



THE VOTER

April 2009

League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico
Serving Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia Counties

2403 San Mateo NE, W-16C
Albuquerque, NM 87110
505-884-8441
www.lwvcnm.org

Diane Goldfarb
President

Aileen Gatterman
Voter Editor

APRIL UNIT MEETINGS — GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND FINANCE REFORM

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE ETHICAL CONDUCT OF OFFICIALS IN OUR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS?

Corruption, proven and suspected, at all levels of government has enraged many citizens. The 2009 New Mexico Legislature was swamped with reform bills. There were bills that proposed limiting campaign contributions, providing for more disclosure and better reporting of campaign funds' use and source, establishing an independent Ethics Commission and providing access to deliberations in the House and Senate to mention a few. In three units different legislative leaders will present their views of the results of some of these bills.

The fourth unit will consider ethics and public financing of campaigns in Albuquerque from a City Charter and Ordinance point of view. In 2007, the candidates for the Albuquerque City Council were able to run for office through public financing. In October 2009, the Mayoral election is open to the same opportunity. Now the Charter Task Force, established by a 2008 City Ordinance, is considering inconsistencies within the Charter and between the Charter and City Ordinances. Can such governmental documents build public confidence in elected officials and control the huge expenditure of money to run campaigns?

Thursday, April 9, 11:45 a.m., Luncheon Unit

Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel, 2910 Yale SE (Reservations reqd*)

Speaker: State Representative Al Park

Topic: Making Changes in Ethics Reform

Wednesday, April 15, 12 Noon, Sandoval County Unit

Corrales Community Center, 4234 Corrales Road

Speakers — Invited: State Senators Kent Cravens, Sander Rue, John C. Ryan, John M. Sapien; and State Representatives Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert, Cathy A. McCoy, Benjamin H. Rodefer, Jack E. Thomas

Topic: Governmental Ethics: What Happened in the 2009 Legislature?

Monday, April 20, 1:30 p.m. Midtown Unit

Manzano del Sol, Hobby Room, 5201 Roma NE

Speaker: State Senator Eric Griego

Topic: One Reform Idea: Voluntary Campaign Financing for State Offices

Tuesday, April 21, 6:00 p.m., Evening Unit

Erna Fergusson Library, 3700 San Mateo Blvd NE

Speaker: David S. Campbell, Attorney at Law; Member, Charter Task Force

Topic: Ethics Reform: What Is Happening in Albuquerque?

*Cost of the luncheon is \$17, payable at the door. Reservations are required. Call the office at 884-8441 by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 7. If you prefer a fruit plate rather than the menu item, please let us know at the time you make your reservations. *Please note change in cost of luncheon.*

IN THIS VOTER

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 2, 2009

**Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel
2910 Yale SE**

Speaker: Congressman Martin Heinrich

**Topic: "Goals, Experiences as a Freshman
In the U.S. House"**

Schedule of Events

Registration	9:00-9:30 a.m.
Business Meeting	9:30-11:00 a.m.
Brunch	11:00 a.m.

Your Annual Meeting packet is included in this VOTER

**Please make your reservations by Monday, April 27
Reservation information is in Annual Meeting packet**

Also in May:

**May 15-17 LWVNM Convention—Albuquerque
Save your special items for the silent auction!**

**LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF
CENTRAL NEW MEXICO**

Board Meeting

1st Thursday of each month
5:30 p.m.
Offices of
Sutin, Thayer & Browne
6565 Americas Parkway NE

Program Committees

Check with the following
League members about
community activities:

Advocacy

Delores Watkins

Drug Policy

Delores Watkins

Natural Resources

JoAnne Ramponi

Includes transportation,
land use, air quality,
water and energy

All League members
are welcome at all
unit meetings, committee,
and board meetings.

The *VOTER* is published
each month by the
League of Women Voters
of Central New Mexico.

IN MEMORIAM

Our deepest sympathy
to League member Andrea
Targhetta on the death of
her mother, Ramona Ayer,
in February.

