordinating village, city, and county government with joint use of records.

Support for nonpartisan local government elections.

Local Positions

(Continued from page 5)

Support for:

- a. The present Mayor/Council form of government for Albuquerque;
- b. A significant increase in the number of signatures required on a petition before a person can be placed on the ballot as a candidate for mayor for Albuquerque. Preferably, the number of signatures should be based on either percentage of voters having voted in the last mayoral election or of Registered voters, or of population of the city. (rev. 2009)

Land Use

Land use decisions must be made with consideration for economic, environmental and social factors. We believe that it is possible to incorporate the principles of conservation of resources, to relate the use of land to its inherent characteristics and carrying capacities and still achieve an optimum balance between economic and social needs and environmental quality.

Support of development that protects natural resources and promotes the equal right of all to an environment beneficial to life.

Support of land use policies and techniques that promote orderly growth. These shall include:

- a. Urban infill, to include residential building in downtown and midcity areas;

- b. Acquisition and appropriate use of open space;
- c. Preservation of agricultural lands as such;
- d. Utilization of mixed use in new development and in redevelopment;
- e. Revitalization of blighted sections of the community;
- f. Composition of neighborhoods to include a diversity of types of housing and of socioeconomic groups.

Support for coordinated city/ county and regional planning and zoning.

Support for coordinated regional land use and transportation planning. (rev. 2009)

Transportation

Support for coordinated regional land use and transportation planning. This planning shall include:

- a. Consideration of the impact of traffic congestion;
- b. The provision of viable transportation choices.

Support for a regional public transit system with a policy-making board that includes citizens with voting powers. (rev. 2009)

Water

Support for coordinated regional water planning.

Annual Meeting Reports

Presidents' Report

The LWVCNM has had a busy and productive year, thanks to a hard working and dedicated board, project leaders and volunteers, who balance LWVCNM work with their paid jobs, family responsibilities, other board positions and community involvement.

Chris Burroughs has done an exemplary job as *Voter* editor, juggling this responsibility with the secretary of the LWVNM Board plus temporary editor

for the *LaPalabra*.

Calendar Planning was conducted in June by Karen Wentworth and Richard Mason. Karen was very effective in arranging for speakers at the general meetings and unit meetings this year. Karen also arranged and chaired the Program Planning meeting in December.

LWVCNM members were very involved in following the local and state redistricting hearings. Cheryl Haaker, along with maintaining the website

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Presidents' Report

(Continued from page 6)

and serving on the LWVNM Board as Treasurer, attended the majority of the New Mexico Legislative Redistricting Committee Meetings across the state, recruiting other LWVCNM members to attend the meetings as well.

Richard Mason, besides taking a leadership role on the LWVNM board, has provided accurate and thorough treasurer's reports and served on the Budget Committee with Theresa Quinn and Donald Goldfarb. The efforts of the Budget Committee are greatly appreciated. We are in good financial shape. Beginning in 2012 the LWVCNM will have two year budgets. The 2012 Board will have a challenge of raising the necessary funds to publish the *Voters' Guide* for the upcoming general election.

Pati Brummett, our LWVCNM secretary, provides accurate and detailed minutes that are instrumental in having organized and efficient meetings. Pati is generally the first person at the board meetings and has prepared the minutes and distributed previous meeting minutes well in advance.

We cannot thank Andrea Targhetta, our Membership Chair, enough for her dedication, knowledge and support of our league members. Besides fulfilling her many duties in managing membership, Andrea worked with Jo Porter as co-editors of the 2011 *Municipal Voters' Guide*, published in September. Andrea has helped organize many events such as the new member reception, and instituted the "Zip Code" functions where members can get together with other league members that live in the same area of town.

The LWVCNM was fortunate this summer in obtaining Daniel Rudolph as Finance Chair. He has been active in planning fundraising events and projects that will help to raise money for the *Voters' Guide* for the coming general election. The New Mexico Centennial event, although postponed, will be taking place as a part of a fundraising drive for the *Voters' Guide*, which will be a large and expensive publication. Fundraising events and projects are also planned to raise money for the Operating Fund, such as our Theatre Event and League Birthday Party.

Laura Stokes has provided attractive and professional publications, such as the 2012 *Who's Who* political directory. Kathleen Altobelli deserves a special thank you for completing the huge task of data

entry to update the membership data base.

