

League of Women Voters
of Central New Mexico
2315 San Pedro NE, Suite F-6
Albuquerque, NM 87110
(505) 884-8441

Andrea Targhetta
President
(505) 792-1148

Chris Burroughs
Voter Editor
(505) 306-8163

The Voter

League of Women Voters of
Central New Mexico
January 2014

LWVCNM homepage: <http://www.lwvcnm.org>

Upcoming Legislative Session to be Focus of January Units

The upcoming New Mexico legislative session will be the focus of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico January unit meetings.

Luncheon Unit -- Jan. 9 at 11:45 a.m.

Sen. Sue Wilson Beffort, ranking Senate Republican on the powerful Legislative Finance Committee will speak about the 2014 state budget at the Jan. 9 luncheon unit meeting.



Sue Wilson Beffort

The LFC builds a draft budget for the state each year after months of hearings to learn about the needs and requirements of various government agencies. Lawmakers must determine how to balance the needs of children with the needs of the poor and the incarcerated. They determine whether more money should go to universities or to the poor and elderly. It's a complex balancing act, and Beffort will share insight into the ways legislators approach the problem.

The New Mexico legislature goes into session on Jan. 21. This year much of the attention will focus on the budgeting process and how well the priorities of the legislature parallel the priority of the governor.

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 Jan. 6. The cost of lunch is \$15. To make a reservation, please call the LWVCNM office at 884-8441 or email lunch@lwvcnm.org. Ask about your menu options.

Evening Unit -- Jan. 14 at 6 p.m.

The speaker at the Evening Unit will be Marla Shoats, lobbyist for Bernalillo County. She will speak to the evening unit meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. Marla will discuss how Bernalillo County seeks appropriations for special projects from the New Mexico Legislature. All requests for projects must go through a vetting process with the legislature, and she will discuss how Bernalillo County goes about the process of making a case for more money.

The meeting will be at Erna Fergusson Library at 3700 Menaul NE, in the community room.

Northeast Heights Unit -- Jan. 27 at 10 a.m. :

Richard Valdez speaks about his advocacy work on blood contamination at the North East Unit on Jan.

Valdez is an inspirational and motivational speaker. He and his wife had two sons with hemophilia and lost them to AIDS, a preventable night-

(Continued on page 3)

January Calendar

Jan. 2	Board meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 4	LWVNM Board meeting, Albuquerque, 11 a.m.
Jan. 5	Voter deadline
Jan. 9	Luncheon Unit, 11.45 a.m.
Jan. 14	Evening Unit, 6 p.m.
Jan. 27	NE Heights Unit, 10 a.m.
Jan. 27	Legislative Reception in Santa Fe
Jan. 28	League Day at the Legislature

**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
Mental Health Study

Jan Bray & Shelly Shepherd

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 and can be accessed online at our website www.lwvcnm.org.

Voter Services Report

December was a very quiet month for voter registration. There was a Naturalization Ceremony on Dec, 20 at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Sharon Moynahan and Pam Harris handed out voter registration forms to 164 happy new citizens.

The first Naturalization Ceremony of 2014 will be on Friday Jan. 31 at the Albuquerque Convention Center. I am planning to set up a number of voter registration drives during the winter months of 2014. Possible sites could be libraries, food pantries, schools, senior centers, post offices, community centers and, come spring, growers markets. If anyone has any additional suggestions, please let me know. I hope many of us will be able to participate in some of these!

Happy New Year to everyone!

-- Pam Harris

President's Corner

By Andrea Targhetta

You may be aware that I grew up in Albuquerque, but did you know that I wasn't born here in New Mexico? I was born in Des Moines, Iowa just 35 miles from Ames, Iowa where Carrie Chapman Catt went to college. This month we celebrate her birthday which was on Jan. 9, 1859. She was a graduate of Iowa State College, which is now a university. She is recognized as one of the leaders of the American women's suffrage movement and, as you all know, the architect of the League of Women Voters.



Carrie Chapman Catt

Today Iowa State University holds an annual competition, the Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics. This competition was created to educate and encourage citizens to be active in the political process. Does this last sentence sound familiar? You will find a close approximation located in our Member Handbook under "Mission" on page one.

Carrie Catt was also a supporter for the expansion of women's rights throughout the world. She didn't stop with the education and organization of American women. Besides creating our nonpartisan organization, she was instrumental in the formation of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in 1904 in the city of Berlin. This organization started primarily as a suffrage group, but has since widened to focus on human rights, empowering women, and gender equality. Today it is the International Alliance of Women (IAW) located in Geneva and represents over 50 world organizations. I urge you to take a look at IAW's website, womenalliance.org, and see the various issues in which this organization is involved.

Carrie Chapman Catt was a dynamic, charismatic woman who was ahead of her time. There is much more to her life than we can note here. You may be surprised at how many organizations and conventions she started. Please take a moment to be thankful for her energy and vitality.

