

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

December 2016

The VOTER

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UNM Professor Sierra to discuss 2016 Election Outcome in December

UNM Political Science Professor Emeritus, Dr. Christine Sierra, will address the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico during the December 8th General Meeting. Dr. Sierra previously served as Director of the Southwest Hispanic Research Institute and can provide a valuable perspective on the General Election and insight into the 2016 Latino vote. Professor Sierra will discuss the 2016 election demographics and outcome in her address to the LWVCNM General Meeting on Thursday, December 8th, 11:45 am, at the MCM Elegante (2020 Menaul Blvd NE).

A member of the UNM faculty since 1986, Professor Sierra taught and researched in the field of American politics with a focus on race, ethnicity, and gender. Her publications include work on Mexican American activism on immigration policy, Hispanic politics in New Mexico, and the politics of Latina women in the United States. Sierra has been a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution, the University of Arizona, and the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. As an expert in American and Latino/a politics, she appears frequently in local and national media outlets. During presidential elections, she has also appeared in the international press, including Canadian Broadcasting Company (CBC), *Libération* (Paris), *Carta Capital* (Sao Paulo), *Suddeutsche Zeitung* (Munich), *Franfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* (Frankfurt), *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* (Zurich), and the *Asahi Shimbun* (Japan).

Dr. Sierra was a member of the Immigration Policy Roundtable co-sponsored by the Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University and the Brookings Institution. An expert in American Politics, Sierra researched and taught in the subfields of race, ethnicity, and gender politics. Her recent major research project was a national study of elected officials of color in the United States. This study, known as the Gender and Multicultural Leadership Project (GMCL), investigates the backgrounds, trajectories to office, political attitudes and policy positions of African American, Hispanic, Asian Americans serving in federal, state, and local office. Sierra is also an expert on Latino/a politics, at the national level and in the state of New Mexico. She examines Latino/a electoral behavior as well Latino political mobilization, including social movement activism and community-based organization. She also has a longstanding research focus on the politics of U.S. immigration.

In August 2011, Professor Sierra was appointed as Director of UNM's Southwest Hispanic Research Institute (SHRI), whose sixty-two affiliated faculty engage in historical and contemporary research on Hispanic populations and communities in local, regional, national, and transnational contexts.

Please make reservations for the December 8th Luncheon Unit Meeting by calling the LWVCNM office (884-8441) by 10:00 am Monday, December 5th.

Please specify if you would like a vegetarian meal.

Evening Unit - Will not meet in December

NE Heights Unit - Will not meet in December

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Office Hours
December 1-16
Monday - Friday
10 am to Noon

December 19-January 2
CLOSED

December 2016

Thursday, December 1st 5:30 pm Board Meeting
Landmark Apartments, Library
6303 Indian School Rd NE

Monday, December 5th 10:00 am Luncheon Reservation Deadline

Thursday, December 8th 11:45 am Luncheon Meeting
MCM Eleganté Hotel Albuquerque
2020 Menaul NE

Saturday, December 10th 10:00 am Workshop
New Mexico State Capitol,
Old Santa Fe Trail

Monday, December 19th through Monday January 2nd Office Closed

Membership Update

New Members who have joined since October 1

Melissa Axelrod, Susan Blasco, Idabelle Courtney,
Eileen Devereux, Angelique Gertig, Christine Hajek,
Evelyn Kelley, Deirdre O'Connor,
Bob and Mary Plane, Ann Ramenotsky,
Eve Robinson, Marion Schloemer, Herbert Thompson,
Karl Schwerin, Linda Stover, Trenia Walker, Molly Whitt



Thanks to all of you who renewed your membership for 2016-2017. We have a great group of League members, and during this major election year, we've been very busy during the last several months. If you have not yet sent in your renewal, do not despair, as it will still be accepted. However, in order for you to be included in the 2017 Member Handbook directory, we need to have your renewal within the next several weeks. You may send a check of \$60 to the League office at 2315 San Pedro NE, F-6, Albuquerque, NM 87.110. Or, you may pay dues with PayPal by way of the Join/Renew option at the LWVCNM website, [League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico](http://www.lwvcnm.org) . *Gail Owens*

Effective Citizen's Advocacy at the Roundhouse- Workshop

Saturday, December 10, 2016 - 10 AM to noon
New Mexico State Capitol, Old Santa Fe Trail
Senator Peter Wirth, Representative Jimmie Hall, and Minda McGonagle

APD Forward

The Nov 3rd meeting of APD Forward was devoted to the Monitor's Fourth report, a damning account for APD's non-compliance and the lack of response to findings and disciplinary recommendations. This non-compliance includes Chief Eden and to specific requests for information by CPOA (Civilian Police Oversight) and POB (Police Oversight Board). These organizations will be responsible for the work of the Monitor once APD has fulfilled obligations under CASA (Court Ordered Settlement Agreement). The ACLU has the opinion that the APD appears to be in violation of CASA and Albuquerque's city ordinance.