Mary Smith, LWVCNM Community Education Chair, has done an exemplary job. Mary single handedly coordinated the Lobbying Workshop held Nov. 5. The workshop included excellent panel discussions on Effective Lobbying and Lobbying from a Professional Perspective.

Gayle Prinkey cannot be praised enough for her dedication to Voter Services. Gayle held a Registration Strategic Planning meeting Feb.25 for voter registrars and has developed a group that will work in an organized way in providing third-party voter registration in the community. Gayle provides moderators and timekeepers for community forums and particularly enjoys attending naturalization ceremonies where she can register new U.S. Citizens.

Carol Tucker Trelease is a constant inspiration to the board in supporting all that the league does, from fundraising, event planning and hosting events in her beautiful home, including a reception Oct. 30 for Albuquerque City Counselors and Bernalillo County Commissioners.

Jo Porter deserves accolades for her expertise in organizing and overseeing the election for the Native America Indian Education Association in which the league received a generous contribution to the Operating Fund. Jo deserves particular recognition for her work, along with Andrea Targhetta, for their many years of being editors of the *Voter's Guides*. Jo has an abundance of League experience and can always be counted on.

The office is running well, thanks to the dedicated group of volunteers. We have not obtained an office manager, despite efforts to hire a part-time office coordinator. Special thanks goes to Diane Goldfarb, who has scheduled the office volunteers and filled in with writing donor appreciation letters, along with Margaret Krahenbuhl. The office volunteers were able to become better acquainted at a thank you tea in February. We hope to make this an annual event.

The LWVCNM has two current study committees. Karen Wentworth is chairing the Bernalillo Transparency Committee, and Dee Watkins is chairing the Drug Policy Committee. All members are welcome to participate.

We have enjoyed working with all of you this past year and appreciate the honor of representing you as Co-Presidents.

--Shelly Shepherd & Sandra Browne, Co-Presidents

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LWCNM Operating Fund Budget

	Fiscal Year 05/01/12 to 04/30/13	Fiscal Year 05/01.13 to 04/13 to 4/30/14	
Income			
Dues	\$13,900	\$14,000	
Contributions	2,000	2,000	
LWVNM rent	600	600	
Revenue Sharing	--	--	
Handbook Advertising	450	450	
Fund Raiser	1,000	1,000	
Interest Income	--	--	
Consulting	--	--	
Miscellaneous	200	200	
Allocation from Education Fund	6,006	5,184	
Total Income	\$24,156	\$23,434	
Expenses			
State and National Dues			
National Dues (75%)	5,213	5,300	
State Dues	2,580	2,600	
Total Dues	7,793	7,900	
Operating			
Equipment Maint.	--		
Insurance	525	525	
Postage	200	250	
Bulk Mail Permit	200	200	
Rent	5,400	5,700	
Supplies	200	200	
Printing & Copying	200	200	
Telephone	1,100	1,100	
Miscellaneous	500	500	
Total Operating	8,350	8,675	
Administration			
Board of Directors	250	250	
Public Relations	--	--	
Fundraising Expenses	500	500	
Total Administration	750	750	
Voter			
Printing	1,400	1,500	
Voter Mail Expense	540	600	
Total Voter	1,940	2,100	
Conventions			
* LWVUS Council Regis.			1,500
* LWVUS Convention Exp.	2,400		
* LWVNM Council Regis.		100	
* LWVNM Convention Regis.	500		

(Operating budget continued on page 11)

Operating Budget
(Operating budget continued from page 8)

* Advocacy	100	100
* Scholarships	--	--
* Technology	200	200
* Member Handbook	700	750
* Committee Expenses	200	200
Total Expenses	\$ 21,733	\$22,275
Net Income (Expense)	\$ 2,423	\$1,159

LWCNM Education Fund Budget

	Fiscal Year 05/01/12 to 04/30/13	Fiscal Year 05/01/13 to 04/30/14
Income		
Contributions		
Members	\$18,000	\$12,000
Community	1,000	500
Memorials	200	200
Total Contributions	\$19,200	\$12,700
Interest Income	--	--
Miscellaneous	--	--
Total Income	\$19,200	\$12,700
Expenses		
Operating		
Miscellaneous	300	
Equipment	--	
Publications		
* Voters' Guide	10,000	4,200
* Who's Who	1,500	1,900
Misc.	--	--
* Research Studies	--	--
* Voter Service/Education		
Forums/Meetings	--	--
Election Reform	--	--
General	100	
Special Projects	--	--
Allowable 25% PMP National Portion	1,738	1,740
Allocation to Operating Fund	6,006	5,184
Total Expenses	\$19,644	\$13,024

(Education budget continued on page 10)

Education budget

(Education budget continued from page 9)

Net Income (Expense) \$(444) \$(324)

* Activities included in base for determining proper operating and administrative costs allocations.

