

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

2315 San Pedro Drive NE, Suite F-6 ♦ Albuquerque, NM 87110-4158 ♦ 505.884.8441 ♦ www.lwvcnm.org ♦ https://www.facebook.com/LWVCNM

February 2016

The VOTER

Volume Issue 02

Albuquerque Public Schools Superintendent to address LWVCNM in February

Acting APS Superintendent Raquel Reedy will present APS Updates to the League of Women Voters^(R) of Central New Mexico during the February Luncheon Unit Meeting on Tuesday, February 16th, 11:45 am, at the MCM Elegante (2020 Menaul Blvd NE).

APS is comprised of an extensive educational network with demographics indicating the diversity of the student population:

- 87,000 students (>1/4 of NM students)
- 142 schools with 6,100 teachers and 15,000 employees
- 20% of students are English language learners
- 2/3 of students qualify for federal school lunch programs
- 72% of schools designated as Title I

APS envisions that Every Child Graduates College and Career Ready with These 21st Century Skills:

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Collaboration and Teamwork
- Adaptability
- Initiative
- Effective Oral and Written Communication
- Ability to Access and Analyze Information
- Creativity and Imagination

LWVNM supports Educational programs that help ensure for all students optimal prospects for success throughout life. LWVNM supports a system of public education that prepares students to function within a changing interdependent society. The APS 21st Century Skills closely align with the 8 LWVNM Education position specific goals.



Raquel Reedy is the acting superintendent for Albuquerque Public Schools. An educator for more than four decades, Reedy began her career as a teacher of the visually impaired in Boston in 1974. She started with APS in 1976 as a special education teacher at [Atrisco Elementary](#).

After an eight-year stint as a personnel specialist in the [APS Human Resources Department](#), Reedy served as principal at E.G. Ross and Mitchell elementary schools before being named associate superintendent for elementary education in 2007, supervising 45 elementary schools. She holds a master's degree in education from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Texas at Austin.

Please note the date change for this presentation. Please make reservations for the February 16th Luncheon Unit Meeting by calling LWVCNM office (884-8441) by 10:00 am Thursday, February 11th. Please specify if you would like a vegetarian meal.

LWVCNM Schedules

Annual Program Planning in February

LWVCNM has scheduled Program Planning for Saturday February 20th at La Vida Llena Nueva Vista Building in the 2nd floor Creative Arts Room. Refreshments will be available for members at 9:30 am followed by Program Planning from 10:00 – 12:00. LWVCNM initiated no new studies during the 2014-15 Program year, and LWVUS is requesting no new national studies 2015-16.continued on page 3

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February 2016

Thursday, February 4th 5:30 pm Board Meeting
Sutin Thayer & Browne

Tuesday, February 9th 6:00 pm LWV Evening Unit
2016 NM Legislature Update
Erna Ferguson Library, 3700 San Mateo Blvd NE

Thursday, February 11th 10:00am Luncheon Reservation Deadline

Monday, February 15th Office Closed for President's Day Holiday

Tuesday, February 16th 11:45 am Luncheon Meeting

Saturday, February 20th 10:00 am Annual LWVCNM Program
Planning (see separate Voter article)

Monday, February 22nd 10:00 am NE Heights Unit
Taina Colon, ACLU Criminal Justice Advocate/APD Forward
APD Progress with DOJ Consent Decree
La Vida Llena, 10501 Lagrima de Oro NE

APD Forward Status February 2016

Instances of Excessive Use of Force by the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) were the basis for the Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation and subsequent 4/10/14 DOJ Findings Letter to the City of Albuquerque [DOJ had undertaken prior investigations with resulting Findings Letters with Detroit (2002), East Haven (2011), New Orleans (2011), Puerto Rico (2011), and Seattle (2011)]. The APD Findings were addressed in the 11/14/14 Settlement Agreement/Consent Decree with DOJ stipulating 280 measures/requirements with four year compliance deadline followed by two year maintenance. Dr. James Ginger, Public Management Resources, was selected as the Independent Monitor of the Consent Decree 1/14/15, reporting APD progress and concerns to the Federal Court regarding compliance with the 280 measures. The DOJ Monitor's initial progress report, "Compliance Levels of the Albuquerque Police Department and City of Albuquerque with Requirements of the Court-Approved Settlement Agreement", was released 11/23/15 and is available on the APD Forward website.

