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of Central New Mexico
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Sunshine Week focus of March unit meetings

LWVCNM will celebrate Sunshine Week at its March unit meetings.

Sunshine Week, the week in mid-March devoted to encouraging open government, coincides with James Madison's birthday and National Freedom of Information Day on the 16th. LWVCNM has celebrated the event every year since 2006. This year Sunshine Week is sponsored by John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Bloomberg LP, American Society of News Editors and Reporters

Committee for Freedom of the Press. Organizations across the country celebrate Sunshine Week in ways similar to LWVCNM -- with seminars, forums, blogs and more.

Luncheon Unit -- March 14 at 11:45 a.m.

The speaker at the March 14 LWVCNM luncheon unit will be Peter St. Cyr, a veteran investigative reporter who has been covering New Mexico government and politics for more than 30 years. He's been recognized by the Associated Press, the New Mexico Broadcaster's Association and New Mexico Press Women for excellence in journalism. In 2012 he was selected as a John Jay College Fellow in New York City.

St. Cyr is a member of both the Society of Professional Journalists and Investigative Editors Organization. Currently he is a contributing writer at the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, *Albuquerque the Magazine* and several local blogs. He has appeared on national programs, including the Nancy Grace Show and Fox Radio News.

In 2010, he successfully sued Governor Bill Richardson and the State of New Mexico after the administration denied his access to applications

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Hello, Dolly! Theater Event

Celebrate the League of Women Voters' Birthday at the LWVCNM Theater Event fundraiser Sunday, March 17 from 2-4 p.m. at the Rodey Theatre (next to Popejoy Hall) at UNM in Albuquerque. It will be presented by Landmark Musicals at the matinee performance. A reception for LWV attendees in the upstairs terrace will follow the performance.



Hello, Dolly! is a musical with lyrics by Jerry Herman and a book by Michael Stewart, based on Thornton Wilder's 1938 farce *The Merchant of Yonkers*, which Wilder

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March Calendar

March 5	Voter deadline
March 7	Board meeting, 5:30 p.m.
March 12	Evening Unit, 6 p.m.
March 14	Luncheon Unit, 11:45 a.m.
March 16	Freedom of Information Day
March 17	<i>Hello Dolly!</i> fundraiser, 2 p.m.
March 16	LWVNM Board, Santa Fe
March 25	NE 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

Drug Policy

Jan Bray

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.

Louise Prowell passes

Louise Prowell, a Life Member of LWVCNM, passed away on Friday, Feb. 15.

We send our condolences to her husband Bill, a long-time member of our League; to Dixie, Louise's daughter, also a League member; and Louise's entire family.

Louise and Bill, who recently celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary, sat at the check-in table for League luncheons for many years greeting our members and guests. Louise dutifully handled all our bulk mail until two years ago. She will be sorely missed.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Habitat for Humanity or the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico.

Convention Auction

Search your cupboards, storage areas and households for items in good condition you can donate to make the 2013 LWVNM Convention Auction a success. Bring them early to the first meeting on Saturday, May 18. Final bids will be Sunday morning. Any item not bid upon must be taken home with you. Thanks for your support.

Presidents' Corner

By Shelly Shepherd, Co-president

A study was completed in 2012 by the Washington, D.C. Women & Politics Institute, and the findings were published in a report entitled *Men Rule, The Continued Under-Represented of Women in U.S. Politics*, by Jennifer L. Lawless, Associate Professor of Government, American University and Richard Fox, Associate Professor of Political Science, Loyola Marymount University and published by the Women & Politics Institute School of Public Affairs. I found the article to be very interesting, and I will share some of the points made in the study.

Many studies have been completed that indicate that women who run for office perform as well as their male counterparts. However, women remain severely under-represented in U.S. political institutions. The study argues that the fundamental reason for women's under-representation is that they do not run for office. When Dede Feldman spoke at the LWVCNM December General Meeting, former N.M. state Legislator Pauline Eisenstadt also commented something to the effect that she didn't understand why women don't run for office, then retracted the statement and said she understands why. Pauline did not share her thoughts about why women don't run for office at the meeting, but I will share what the above mentioned study asserts to be some of the factors.