Basis for Allocation:

Activity cost-member functions	\$6,040	\$4,950
Activity cost-Education functions	\$11,600	\$6,100
Total	\$17,640	\$11,050

Cost to be Allocated

Operating & Administration Exp.	\$9,100		\$9,425
Calculation: 66% O&A Expenses		55%	
	\$6,006		\$5,184

Nominating Committee Report

Officers

2nd Vice President	Andrea Targhetta	2012-2014	2nd term
3rd Vice President	Karen Wentworth	2012-2014	2nd term
Treasurer	Richard Mason	2012-2014	2nd term

Elected Directors

Christine Burroughs	2012-2014	2nd term
Carol Tucker Trelease	2012-2014	2nd term

Nominating Committee (2013-2014)

Laura Stokes, Chair

Lisa Franzen

Jan Bray

Submitted by 2012-2013 Nominating Committee:

Josephine Porter, Chair Carol Tucker Trelease

Geta Gatterman Pati Brummett

Sharon Moynahan

Presidents' Report
(Continued from page 7)

Technology
Cheryl Haaker

The lwvcnm.org website got a redesign and makeover this year, and improvements are continuing, albeit slowly. The new site has a cleaner look and similarity to lwvnm.org. The LWV/ABC "cross" logo has been replaced with the standard LWVUS "box and slash" trademark. Traffic on the website has stayed pretty constant, except immediately before elections.



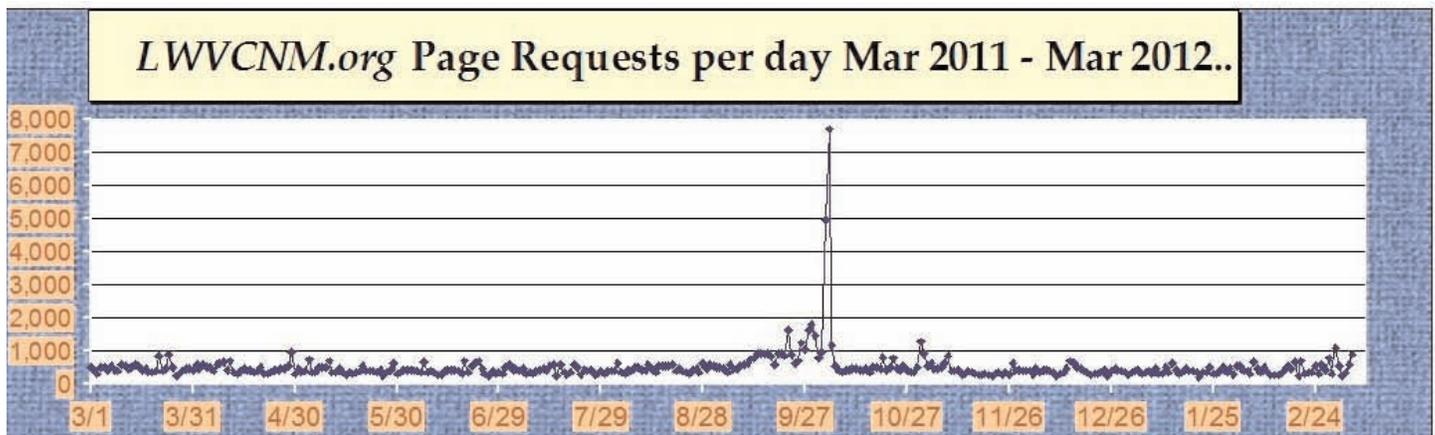
Membership in the LWVCNM Topics email list has remained fairly constant as well and is currently 234. A separate, more dynamic, list of members is being used to distribute the *Voter* through LWVNM's Constant Contact account. The savings in cutting down on the print runs have been dramatic -- and as an added benefit, The *Voter* is now in color! Editor Chris Burroughs handles all the email distributions.