APD Forward is a coalition of Stakeholders and Community Organizations launched 6/7/14 with emphasis on improving community relations with APD and advocating necessary reforms. Initial APD Forward membership included American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU, Lead Organization), League of Women Voters[®] of Central New Mexico, Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless, Disability Rights of NM, NM Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and Strong Families.

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.....LWVCNM Schedules Annual Program

Planning in February *continued from page 1*

2015-16. LWVUS would instead like to refine and improve current LWV National Positions to better address upcoming legislation and 2016 Election year considerations. A template has been provided by LWVUS with required entry by local Leagues prior to March 1, 2016. The template permits a 300 word maximum proposal for each revision with explanation.

LWVUS included two LWV of Tacoma-Pierce County examples resulting from January 2016 LWV Program Planning:

- Update position in four categories (Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, And Social Policy) to recognize the impacts of Climate Change, and help mobilize positive action toward community resiliency in the face of Climate Change.
- Update wording of LWVUS Position on Equality of Opportunity to insert “in all aspects of society” (e.g., health care, government, politics) rather than current “education, employment, and housing” restrictions.

Copies of these two completed example proposals will be available for review during LWVCNM Program Planning. The current LWVUS List of Public Policy Positions includes multiple positions within these four categories:

- Representative Government (Voting Rights, Election Process, Congress and the Presidency, Privatization, Citizens Rights)
- International Relations (United Nations, Trade, US relations with Developing Countries, Arms Control, Military Policy and Defense Spending)
- Natural Resources (Natural Resources, Resource Management, Public Participation, Agricultural Policy)
- Social Policy (Equality of Opportunity, Fiscal Policy, Health Care, Immigration, Meeting Basic Human Needs, Child Care, Gun Control, Urban Policy, Death Penalty, Sentencing Policy)

Complete LWVUS Positions are delineated in the 2015 LWVCNM Member Handbook. Please review all LWVUS positions prior to the February 20th Program Planning and bring your LWVCNM Member Handbook for reference.

La Vida Llena is located at 10501 Lagrima de Oro NE and the Nueva Vista Building is on the SW corner of Juan Tabo and Lagrima de Oro. Parking is available in the church parking lot North of the building.

.....APD Forward Status February 2016

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In 2015 APD Forward efforts included monthly coalition status review meetings, meetings with Mayor Berry and City of Albuquerque officials; Meeting with Albuquerque Chief of Police Eden; meetings with Dr. Ginger, the Independent Monitor of Consent Decree and DOJ attorneys; observing Community Policing Council meetings at several of the APD Commands including discussion of a required APD Ride-Along; Initiating Town Hall meetings to improve APD communication with concerned citizens (initial Youth Town Hall organized by Strong Families and conducted 9/23/15 with LWV volunteers). 2016 events scheduled include January 2016 APD Forward meeting with US Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham and including two APD Forward delegates to the September 2016 National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement conference (www.nacole.org) scheduled in Albuquerque. Taina Cole, ACLU Criminal Justice Advocate, will discuss APD Forward evaluation of the initial DOJ Monitor’s quarterly report of APD Progress against Consent Decree measures at the LWVCNM NE Heights Unit meeting February 22nd.

Book Review

***Street Smart: The Rise of Cities and the Fall of Cars* by Samuel I. Schwartz, 2015, Public Affairs, Member of Perseus Books Group, hardcover, 292 pages.**

This is good readable overview of transportation planning and how it has evolved and impacted cities and their development and current problems. Historically roads carried all types of traffic (vehicles and pedestrians). Only in the early 20th century were they taken over by cars. Also for most of our history roads were primarily in cities, towns, and villages. Intercity roads were usually rough, crude, and often almost impassable. When railroads came along they provided most of the intercity transportation for freight and passengers until the 20th century when motor vehicles (cars, trucks, and buses) took over and the number of miles of roads rapidly grew. As late as the middle of the 20th century many cities had various forms of public transit such as streetcars and trolleys many electrically driven. In many cases the automobile industry bought up and dismantled these systems forcing the transportation system to rely in cars and buses.