President's Corner

Dear Members,

Please take a few minutes to read the reports on the pages of this issue to see what LWVCNM has been up to this year. Also take note of the fine slate of officers and directors being proposed by the Nominating Committee. Not only are you being asked to elect co-presidents for the coming year but to elect our first male co-president. The proposed 2008-2009 Board of Directors will then have a total of three men on it--a first. Jan and Olin Bray are long-time and committed Leaguers. Jan is a second-generation League member who has served previously on the local board, and Olin, a past member of the state board, is currently on the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force. I hope you'll put May 2 on your calendar and plan to attend the Annual Meeting, take part in making decisions for your League, and hear our new Congressman Martin Heinrich.

You will notice that in April the price of the monthly luncheon and the Annual Meeting brunch will go up. Meals will no longer include dessert--a decision made by regular meeting attendees in order to keep the cost from going up even more.

And on May 15-17 LWVCNM will host the state convention in Albuquerque. Details will be included in the next issue of *La Palabra* and in the May issue of the *Voter*. We hope LWVCNM members, even those not who are not delegates to the convention, will be interested in attending workshops and listening to the speakers. Dr. Emile Nakhleh, author of *A Necessary Engagement: Reinventing America's Relations with the Muslim World*, will be the featured speaker at the May 16 dinner, so please mark your calendars for that date, too. Please call Andrea Targhetta if you have items for the silent auction.

Diane Goldfarb

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN COST OF LUNCHEONS

As mentioned in the President's column above, the cost of the luncheon for the Luncheon Unit meetings will be \$17 beginning in April. This raise in cost is primarily due to a change in the ownership of the Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel; the hotel will soon become part of the Sheraton chain. Other factors involved are the general increase in costs in many areas.

LWVCNM BOARD HIGHLIGHTS — March 5, 2009

- Annual budget for 2009-2010 was recommended for presentation to the membership at the May 2 Annual Meeting;
- Board approved proposed changes in the LWVCNM program to be presented at the Annual Meeting;
- Membership Committee announced that the March 28 Valencia County meeting with legislators had been cancelled due to difficulties with arrangements;
- The Office Search Committee was authorized to pursue a contract on an office location that seems to meet requirements;
- Board accepted with regret Voter Service Chair Dolores Waller's letter of resignation.

LWVCNM EDUCATION FUND BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- A fund raising letter for the Education fund will be mailed in April.

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING 2009
League of Women Voters of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County

Saturday, May 2, 2009
Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel
2910 Yale SE

Speaker: Congressman Martin T. Heinrich
Representative from New Mexico's 1st District
Topic: "Goals, Experiences as a Freshman in the U.S. House"

Schedule of Events

Registration	9:00-9:30 a.m.
Business Meeting	9:30-11:00 a.m.
Brunch	11:00 a.m.*

Annual Meeting Agenda

Adoption of Agenda
Recognition of Board and Committee Chairs
Adoption of Rules for Annual Meeting
Minutes of 2008 Annual Meeting
Appointment of Readers for 2009 Annual Meeting Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Finance Report
Adoption of Program for 2009-2010
Adoption of Budget for 2009-2010
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 or vote on a motion.

*The cost of the brunch is \$20. Please make your reservation(s) with the League office — by phone, 884-8441, or by sending your check — so that your reservation(s) are received by Monday, April 27. You are responsible for the cost of any reservations that you make, and you will be billed for the cost if you do not attend and have not cancelled by the April 27 deadline.

ANNUAL MEETING — ADOPTION OF PROGRAM

LWVCNM Board of Directors Program Planning Report

State Program: No recommendations

Local Program Recommendations:

— Discontinue Public School Governance Study

— Changes in positions to reflect our new boundaries and to correct grammatical errors; old language is ~~struck through~~ and proposed language is underlined.

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. (2002, Rev. 2003, 2007)

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 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 Central New Mexico 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 by Albuquerque Public Schools (APS).