1st Vice Presidents' Report
Position Vacant
Report written by Jo Porter

Although the position of 1st Vice President is currently vacant, the hard work of educating our community continues. The portfolios under the 1st Vice President all involve outreach and education of the community. The publication of our *Who's Who* and the *Voters' Guide* provide the League's primary contact with the community and are the services for which we are most identified.

However, our Voter Services activities reach out to a broad spectrum of our service area providing the electorate with voter registration, candidate forums, election information and speakers for groups. The Voter Education Series is also a key element in providing the community with non-biased, accurate information to encourage involvement by the public in our democracy. This past year the League's community service has been outstanding and all members should be extremely proud of the League's contribution. A special "Thank You" goes out to members Andrea Targhetta, Gayle Prinkey, Mary Smith, Mary Anne Giangola, Margaret Krahenbuhl and Karen Wentworth for their hard work and their dedication to educating the public about voter issues.

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1st Vice Presidents' Report

(Continued from page 11)

2011 Voters' Guide

Josaphine Porter &

Andrea Targhetta

Voters' Guide Co-Editors

The 2011 Municipal *Voters' Guide* included information from all of the city council candidates. We provided a detailed breakdown of the proposed Bernalillo County bond issues as well as the proposed charter amendments. We printed 10,000 copies, but thousands more viewed the *Voters' Guide* on our website www.lwvcnm.org.

Who's Who

We produced 10,000, 2012 *Who's Who, A Political Directory*, for distribution throughout Bernalillo and Sandoval County, with emphasis on the public libraries. Margaret Krahenbuhl did a stellar job gathering all of the information on the public officials for the two-county area, and Mary Anne Giangola did her usual expert work publishing the directory.

Voter Services

Gayle Prinkey

In August 2011 in collaboration with the Bernalillo County Clerk's Office, we organized a third-party registrars' training. During the year League members have registered voters at venues such as schools, growers' markets, senior housing and affordable housing, neighborhood and community organizations. We maintain a good working relationship with the clerk's office and had a strategy meeting in February to communicate any changes in policies and procedures for voter registration and to identify places where registration services may be needed. Members who are third-party registrars represent the League as true enablers of voting and the democratic process.

In November some of our members joined with Common Cause in taking training for voter protection, and we participated in observation at a number of polling places. We also asked people departing the polls if they found their voting experience satisfactory. There were a few glitches with computers at some voting centers, but generally the election went smoothly.

In February 2012, Steve and Karen Wentworth and Cheryl Haaker provided moderator and timekeeper services to the Village of Corrales for a candidates' forum. This is a service highly valued for its maintenance of respect, order and moderation.

In late February-early March, Diane Goldfarb and Meg Wente organized and put together a folder on current voting information for use by volunteers in the office.

During the year a few member of the League have attended five naturalization ceremonies. As we welcome and congratulate new citizens, we provide voter registration forms which are enthusiastically received and turned in promptly after the event.

Community Education

Mary H. Smith

A lobbying workshop was held on Nov. 5, 2011, with only a pitiful few people attending. The cold, rainy and windy weather may have contributed to the sparse turnout, but the workshop transitioned into a spirited round table discussion amongst all the presenters and the audience. Presenters included Bernalillo County Commissioner Wayne Johnson, LWVCNM members Daniel Ivey-Soto and Jan Bray, Liz McGrath of Pegasus Legal Services for Children and professional lobbyist Erin Muffoletto. All of the presenters were great speakers and listeners, and those who braved the elements came away with new ideas as to how to reach the eyes and ears of public officials.

Next up for Community Education in 2012 is a judicial independence forum this summer or autumn.

2nd Vice President's Report

Andrea Targhetta

Membership

Our LWVCNM has 252 active members. The Membership Committee continues to engage our new members and retain those of us who have been members for some time. There is a lot of political activity in which to be engaged, especially this election year.

Our new-member get together was held in August at the home of Carol Trelease. Our Board

2nd Vice President's Report

(Continued from page 12)

had the opportunity to meet the newest members and get to know them better. It was a wonderful success, and we thank our hostess for offering her home once again.

League members in the North East heights got together at the home of Olin and Jan Bray on Sept. 18 for a couple of hours and met with their neighbors to socialize. Over 30 people attended the event. This gives neighborhood members an opportunity to share ideas and discuss issues, or just enjoy the company. Another session will follow this year and everyone seems to enjoy these small, informal gatherings.