Despite the emergence over the last decade of high-profile women in politics -- such as Hillary Clinton, Nancy Pelosi and Sarah Palin -- the gender gap in political ambition is virtually the same as it was 10 years ago. Surveys indicate that the gender gap in interest in a future candidacy has actually increased. Simply put, men and women do not have equal interest in seeking elective office.

The following factors were identified in the study that contribute to the gender gap either by directly impeding women's ambition or making the decision calculus more complex and complicated for women.

1. Women are substantially more likely than men to perceive the electoral environment as highly competitive and biased against female candidates.

2. Hillary Clinton and Sarah Palin's candidacies aggravated women's perceptions of gender bias in the electoral arena.

3. Women are much less likely than men to think they are qualified to run for office.

4. Female potential candidates are less competitive, less confident, and more risk averse than their male counterparts.

5. Women react more negatively than men to many aspects of modern campaigns.

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Book Review – *The Price of Politics*

Editor's Note: Book Review -- This review of an important public policy book is a regular feature in the Voter.

By Olin Bray, Author of ebook, *Political Incompetence: What's Wrong With Our System and How To Fix It*

The Price of Politics by Bob Woodward, 2012, Simon and Schuster, 428 pages.

This book is different from the ones previously reviewed which focused on the data and analysis required for more rational policies. Woodward describes in great detail the bargaining and negotiating that goes on behind the scenes to get legislation passed, regardless of the level of analysis that has been done. He covers the budget and tax negotiations from the 2010 extension of the Bush tax cuts to the agreement the end of 2011 to increase the debt ceiling, extend the Bush tax cuts again, and set up the sequestration approach to get additional budget cuts. It's hard for someone not at a meeting to understand what really happened and why, especially since different attendees can have very different impressions of what happened. However, with Woodward's contacts and influence, he got minutes and was able interview multiple attendees at most of the meetings, including both the principals (e.g. Obama, Boehner, McConnell, Reid, Biden and others) and members of their staffs. The book is really less his perspectives and more the actions, reactions and perspectives of the participants. Given these limitations, there are a number of interesting points.

First, it is surprising (and disappointing) how much of even the behind the scenes negotiating involved ideology and posturing rather than real data and analysis.

Second, there was a distinct difference in what people saw as the preferred process. Obama's preference was to get the principals in a room together, often without their staff, to work out a compromise. On the other hand, the congressional leaders (on both sides) and some of Obama's staff thought you got the staff people together to work out the details and the principals primarily met at the end to bless the results.

Third, personally Obama seemed to trust Boehner. However, in meetings Boehner was willing to negotiate some agreements, but then was not able to deliver the Republican votes to pass them and would back off. For example, at one point in 2011 when negotiations with the White House collapsed and

Boehner went to his Plan B (an agreement among congressional leaders), he had to cancel votes on his bill three times because he didn't have enough Republican votes to pass it. To finally get enough votes, he included a condition that the House and Senate not only had to vote on, but pass, a constitutional amendment for a balanced budget. Obviously his compromise did not survive in the Senate.

Fourth, Larry Summers, President Obama's former Director of the National Economic Council, points out that Obama was such a pragmatist and so willing to negotiate on almost anything that ideologues in both parties had a hard time understanding where he was coming from. They sometimes thought he had no principles.

Woodward spends a lot of time describing in detail the negotiation leading up to the 2011 vote to increase debt ceiling and that led to the sequestration agreement. It reminds me of Barbara Tuchman's book, *The Guns of August*, where none of the countries really wanted WWI, but in the confusion, misperceptions and poor communications, that is what they blundered into. It sounds like Boehner and the White House essentially had a ten year agreement for \$1.2 trillion in cuts, \$800 billion in new revenue from tax reform not rate increases, and increasing the debt ceiling. Right after the agreement, the Gang of Six (three Democratic and three Republican senators, who were not involved in the Boehner/White House negotiations) proposed a compromise that in part included \$1.2 trillion in new revenue including tax increases. Obama felt pressured since it included more revenue and asked Boehner to consider adding another \$400 billion in revenue. That is when the negotiations collapsed. Boehner said that Obama reneged on a done deal and demanded \$400 billion more in revenue. Obama's position is that he never demanded the extra revenue, but simply asked Boehner to consider it because without it, Democratic votes were going to be harder to get considering the Gang of Six proposal. Two White House staffers who were also involved in the conversation had still other perspectives, but closer to Obama's description than Boehner's. Boehner broke off negotiations and tried to work his Plan B with congressional leaders. When that failed, Biden and McConnell, who had worked a previous deal in 2010 stepped in and finally got a deal that could be passed. Part of that deal included a bipartisan supercommittee that would come up with addi-