Emphasis on basic skills which 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 ~~a~~ community colleges ~~in Albuquerque~~ which that should offer certificates and associates 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 APS school and public libraries and the Albuquerque Public Library which 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 ~~Albuquerque~~ Albuquerque ~~P public S~~ schools by a committee which consists of administrators, teachers, and parents and ~~which that~~ which 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 which 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 which that allows for informal resolution of controversy and a systematic reconsideration procedure for textbook and library materials.

HEALTH CARE

LWVCNM supports health care, mental health care, preventive and educational health programs, comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion ~~(which includes abortion)~~, and home health care.

ANNUAL MEETING — ADOPTION OF PROGRAM

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

HOUSING

The City 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, nonprofit organizations, and/or foundations.

We support the following guidelines for City government assisted housing:

- a. City 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. City 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.

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, Sections 3 & 3a 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.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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

Support for the city 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 in Albuquerque and Bernalillo County.

Support for the City of Albuquerque 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 the city and county Albuquerque and Bernalillo County.

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

Support for nonpartisan local government elections.

Support for:
a. The present Mayor/Council form of government for Albuquerque;
b. Nonpartisan city elections;
c. 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 a percentage of voters having voted in the last mayoral election, or of registered voters, or of population of the city.

ANNUAL MEETING - ADOPTION OF PROGRAM/ANNUAL REPORTS

LOCAL POSITIONS *Continued from page 5*

LAND USE

Land use decisions must be made with consideration ~~to~~ 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 ~~which~~ that promote orderly growth of ~~Albuquerque/ Bernalillo County~~. These shall include:

- a. ~~Urban~~ Finfill, to include residential building in downtown and mid-city 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.

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 ~~which~~ that includes citizens with voting powers.

WATER

Support for coordinated regional water planning.

**ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS
PRESIDENT**

**Advocacy, Technology,
Public Relations, Office**

The past year began with an event of great significance to our League: the membership voted at the 2008 Annual Meeting to change our name to the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico, and our boundaries to include not only Bernalillo County but Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia counties. Since that time we have met all of the legal requirements for a name change; the bylaws now reflect the change, as do our newsletter, handbook and website. We have new signs and a banner. Our internal policies contain the new name and other updates. Recommendations for changes in our positions to reflect the new boundaries will be presented to the membership for a vote at Annual Meeting. As our stationery is depleted new stationery will reflect the current name. Notifying people with whom we do business is an ongoing task

As a result of the boundary changes, several members in Sandoval County have done an outstanding job of distributing our publications and promoting the League throughout the county. Members in Valencia County also worked to promote the League and to distribute the *Voters' Guide*. We hope one day to have a unit that meets in that county also.

The 2008 general election almost overwhelmed us. Public interest in the election meant a large volume of calls to the office, many requests for voter services, a greatly expanded *Voters' Guide* and a first ever public "launching" of the *Guide*. We sponsored a couple of forums, moderated and kept time for others. But we were not done after the election. A December "Meet the Legislators" reception was highly successful--this event continues to get better each year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *(Continued on page 10)*

ANNUAL MEETING — BYLAWS; NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

BYLAWS

The Board of Directors recommends approval of the following changes to the Bylaws to provide for co-presidents:

ARTICLE IV Board of Directors

Sec. 5. Meetings. There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President or a Co-President may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a meeting upon the written request of five (5) members of the Board. When necessary for the timely conducting of business, a polling of the Board of Directors by telephone, at the direction of the President or a Co-President, shall constitute a special meeting of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V Officers

Sec. 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of LWVCNM shall be a President or Co-Presidents, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Third Vice-President, a Fourth Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer who shall be elected for terms of two years by the general members at an Annual Meeting and take office immediately. The President or Co-Presidents, the First Vice-President, the Fourth Vice-President and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Second Vice-President, the Third Vice-President and the

Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.

Sec. 2. The President or Co-Presidents. The office of President may be held by Co-Presidents The President or a Co-President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and the Board of Directors. The President or a Co-President may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The President or Co-Presidents shall be ex-officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President or Co-Presidents shall have such powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

Sec. 3. The Vice-Presidents. The four Vice-Presidents, in the order of rank, shall, in the event of the absence, disability or death of both of the Co-Presidents, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office. In the event that none of the Vice-Presidents are able to serve in this capacity, the Board of Directors shall elect one of its members to fill the vacancy. The Vice-Presidents shall perform such other duties as the President or Co-

Presidents and Board may designate.