The Membership Committee meets each month on the first Friday at 10 a.m. in the League office. Everyone who is interested in attending these meetings is most welcome. Thank you to our Membership Committee of Kathy Altobelli, Terry Quinn, Helen Wright, Donna Hill and Meg Wentz.

Kathy Altobelli who has been our database expert for the last seven years is retiring. We wish to express our deep gratitude for her many hours of time, her expertise in the Access database, and knowledge of League functions. She has been invaluable to our League. Thank you, Kathy.

Unit Meetings

The unit meetings this year have flourished and been attended quite well. Judy Binder as Unit Meeting Coordinator has enabled each unit to grow and is planning to re-establish the telephone tree for our members. The luncheon meeting averages 32 people; the Midtown (Mesa del Sol) averages 10 and growing; the evening unit averages 13 or more; and the NE Heights (La Vida Llena) unit averages 13.

The Voter

Chris Burroughs, Voter Editor

The *Voter* finished its transition to being electronic this past year. Of the 252 LWVCNM members, some 130 people are continuing to receive the newsletter by snail mail instead of email. This is unfortunate, and I encourage everyone to opt to receive the *Voter* by email or look at it on the web. Printing and mailing 130 *Voters* is very expensive, particularly since we have to mail them by first class. **Please change your mailing preference.**

3rd Vice President's Report

Karen Wentworth

Program

This year brought a variety of speakers and issues before the four unit meetings. We heard from Albuquerque Mayor R.J. Berry about his proposal for a series of general obligation bond projects; from Scott Miller on how to break the cycle of poverty in New Mexico; and from Pauline Eisenstadt on her new book about serving as both a senator and a representative in the New Mexico Legislature.

In addition we had programs on land use, on proposed changes for the Public Regulation Commission, on the NM budget, tax breaks and revenues, on voter and election issues and on the best way to prevent alcohol related deaths. I would like to thank all the league volunteers who worked so hard to find speakers and prepare the programs. It is difficult to find exciting topics to fit the many members in our four units, but we have good feedback on our program activities.

National Positions

Limits on Campaign Spending

In a review of Nation Positions in December, attendees voted to ask the LWVNM to support the position of the LWV Washington and the LWV Massachusetts in a recommendation to the LWVUS. The recommendation was to request support of a constitutional amendment to clarify limits on campaign spending.

Natural Resources

It is a matter of concern to the LWVCNM that the proposal to build the Keystone Pipeline to bring synthetic crude oil and diluted bitumen from Canada to the refineries in the Gulf State is now before the U.S. Congress. The LWVCNM is concerned that the proposal does not make economic sense and questions whether the risk to the environment is too great. The state board is requested to take the issue to the LWVUS Convention.

Local Positions

Drug Policy

Dee Watkins

Outreach and study was again the focus of the committee through these activities:

3rd Vice President's Report

(Continued from page 13)

June: The committee participated in the New Mexico Pharmacists convention using a display table of the League's and pain management materials with a goal to find common interests for future collaboration through League's projects and positions.

July: Joined the Arthritis Foundation Walk project by distributing the *Who's Who* and information for people with pain.

August: Four League members staffed two display tables at the NM Conference on Aging with literature about CNM and NM League topics and many materials for people with pain. The key messages were: What Can League Do For You and How To Effectively Communicate With Your Healthcare Professionals.

September: Eileen Longworth and Dee Watkins presented "Pain, Pain Relief and the Challenge of Access to Medications" through the OASIS project. One member of the audience joined LWVNM.

The remaining meetings this year are focused on the Alcohol Study as members aim to gather information and organize it for distribution throughout the state. If you missed the February unit meetings, watch for the highlights in the May *Voter*.

The next Drug Policy Study Group meeting is Thursday, April 26 from 1-3 p.m. at the Erna Fergusson Library community room.

Education

Jan Bray and Judy Binder are working to put together a committee that will look at why some schools are unexpectedly successful and to plan an educational forum. Jan Bray volunteered to write an article for the *Voter* in an effort to attract interest among members who might want to participate.

Local Government

Fair Representation

Cheryl Haaker and the Fair Representation committee are looking at the possibility of pursuing an amendment to the New Mexico constitution to set up an independent nonpartisan commission to direct the redistricting as an alternative to the NM Legislature. They will begin to research what might be needed to accomplish that.