January Units

(Continued from page 1)

mare. Contaminated hemophilia blood products were a serious public health problem. These products caused large numbers of hemophiliacs to become infected with HIV and hepatitis C.

Valdez's involvement in advocacy with persons with hemophilia began in 1963. He was a founding member of the Hemophilia Association of San Diego County, a long-time board member and past president. When the AIDS epidemic struck the Hemophilia community, he started his investigation of what happened, which led him to join the California-based Hemophilia/HIV Peer Association, one of two groups seeking an answer to the devastation that HIV/AIDS had caused their community. Valdez had a great deal of community impact in the early to mid 1990s.

He joined the Board of Directors of the Committee of Ten Thousand (COTT), a national organization headquartered in Washington, D.C.

and was a board member for 15 years. He has worked tirelessly to honor his sons with the hope that this does not occur again to anyone else. He is a public speaker with a strong Christian faith that believes that one person can make a difference.

The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. at the La Vida Llena Retirement Community, 10501 Lagrima De Oro Rd N.E.

We want to welcome Meg Wentz as the new leader of the La Vida Llena unit meeting. She started two months ago, but I have been remiss in relating this information to all our members. Meg is a long-time member of our organization and was our office manager for quite a few years. As she now resides at La Vida Llena, she has offered to take over as unit leader. Come to the meetings and meet Meg.

Thank you Ida Humphrey as the retiring leader. You have done an excellent job.

-- Andrea Targhetta

Book Report: *The Bully Pulpit*

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 Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism, by Doris Kearns Goodwin, 2013 Simon & Shuster, hardcover, 910 pages.

This is an interesting, but long book – 750 pages of text and another 120 pages of notes. As the subtitle suggests, it is essentially three books in one cover. It would be hard to tell the story of either Roosevelt or Taft without the other since their careers were so intertwined. They became close friends during their first tours in Washington where Roosevelt was a Civil Service Commissioner and Taft was U.S. Solicitor General. Roosevelt was the politician, while Taft's focus was the law. Taft really wanted to be on the Supreme Court, although he twice turned down Roosevelt's offer of positions on the Supreme Court. The first time was because he wanted to continue his important work as the Governor General of the Philippines. The second time was near the end of Roosevelt's term, when Taft wanted

to run for president.

For years Taft was the most influential member of Roosevelt's cabinet. Roosevelt pushed very hard, and his friend was nominated and elected to succeed him to continue his progressive policies. Taft was elected in 1908, but during his term there were disagreements and conflicts that led Roosevelt to challenge him for the nomination in 1912. Taft got the Republican nomination, Roosevelt ran as an independent (the Bull Moose Party), and Wilson was elected. Before Roosevelt's death they patched things up and became friends again. It is an interesting and informative story of two major players and how they changed our political system.

However, the book has an even more interesting story about a period of rapid political change, how Roosevelt and Taft pushed through major progressive reforms sometimes in the face of overwhelming opposition, and of a different style and period of journalism. Roosevelt expected the opposition his reforms got from conservative, machine politicians, but he also got opposition from many reformers (who he called populists) for not going far enough. Examples of his reforms included dealing with government and industry corruption, break-

(Continued on page 4)

The Bully Pulpit

(Continued from page 3)

ing up the oil and railroad trust, the Pure Food and Drug Act, prohibition of corporate contributions to federal campaigns, and campaign finance reporting. (Do any of those problems sound familiar?) Many of his reforms were easily passed in the popularly elected House, but were resisted by the Senate, which was still selected by the state legislatures. However, with overwhelming popular support even the Senate finally accepted many of these reforms. Roosevelt's approach for building popular support was a close and continuing relationship with many members of the press. At one point he even sent drafts of his state of the union address to a reporter for comments and reactions – and he paid attention to the feedback. A key player in the reform effort and building popular support was McClure's magazine, with a handful of outstanding reporters and a circulation of over

400,000. McClure's was responsible for what the author calls the golden age of journalism. Its reporters spent months, sometimes over a year, researching their articles on Standard Oil, the railroad trust, labor issues, and government and industry corruption. Their exposes were fact-based, not ranting and raving and rumors and often consisted of a series of 10 to 15 thousand word articles spread over several months and became topics of conversation across the country. There is no equivalent to this type of journalism and factual analyses today.

I found the story of the reforms and how they were achieved far more interesting than the biographical parts of the book. They have a lot of lessons for us today because we are still seeing some of the same issues (for example campaign financing and the effects of special interests) and some of the reform tactics that are still appropriate.

My Climate Change To Do List

By Cheryl Haaker, Technology Chair

In October, member Lora Lucero gave a unit presentation on global warming, distributing a “to do” list. Here are some of the highlights:

While changing your own “life style” is helpful, the most impact will come from collective action, particularly actions by government at all levels. Accordingly, you should contact your elected representatives. You can write letters, email or phone. Post comments on their Facebook pages. Tweet at them. Who is “them”? President Obama, your member of Congress, your Senator; your State representative and senator; Governor Martinez; your PRC commissioner; the Mayor and your city councilor.