Sec. 4. The Secretary. The Secretary shall keep minutes of the Annual Meeting and of all meetings of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election. The Secretary shall sign, with the President or a Co-President, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.

ARTICLE VI

Financial Administration

Sec. 5. Transfers of Property. Subject to Board approval, any two of the following officers, the President or a Co-President, the Vice-Presidents and the Secretary or Treasurer, shall have the authority to assign, endorse transfer, and deliver, in the name and on behalf of LWVCNM, any certificate of stock, bond, note, or other property belonging to the League. The Secretary or Treasurer shall have the authority to affix and attest the seal of LWVCNM to any agreement, assignment or other document executed by any officer of LWVCNM pursuant to authority granted by these Bylaws or by action of the Board of Directors.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Officers

Co-Presidents	Jan and Olin Bray	2009-2011	1st term
1st Vice President	Josephine Porter	2009-2011	2nd term
4th Vice President	Eileen Longsworth	2009-2011	1st term
Secretary	Pati Brummett	2009-2011	1st term

Elected Directors (2 year terms)

Mary Smith	2009-2011	1st term
Laura Stokes	2009-2011	1st term
Gayle Prinkey	2009-2011	1st term

Director (to fill unexpired term)

Karen Wentworth	2009-2010
-----------------	-----------

Nominating Committee (1 year terms)

Diane Goldfarb, Chair	Submitted by 2008-2009 Nominating Committee:	
Carolyn Lindberg	Jan Bandrofchak	Dee Watkins
Meg Went	Geta Gatterman	Helen Wright, Chair
	Eileen Longsworth	

ANNUAL MEETING — BUDGETS

ANNUAL MEETING — BUDGETS

ANNUAL MEETING — REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Continued from page 6)

One disappointing development was the loss of the lawsuit in which LWVCNM was a plaintiff. Along with others, we challenged the photo identification requirement for voters in Albuquerque municipal elections. The case was decided in our favor at the district court level; however, this year the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed that decision. Not the outcome we hoped for, but an interesting experience just the same. We will see how the City implements this requirement in the fall.

LWVCNM is fortunate to have a capable and committed Board of Directors and off-board Committee Chairs. They have seen that this organization is well run and strong. Reports of their activities are to be found in the following pages. Not surprisingly, our membership has once again increased over the past year, a tribute to the hard work of these individuals. Thank you all.

Diane Goldfarb

Advocacy

This Committee works to “Advance Advocacy of League Positions” (LWVCNM Board Goal IV). There are five activities to guide the Committee and all five activities were completed this past year. A base of experience has been established and priority issues of Ethics, Campaign Finance Reform, Voter ID, Pay Equity for Women and Pain Management were monitored.

Educating about issues can be daunting since opportunities to act can come forward suddenly on many League positions on the local, state and national levels. The most effective way to keep current on multiple positions is by email—including listserves and email discussion groups— and by telephone. This year the Committee used these communications as well as post cards, posters and booth displays.

Committee members read and sorted out information, summarized this information, and notified League members of advocacy opportunities. The Committee’s greatest challenge is to keep a focus for effective action and find interested members to help with monitoring and writing statements for action.

Perhaps you have a special interest in a topic which is supported by a League position. There are several ways you can contribute to moving this topic forward. You can:

- Observe meetings (such as the Albuquerque Charter Task Force which is looking at the election, ethics and public financing of campaigns) ;
- Review sound and/or video presentations;
- Help draft League statements of support or opposition.

Notices in the *Voter* and on the LWVCNM ListServe provide the details of meeting date, time, location and agenda. We could do more on your topic of interest with your help. Join us.