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Hello Dolly!

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revised and entitled *The Matchmaker* in 1955. *Hello, Dolly!* was first produced on Broadway by David Merrick in 1964, winning the Tony Award for Best Musical and nine other Tonys. The show album *Hello, Dolly! An Original Cast Recording* was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2002. *Hello, Dolly!* has become one of most enduring musical theatre hits, enjoying three Broadway revivals and international success. It was also made into a 1969 film that was nominated for seven Academy Awards. Don't be surprised if you leave the theater humming its memorable songs, such as Hello, Dolly!, It Takes A Woman, Put on Your Sunday Clothes, Ribbons Down My Back, Before the Parade Passes By, It Only Takes A Moment, and So Long Dearie.

To reserve your seat, mail a check to the LWVCNM office for \$28 per person with a notation that the check is for *Hello, Dolly!* tickets. A check must be received before the reservation will be made. The reservation deadline is March 11. As the tickets are for specific seats, please attach a note if you have any special seating requirements. Your actual tickets will be available at the performance at the LWV desk outside Rodey Theater. Tickets for the event may not be purchased at the door so be sure to order your tickets now. The parking structure next to Popejoy Hall is available, and there is no charge when a handicap placard is presented. The number of seats is limited (and best in the house), so be sure to make your reservation early.

-- Shelly Shepherd

Forbidden Citizen book discussion

Long-time League member Carolyn Chan invites you to attend a book talk and signing by Martin B. Gold, author of *Forbidden Citizens: Chinese Exclusion and the U.S. Congress, A Legislative History*. The talk will be March 23 from 11 a.m.-noon at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science. Admission to is free.

Carolyn is president of the Chinese American

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Book Review

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tional cuts and/or revenue. To make sure they got an agreement, the fall back was the sequestration, which was designed to be so painful for both parties that there would definitely be an agreement. Unfortunately, the supercommittee failed to agree, so now we are facing the sequestration.

The book is both interesting and frustrating in that it clearly shows the inner workings (or non-workings) of the sausage factory. They seem to have forgotten Lyndon Johnson's quote, "The job of a politician is to pass legislation, not to make principled statements." Back in the days when Congress actually worked, other dealmakers expressed similar sentiments. The real question that is beyond the scope of Woodward's book is how do we get back to a culture where compromise and deal-making are more important than ideology and political posturing.

-- Olin Bray

Presidents' Corner

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6. Women are less likely than men to receive the suggestion to run for office - from anyone.

7. Women are still responsible for the majority of childcare and household tasks.

Gender differences in interest in running for office are well in place by the time women begin their professional careers. A 2011 survey reveals that the gender gap in potential candidates' political ambition is as glaring among 24-35 years old as among older women. Gender differences in confidence, competitiveness and ambition develop long before adulthood. Understanding the manner in which women and men in contemporary society are socialized about politics, the acquisition of political power, and the characteristics that qualify individuals to seek it is needed.

We are still a long way from political reality in which women and men are as likely to aspire to attain high-level office. The study suggests that recruiting female candidates and disseminating information about the electoral process can help narrow the gender gap in ambition and increase women's representation. However, major cultural and political changes are necessary to overcome the many barriers to women running for office.

LWVNM Annual Convention set for May 18-19 in Las Cruces

The 2013 Convention of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico, to be hosted by the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces, is set for May 18-19.