The last hour of the meeting was concerned with the CPOA; Executive Director Ed Harness feels the Monitor has worked hard to gain the cooperation of APD but his efforts have been thwarted. His attitude toward APD seems to be changing. Director Harness says CPOA and POB work well with the Monitor's Team. The new District Attorney, Raul Torres, will be at the next coalition meeting.

A Status Hearing on November 18th was held and Judge Brack will submit his response afterward. The Judge has the power to force compliance. The Monitor's tone, (Dr. Ginger) and interaction reflects his concern about APD's compliance.

One section of the agreement has had good progress. The specialty teams (K-9, SWAT, Bomb) have made positive changes with leaders who apply best practices, stay current with any changes and articulate clear commands.

Peggy Howell

Book Review

Harry & Arthur: Truman, Vandenberg, and the Partnership That Created the Free World by Lawrence J. Haas, 2016, Potomac Press (University of Nebraska Press), Hardcover, 323 pages.

Given our current stalemated government it is useful to see how bipartisanship has worked in the past and hopefully may some day work again. It may be even more important after January.

The book focuses on the bipartisanship between Truman and Vandenberg, the Republican senator who was the

Senate guru on foreign policy. During the period (1947 to 1952) Truman had to deal with a Republican congress, but still got four major foreign policy initiatives through – the formation of the UN, the Truman Doctrine (initially for the defense of Greece and Turkey), the Marshall Plan, and NATO. Truman and Vandenberg had similar perspectives and attitudes about the Soviet Union that made their cooperation easier. Truman proposed the policy initiatives, modified them based on Vandenberg's suggestions, and Vandenberg got them through the Senate.

Although they had some disagreements about the draft UN charter, Truman appointed Vandenberg as one of the US delegates to the San Francisco conference to finalize the charter. Vandenberg could make his case there, where he led opposition to many of the Soviet Union's proposals to hobble the UN. In other cases he got his way by explaining that he needed something to get the treaty through the Senate, since no one wanted the US to stay out like it had with the League of Nations, when Wilson had refused to compromise on anything. Haas's description of the development of the Marshall Plan shows even more the give and take of bipartisanship. Some White House staffers wanted it to be called the Truman Plan. However, with a Republican Senate and given Marshall's hero status after the war, Truman knew it would be much harder for them to vote against a Marshall Plan than a Truman Plan. Truman and Vandenberg both realized in 1947 that further aid to Europe needed to be based on a systematic plan developed by the Europeans, not piecemeal, ad hoc aid to specific countries. To preempt the argument that the US was dividing Europe, the Marshall Plan was initially open to all of Europe, although as expected the Soviet Union and its satellites rejected it. The original plan was for \$17 billion over four years. And remember in 1947 \$17 billion was real money, especially to a Republican Senate that even then wanted to cut taxes and shrink government. Furthermore, this came only months after they had approved \$500 million for Greece and Turkey under the new Truman Doctrine. Truman and Vandenberg eventually evolved it into something more acceptable that Vandenberg could get through the Senate. Some wanted the plan and the budget authorized on an annual basis since one Senate could not commit a subsequent Senate. How

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Book Review Continued from page 3 ... ever, the overall plan was important, so the compromise was to approve the full four year plan, but authorize the budget on an annual basis. A further benefit was that this dropped to initial cost from \$17 billion to only \$6.8 billion, which was more acceptable to a Congress that wanted to cut taxes. Vandenberg carefully orchestrated his committee hearings by selecting who to testify and with leading question to get out the information that addressed possible objections. For example, witnesses pointed out that some of the plan involved government to government grants and other parts involved loans, so the actual government commitment was really only \$5.3 billion. He also had the Secretary of Defense testify that without the Marshall Plan defense expenditures would have to increase significantly given current Soviet actions, so the incremental costs would be even less. Vandenberg's committee reported out the plan unanimously and the Senate approved it by 69 to 17. Between 1948 and 1951 the Marshall Plan provided \$16 billion in aid to sixteen countries and got the European economy restarted. The book is very interesting as an example of how government should work through negotiating and bargaining to try to solve serious problems. It also provides a good insight into four major foreign policy initiatives at a critical point in history.

Olin

Happy Holidays!

December 2016