Dee Watkins, Chair

Technology

As LWV/ABC went through the process of changing its name to LWVCNM, Technology kept up. We obtained a new Internet domain, *lwvcnm.org*, and pointed it at the existing website, so that people could reach the League's website by both *www.lwvabc.org* and *www.lwvcnm.org*. We updated information on the site to reflect the new name and tweaked the style sheets to give the website a slightly different look, particularly the home page.

We replaced the *LWVABCTopicsListserve* mailing list with the briefer *LWVCNMTopics* and at last figured out how to subscribe members without going through the cumbersome "invite" process, where a member receives an invitation email and must respond in order to be added to the list. We added, with permission of the Board, all members giving email addresses. Only a few have subsequently unsubscribed, and list membership is now at a high of nearly 250. If you are somehow not on the list, there is now a convenient "Subscribe" button on the "News" page.



Illustration by Judy Green based on Wikipedia logo

Because of this demonstrated experience in listserve management, the LWVNM Action committee asked us to create a mailing list for them as well, adding the 36 current members. *LWVNMAction* is now helping interested members communicate and keep track of legislative activity as the 60-day session proceeds. Any League member is welcome to subscribe; see the LWVNM "Action" page at www.lwvnm.org/action.html.

Besides the League's name change, there were four elections this year. We posted the *Voters' Guide* for the Fall General Election in PDF form (in its entirety, and by parts), as well as a web version (20 new web pages - with color photos!) Since no *Voters' Guides* were produced for the February Democratic Presidential Primary, the June State Primary, or the 2009 APS/CNM Election, we just updated the "ElectionInfo" page with the usual information on voter registration, polling places, early and absentee voting, and where available, non-League but nonpartisan information on the candidates and issues.

At the behest of President Diane Goldfarb, we added a button to enable people to contribute online to the League's Ed Fund. We updated the League's Internet Policy and are assisting Josephine Porter in preparing a companion document.

We have also tried to keep the website updated by including new information from each *Voter* as it comes out, including posting the *Voter* in PDF form, and highlighting special events, such as the Health Care Community Decision meeting held as part of a nationwide project by the Obama-Biden transition team, the Lobbyist Training Workshop, and League Day at the Legislature.

Cheryl Haaker, Technology Chair

ANNUAL MEETING — REPORTS

Public Relations

Since August 2009 I have the public relations (PR) for LWVCNM. Media used for PR has included flyers, newspapers and the national public radio stations. The information used to publicize the four League units has come from the *Voter*. Each month Michelle MacDonald receives an advance copy of the completed *Voter*, reviews it for items for PR and then forwards it to me.

Press releases have been sent to the following newspapers: *Albuquerque Journal*, *Alibi*, *Corrales Comment*, *Corrales Main Street News*, *Jemez Thunder*, *Local iQ*, *Prime Time*, *Rio Rancho Journal*, *West Side Journal*, *Rio Rancho Observer*, *Sandoval Sentinel*, and *Sandoval Signpost*. Of the national public radio stations, press releases were sent to KUNM for the March unit meetings and to KANW to publicize the *Who's Who*.

Our press releases were published fairly regularly and follow-up revealed that lack of space was usually the reason when they were not. Perhaps the best article was in the *Rio Rancho Journal* on February 5, 2009 announcing, with a large font headline, the 2009 *Who's Who*.

To give proper credit, PR for the other major League publication this year, the *Voters' Guide*, was handled by Janet Ford — my contribution was a flyer for the launching. Marge Swartz has been a great help in following up on publications which receive press releases. I welcome those who will assist in keeping track of what gets published; this is important in determining how to better promote our events and services. It is my opinion that PR should be tailored to the perceived audience of a publication rather than sending a canned release to everyone. There is room for improvement here! Perhaps we should consider using TV for some PR. Your suggestions on ways we could improve would be most welcome.

Therese Barts

League Office

The people who volunteer at the office are the voice and face of the League of Women Voters to the public. One of the best statements seems to be that the League is the place to call if you really need an answer. Sometimes people will say that they have called the County Clerk or the party headquarters and they have been referred to us for the answer to their question.