In trying to mobilize group action, don't forget the media. While your communication may not be published, reader/viewer opinion does have some impact on how issues will be covered in the future. Contact your local newspapers, national newspapers, local and national TV and radio, public radio and TV.

Reach out to other people: attend meetings of the Public Regulation Commission, County

Commission, City Council when issues relating to climate change are being discussed -- and speak up. Be sure to arrive early and sign up to speak. Talk to your neighborhood association and your neighbors.

Embody the changes you want to see.

Conserve energy, which will decrease your utilization of fossil fuels: do an energy audit of your own dwelling and make the necessary improvements. When the neighbors notice, tell them about it. Start taking public transportation, instead of driving, whenever possible.

Greatly reduce your meat consumption or become a vegetarian. The meat production industry is amazingly energy- and fertilizer-intensive, uses food that could be fed to humans as animal feed, and emits truly astounding quantities of methane, a greenhouse gas with even greater impact than CO². Moreover, it is deeply inhumane as practiced in the US and is one of the primary root causes of “super-bugs,” diseases that can't be treated with any currently existing antibiotics.

Continue to inform yourself! Read books and articles about climate change.

League Day at the Legislature

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

8:30 a.m. Hearings at the Roundhouse

Educational Events are from 10:30AM to Noon

New Mexico Land Office

Morgan Hall

310 OLD SANTA FE TRAIL, SANTA FE

(just down the street from the Roundhouse)

Legislative Reception

Monday, Jan. 27, 5:30 p.m.

Desert Inn, 311 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe

Panel Discussion: The 2013 Omnibus Tax Bill

Pros and Cons of the Omnibus Tax Bill passed in the closing hours of the 2013 session

Bill Jordan, New Mexico Voices for Children

A legislator who supported the bill

LWVNM Speaker on the Legislative Process

The 2014 Legislative Session will be dealing with many pieces of legislation that have been prioritized by the League of Women Voters. The 30-day session is limited to budget items and legislation that the Governor puts on her call. We expect that the Governor will put eliminating driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants on her call. The LWVNM opposes this piece of legislation. Key to this session will be opposing tax breaks that reduce New Mexico revenues and threaten funding for essential programs. The League will be supporting a number of tax proposals aimed at making New Mexico's tax structure more progressive.

Packets of materials for League Day will be available at the Reception the evening of January 27 or in the lobby of Garrett's Desert Inn, from 7 to 9 a.m.. On League Day call Dick Mason at 505-239-3804 if you have any questions.

Members are encouraged to attend sessions in the House and Senate and/or committee hearings before 10:15 a.m. when we will head a down few doors toward the Plaza to the Land Office to hear

Viki Harrison, Executive Director of Common Cause NM:

Voting, Campaign, & Ethics Legislation

Linda Siegle, Lobbyist for the National Association of Social Workers-New Mexico:

The NM Behavioral Health Crisis

Members may leave information at legislators' offices as well as attend hearings in the afternoon.

We need your voice to make a difference on these issues. Please plan to attend.

Lunch will be on your own. There are a number of good, close-by restaurants.

The LWVNM Action Committee will be sending out email Action Alerts throughout the 2014 Legislative session. If you are not part of the LWVNM Action List please go to www.lwvnm.org/action.html and sign up. For further information on League Day, please call 505-884-8441, visit the state website at www.lwvnm.org, or e-mail Dick Mason at action@lwvnm.org.

January 2014

Peter Wirth's Top Ten Tips

At the Lobbying Workshop on Dec. 7, Santa Fe Senator Peter Wirth talked about how the legislature works and how to effectively lobby your elected representatives. He presented his "Top 10 Tips for Citizen Advocacy," a la David Letterman. They are:

10. Don't be scared of the Round House -- it's your building

9. Understand what it takes for a bill to become law.

8. Use the tools on the Legislature's web page: www.nmlegis.gov

7. Email is a great way to communicate with most legislators -- but know your legislators' preferences.

6. A legislator's constituents are generally the best advocates.

5. Be courteous and remember your bill is one of thousands.

4. Bills usually take more than one legislative session to pass.

3. A great place to meet legislators is on the chamber floor before or after session.

2. Speak up at committee meetings.

1. Count your votes and be targeted.

Coffee and Conversation for League

Be an active participant in democracy. Use your League skills. Get acquainted with your city council member. Invite him or her for coffee and ask what their priorities are for the city and share yours. You can do the same with your state senator and representative. Talk as a constituent, not as a representative of League. Use what you have learned in League. When you communicate personally and effectively using League information, good things will happen for democracy. -- Jan Bray