Bernalillo County Transparency

The Bernalillo County Transparency Study Group continues to examine the way county government works and interacts with citizens and whether they are operating in a transparent manner.



Gayle Prinkey, Voter Services lead, holds a framed copy of a proclamation making March Voter Registration Month by the Bernalillo County Commission. The LWVCM was recognized at the Bernalillo County Commission meeting March 13 for the League's efforts in third-party registration and voter education. Gayle was presented a framed copy of the proclamation.

(Photo by Shelly Shepherd)

Book Review -- *The Great Reset*

Editor's Note: Book Review -- This review begins what we hope will become a regular feature in the Voter, a review of an important public policy book.

The Great Reset: How New Ways of Living and Working Drive Post-crash Prosperity, by Richard Florida, 2010, Harper (HarperCollins Publishers).

“A banking crisis brought on by insolvent mortgages and complex financial instruments quickly spreads to the entire economy, leading to widespread and prolonged unemployment.” Sound familiar? It describes the causes of the panic of 1873. Florida compares our current economic crisis with two similar periods following the economic crisis of 1873 and 1929. Unlike normal business cycles, these major economic crises require a major transformation – what he calls a great reset – over a period of years to recover.

Different parts of the country have been affected differently by our current economic problems. Traditional manufacturing centers (the rust belt) have been hard hit and will probably never recover many of their lost manufacturing jobs. Parts of the sunbelt, especially those areas where a major part of their economy was based on real estate and construction, are now losing population. Areas least affected are the large cities with a diverse economic base and with a highly educated and creative workforce. These areas

provide a template for what the reset will look like.

He believes that government stimulus that maintains or recreates the old types of jobs will not be effective and will delay the necessary transformations. He believes that programs should be targeted on individuals not regions. They should help people get the education and skills they need for future jobs and should help give them the mobility to move to where those jobs will be created. In past transformations migration and mobility have been a significant part of the solution since all areas don't recover at the same rate or to the same level. The housing problem has locked many people in place and prevented that essential mobility.

Florida is the author of *The Rise of the Creative Class* (2002), which showed the importance of an educated, creative workforce to drive economic development and the types of environments that attract and keep these critical types of workers, especially those in science, engineering, and the arts. Areas with a highly educated and creative workforce are the ones that suffered the least in the economic downturn. You may or may not agree with all of Florida's suggestions, but he does support them with data and analysis, so they deserve thoughtful consideration and provide many important insights.

-- Olin Bray

LWVNM Council set for May 12 in Albuquerque

Peggy Hill, the liaison to the Nation League of Women Voters for New Mexico, will be the luncheon speaker during the bi-annual state Council meeting May 12 at the MGM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul N.E. Albuquerque. The meeting is being hosted by the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico (LWVCNM).

Registration for the Council will extend from 9:30-10 a.m., followed by the business meeting which will start at 10 a.m. The business meeting will consist of presentation of the treasurer's report, presentation and adoption of budget changes, report from state committees and reports from local Leagues.

Each New Mexico League will have two delegates – the president or an alternate and one additional member. Also serving as delegates will be all state board members, including officers and

on-board directors, plus one delegate representing the members-at-large. All other League members are invited to attend as observers and stay for the lunch and speaker at noon.

Speaker Hill has worked on the National Education Study for the past two years with a professional team of seven other Leagues from across the country. The team researched, wrote, reported, developed and analyzed the consensus and finally wrote the national education position.

Cost of the luncheon is \$20. Reservations for the Council meeting and lunch must be made by Monday, May 7. Please send in the registration form on page 16 and your check for \$20 to:

LWVCNM
2315 San Pedro NE, F-6
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Council Registration Form -- May 12, 2012

Please send this Council registration form and a check for \$20 payable to LWVCNM by May 7.
Mail to: LWVCNM, 2315 San Pedro NE, F-6, Albuquerque, NM 87110

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

I am attending as (Please check one)

Local League delegate from _____

MAL delegate*

LWVNM Board Member*

Non-delegate member/observer/guest (circle one)

*LWVNM Board members and MAL delegates should NOT send a check with their registration. Instead, contact State Treasurer Cheryl Haaker, who will be paying your registration fee. Phone 505-298-7415 or email cheryl@haaker.org.

Call 505-884-8441 with questions.

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