The office is open from 9:30 a.m. to noon on weekdays. Our custom of being open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on election days may change due to the County Clerk's new system for people to find polling places and registration and our website connection to that system.

JoAnne Ramponi, Interim Office Manager

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**Voter Services, Publications, Community Education**

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 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 Community 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.

Josephine Porter

Publications

Shirley Ash is League Publications Chair. We produced 12,000, 2009 *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. The *2008 General Election Voters' Guide* was a great success. We have also reviewed and updated the League's "Guidelines for Conducting a Forum."

2008 Voters' Guide

The *2008 General Election Voters' Guide* was an outstanding success. A whopping 48 pages, the *Guide* presented voter information on all of the candidates and issues on the ballot in three counties in LWVCNM's service area, Bernalillo, Sandoval and Valencia. We printed 60,000 copies but tens of thousands more viewed the *Voters' Guide* on our website www.lwvcnm.org. As a testament to our respected status as the premier voter education publication, out of 123 candidates in contested races, only 15 did not reply to our candidate questionnaire. This year we expanded our *Voters' Guide* coverage to Valencia County and we were enthusiastically received as all candidates responded to our questionnaires. The *2008 General Election Voters' Guide* was an all-volunteer effort with more than 70 of our members helping with every aspect of the publication, from gathering information

(Continued on page 12)

ANNUAL MEETING — REPORTS

(Continued from page 11)

through proof reading and distributing. To fund this huge undertaking the LWVCNM Education Fund had donations from over a hundred of our members and from other supporters throughout the community; we are especially grateful to PNM. We also received grants from LWVNM and from the Education Fund of LWVUS and the Program on Constitutional and Legal Policy of the Open Society Institute. As always, our long time supporter and publisher, Automated Election Services, a certified trademark of Ink Impressions, provided both financial and incalculable professional service and support. We are very fortunate to have them as our publisher.

Josephine Porter and Andrea Targhetta
Voters' Guide Co-Editors

Community Education

Prior to the November 2008 General Election the League sponsored a Judicial Candidates Forum. Five of the candidates up for election attended: Justice Charles Daniels, Judges Reed Sheppard, Kevin Fitzwater, Elizabeth Whitefield and Maria Dominguez. Their enthusiastic and informative response helped the League meet its overall goal of educating the audience to the importance of "Safeguarding U.S. Democracy by Promoting an Independent Judiciary." Over 90% of the audience returned the questionnaires and gave the League high marks for the meeting.

The committee welcomed the involvement of the community. The forum was held at Bondurant Lecture Hall, UNM School of Law. Six Law School student organizations volunteered and provided enthusiastic support by copying, posting and distributing 360 flyers and placing directional signs, setting up the lecture and outside halls, and by assisting with question card distribution. The American Association of University Women served light refreshments.

A Channel 7 reporter interviewed President Diane Goldfarb and stayed to provide coverage for the 10:00 p.m. news.

League volunteers Diane Goldfarb moderated, Josephine Porter and Lora Lucero sorted questions, Cheryl Haaker served as timekeeper, Karen Douglas and Vivian Skadron distributed and collected question cards, Axel Haaker, Don Goldfarb and Josephine Porter took photos.

The forum was supported by a grant from the League of Women Voters Education Fund and the Program on Constitutional and Legal Policy of the Open Society Institute.

Donna Hill

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT Membership, Unit Coordinator, Voter

Lisa Franzen, Geta Gatterman, JoAnne Ramponi, Kathy Altobelli and the Membership Committee have done an excellent job in providing LWVCNM with membership and membership services in the past year resulting in an excellent newsletter, meeting coordination and membership development. We will continue to promote active participation of members, and support leadership development in the membership to continue the great work of the League.

Ann Kirkpatrick

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has been active this year. We had the new members get together at the home of President Diane Goldfarb in June. There were 40 members and friends who attended this event. This is an annual event for our new members and board members to get acquainted and find out what is happening in League.

We had our Membership Luncheon in September at Immanuel Presbyterian Church. We are planning on having this event again this fall. Look for the date in the *Voter*. We need your help to make this event a success.