Perhaps the largest and most successful transportation project was the Interstate Highway System (IHS), started in the Eisenhower administration. In 1919 Eisenhower had been part of an Army transportation demonstration
.....*continued on page 4*

We are saddened by the loss 2 of our members, Mary Tonya Young and Sei Tokuda. We are thankful for their faithful support through the years and express our deepest sympathy to their loved ones.

.....*Book Review continued from page 3*

project that took 62 day to go from Gettysburg to San Francisco. This experience and seeing the success of the German autobahn system convinced Eisenhower of the importance of a good transportation infrastructure. However, the IHS had mixed results. It provided major benefits and significant economic productivity gain in terms of intercity transportation. However, it was not nearly as successful in providing paths through and around cities. Many smaller cities that the Interstates bypassed suffered economically and shrunk. In major cities the Interstates cut up neighborhoods and created congestion.

The book provides a social and political background in terms of how transportation cannot stand alone but must be an integral part of urban planning. For example, he has a chart on the affordability of major US cities in 2010. When you consider just housing, Washington, San Francisco, New York City, and Miami are among the most expensive. However, when you add in transportation costs, the first three become the least expensive of the top 22 because they have such good public transit systems. Another point he makes is that when the public transportation system is perceived as being primarily for and mostly used by low income groups rather than everyone, it tends to fail. In the US the percentage of transit system users who are at or below the poverty line are 63 percent for small transit system, 51 for medium systems, and 41 for large systems. He thinks that smart transit systems using GPS, smart phones, and extensive information to users about timing and routes will help attract more users.

The book examines each of what he considers the four key aspects of a sustainable and useful urban transportation system. First, there must be enough density and connectivity to make active transportation (i.e. walking and biking) practical for many people. Second, there should be multiple methods of transportation (multimodality) and there should be multiple points where they connect. Third, the transportation system should take full advantage of intelligent systems. Fourth, the networks should be accessible everywhere, all the time, by everyone. This is a good book for anyone interested in transportation, land use, and urban development and especially those interested in how these areas interact. Olin Bray

Has the "Civil" Disappeared from Our Civil Society?

Many of us remember the days when election campaigns, federal and legislative proceedings, and certainly, "affairs of State" were conducted in a manner that could be described as "civil discourse." There may have been strong feelings from different perspectives expressed, but there was always an underlying sense of courtesy and grace in public interactions; there were mutually acceptable lines that could not be crossed.

Today, unfortunately, we not only hear about, but are witness to vicious, personal attacks by candidates, our elected leaders and citizens trying to be recognized. We need to stop this lack of civility. Can the League of Women Voters^(R) play a role in restoring courtesy to government and public discourse in general? I strongly believe we can!

The League has thoughtful, sound positions about such matters as transparency in government, fairness in elections and access to voter registration, the need to minimize air pollution, and for a fair and impartial judiciary; these are passionate issues. Yet today, this passion often calls forth needless, mean attacks.

The League, by the way in which WE conduct our education and advocacy, can impact the degree of civility as these issues are presented to the public. We are inclusive. We present all sides in our educational forums where all views can be heard and discussed. We are respectful in language and demeanor in our advocacy role. We attack the issue rather than the person.

Despite what one might think when listening to the "talking heads" on radio and television, I believe the public hungers for a rational, objective, nonpartisan and balanced discussion of the issues. Citizens really want courtesy and stability, not the rancor and vitriol of today's media hype.

Over the coming months, we should work to do what League does best. We will present voter education and information in an interesting, exciting way that allows voters to think for themselves and to look forward to, rather than dread, election season 2016.

Let's work together to restore civil discourse and encourage our political leaders, the media and our fellow citizens to follow our example. Mary G. Wilson

The League sends its sympathies to Chris Burroughs and her family on the loss of their son Stacy.