The convention will begin at noon on May 18 and continue through May 19, ending at approximately noon. An overnight stay on Saturday will require hotel reservations.

The convention will adopt a program for study and action, elect officers and directors, adopt a balanced budget for the next two years, consider revising the bylaws and transact such other business as may be presented.

Each League will be entitled to, at minimum, two delegates: the president and one other. If a League has more than 15 members, it is entitled to an addi-

tional delegate per each 25 members above the first 15. Thus, by going by 2013 membership numbers, LWVNM (215) would get 10 delegates. Finally, there is one delegate allocated to represent LWVNM's members-at-large (MALs). Additional member observers are always welcome.

The convention will open with lunch and a speaker at noon on May 18 of the two-day convention. Plenary Session 1 will convene after lunch. A banquet is scheduled for Saturday evening with a panel discussion about border issues. Plenary Session 2 will convene on Sunday, May 19, with registration at 8 a.m. A board meeting for newly-elected officers and directors will follow the convention adjournment.

Mark the date on your calendar! Complete details will be published in the spring *La Palabra*.

Where are our Leaders? -- Polly Ticks knows

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of columns on business, government and policy issues written by League members. Authors all identify themselves as Polly Ticks.

Many of us are concerned that some leaders in business, government policy makers and employees at all levels have not proven themselves to be ethical and able to perform their tasks in a transparent and efficient manner. The fact that some have stolen our hard-earned dollars through mismanagement or for personal gain and have not been punished severely enough as to be a warning to others is in direct opposition to how government should operate!

Average citizens and, I'm assured, many leaders prefer clean government, but many lack the course of action to demand it. Employees and department heads who possess leadership and team-building skills could have a decided advantage in these days of systems-wrecking budget deficits. However, some individuals do not report blatant negligence or misbehavior because abuse of municipal credit cards, private use of public property and

more appears to be the norm. This has gone on way too long, and the feeling exists that no one is going to make waves, especially if "I'd be fired!" Be aware. The mood has changed, and we won't tolerate those who abuse their position.

Department leaders from Bernalillo and Albuquerque could come out into the community to explain how well they perform their duties and answer concerns about how interrelated departments are using our tax dollars. Community groups would like to hear that our natural and built environments like bike and walking trails, parks, street repair, public transportation, police and fire are safer and accessible.

And just for good measure, we need to know of the city and county's support for cultural activities such as free concerts featuring local groups as well as the New Mexico Philharmonic in the parks and at the Zoo. Providing a comfortable setting for a culturally and economically diverse community to come together is but a small effort with a huge return.

-- Polly Ticks.

March unit meetings

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for executive clemency.

St. Cyr believes open government requires public and open access. "It's a crucial aspect of democracy," St. Cyr says.

The meeting will be held at 11:45 a.m. at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul N.E.

Reservations for the lunch must be made by 10 a.m. on March 11. The cost of lunch is \$15. To make a reservation, please call the LWVCNM office at 884-8441 or email lunch@lwvcnm.org.

Evening Unit -- March. 12 at 6 p.m.

Mary H. Smith, Community Education Chair on the LWVCNM Board and state assistant attorney general, will talk about "Access to the Public's Records."

The meeting will be at 6 p.m. at the Erna Fergusson Library Community Room, 3700 San Mateo N.E.

NE Heights Unit -- March. 25 at 10 a.m.

Marilyn Morgan, past president of LWV-CNM and LWVNM will discuss open government at the NE Heights unit. The meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. at the La Vida Llena Retirement

Forbidden Citizen book discussion

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Citizens Alliance, the oldest Asian American civil rights organization -- founded in 1895 -- and a member of the 1882 Project Steering Committee, co-sponsors of Gold's talk.

Gold is a prominent Washington, D.C. attorney, who provided support to the 1882 Project, a consortium of national Chinese American and Asian American organizations. The project galvanized community support and succeeded in getting two congressional resolutions passed -- Senate Resolution 202 and House Resolution 683. Both apologized to the Chinese American community for the racist exclusion laws that targeted the Chinese and denied their civil rights and the right to naturalization.

More information can be obtained by calling Carolyn at 298-1727

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