We also held a fall get acquainted event at the Corrales home of Ann Kirkpatrick. We will be planning other events around the area for the coming year.

If you are interested in joining the Membership Committee or would like to offer your home for an upcoming event, just call JoAnne at 298-2716.

JoAnne Ramponi, Chair

Unit Coordinator

Monthly attendance for all four units in the past 12 months has ranged from a low of 38 to a high of 105. A search committee evaluated sites for a possible change of location of the Luncheon Unit. The recommendation was made to the Board to continue meeting at the current location which will become a Sheraton facility this April. The Evening Unit has changed location to the Erna Fergusson Library on San Mateo. To highlight programs and speakers, monthly calls and emails are being made for upcoming meetings each month.

Lisa Franzen, Unit Coordinator

Voter

As of the Annual Meeting I will be turning publication of the *Voter* over to a new editor. It has been an honor to have held this position.

Geta Aileen Gatterman, Editor

ANNUAL MEETING — REPORTS

**THIRD VICE PRESIDENT
Program**

This was my third year in this position. I have appreciated the assistance of Dee Watkins, Drug Policy Study Group Coordinator; and Jan Bray, School Governance Study Group Coordinator. In addition, I would like to thank Lisa Franzen, Unit Coordinator and the Coordinators of the individual Unit meetings.

I want to express my special thanks to Michelle MacDonald who has been my Programs Coordinator for the last two years. Her professionalism and attention to every little detail has made my job that much easier. Michelle is leaving the Board in May to return to her native New England. She will be missed.

Dick Mason

Units

Each of the four League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico (LWVCNM) Units meet once a month—in September, October, November, January, February, March, and April. Unit meetings' locations, days, and times are set to allow everyone an opportunity to attend at least one meeting each month. The topics and speakers for this past year follow:

September: "Repealing the Death Penalty." Speakers included: LWVCNM representative on the NM Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty; Patrick Tyrell, Co-Chair of the NM Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty and Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers in NM; and Juan Melendez, a board member of the NM Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty and an exonerated Florida death row inmate.

October: "Tax Increment Development Districts (TIDDS)." Speakers included Bob Hearn, a retired research engineer and DOD program manager; Javier Benavidez, state-wide outreach director of the Conservation Voters NM Education Fund; Anne Stauffer, policy analyst with NM Voices for Children; and Lora Lucero, a member of LWVCNM and League of Women Voters of New Mexico (LWVNM) director with responsibility in the realm of natural resources and public policy.

November: "Fair Representation Study Group: Consensus on Redistricting." Facilitators included members of the Fair Representation Study Group: Cheryl Haaker (Chair); Katherine Campbell (LWVNM President/LWV Los Alamos); Lisa Franzen, Judith Binder, Delores Watkins, Josephine Porter (LWVCNM); and Barbara Goedecke (LWV of Greater Las Cruces).

January: "Pain, Drugs and Prison: The Connection and Issues." Speakers included Charles A. King, NM Corrections Bureau Chief-Addiction Services and Pamela Brown, RN, MPH, Epidemiologist; Jeanne Block, RN, Methamphetamine Project Coordinator for the Drug Policy Alliance New Mexico; Staff from the **Mind** Research Network for Neural Diagnostic Discovery; and Sally Moore, Director, Empowering Our Communities in New Mexico.

February: "Voters' Issues." Speakers included Andrew G. Schultz, Attorney at Law; Margaret Toulouse Oliver, Bernalillo County Clerk; Mary Wilson, President, LWVUS; and Mary Herrera, NM Secretary of State.

March: "Sunshine Week: Civil Liberties." Speakers included Peter C. Simmons, Executive Director, ACLU-NM; Gary King, NM Attorney General; Mona Valicenti, NM Attorney General's Office, Civil Division.

April: "Progress in Campaign Ethics and Reform."

General Meetings

General Meetings are held in June, July, August, and December. For this past year, these luncheon meetings have been as follows:

June: Albuquerque City Councilor Isaac Benton, District 3, spoke on "City Councilor Basics" or "How Can I Best Communicate with My City Councilor and the Council?"

July: Patricia H. Kushlis, Ph.D., spoke on "The World's View of the United States: What's Wrong and How It Can Be Fixed." Ms. Kushlis retired from the U.S. Information Agency in 1998 and moved to Albuquerque where she taught international and comparative politics, and Islam and politics, at the University of NM from 1999-2005. She currently co-writes the foreign affairs/national security blog, Whirled View, and writes articles on foreign affairs and public diplomacy.

August: League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) President Mary G. Wilson gave an "Update on LWVUS Internal and External Affairs." Mary is a partner in the law firm of Aungier & Wilson, P. C., in Albuquerque and has been a practicing attorney for 32 years.

December: Winthrop Quigley, Business Reporter for the Albuquerque Journal, spoke on "How Did We Get Here?: A Business Reporter's View of the Current Economic Situation."

Michelle MacDonald
Programs Coordinator

ANNUAL MEETING — REPORTS

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT REPORT *Continued***Program Planning**

In the year leading up to the LWVNM convention, the LWVCNM Program Planning meeting reviews the local and state issue positions and decides whether to recommend new studies, reviews of existing position or whether to recommend endorsement of any proposed changes to existing LWVNM positions.

In addition, due to the name change to the LWV of Central New Mexico, the meeting reviewed the existing local positions to see if changes were needed because of the expanded geographic area covered by our local League. We also reviewed the local study on School Governance.

The Program Planning meeting was held on December 6th. The results were as follows:

- There were no recommendations for changes to LWVNM positions.
- The School Governance Study Group reported that they were unable to find a correlation between the way governance of school administration was structured and the performance of those schools. They recommended that the study not be continued.
- Recommendations were made for changes in LWVCNM positions to reflect the expanded geographic area represented by this League. Those will be detailed elsewhere in this *Voter*.
- No new LWVNM studies were proposed.

Natural Resources Committee

The Natural Resources Committee does not meet on a regular basis but meets when there are issues of interest that need to be acted upon. Such was the case in the fall of 2008. With the change of name of the local League and the expansion of the area served, the Committee thought it advisable to review the Land Use, Transportation and Water positions to see how they might apply to Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia Counties.

Letters were sent to all League members in the three added counties inviting them to a meeting on November 8, 2008. After an intensive review of Natural Resources positions, particularly the Land Use position, it was determined that only one change—the addition of one word—was necessary other than the name/grammatical changes that are now necessary in all of our local League positions. For this change see page 6 of this *Voter*.

The Natural Resources Committee is available for activation as issues present themselves during the year. Several committee members are active with groups in the community and bring issues and updates to the committee.

JoAnne Ramponi, Committee Member

Drug Policy Study Committee

STUDY: The addiction treatment study moved forward by establishing new contacts with experts and arranging for four LWVCNM unit meetings in January 2009 on the topics of drug addiction prevention, support services, treatment and current legislation.

ACTION: Contact with the American Pain Association has provided us with many new useful educational materials and knowledge to help patients in pain and to work with other organizations to further legislation about pain matching our new position statement. Collaboration with the NM Pain Initiative has also increased our outreach activities for education and action and is promoting LWVCNM as an organization committed to Drug Policy issues.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES:

- Developed League materials to raise awareness of the need for pain management and how the public can effectively speak to legislators (Materials used are: “ABCs About How to Help People in Pain” written by Marilyn Morgan; *Who’s Who, Voters’ Key* and League membership applications);
- Staffed information booths at three health fairs attended by over 1000 people;
- Eight members collaborated with the NM Pain Initiative Group in a ninety minute presentation “How to Communicate with Your Health Care Provider” (a dramatization, originally developed by Lois Kimbrell, a former Drug Policy Committee member, was updated and well received);
- Reviewed legislation related to Drug Policy, including the DWI position, for formal action and for updating members through the *Voter*, website and electronic communication;
- Distributed news of monthly meetings and invited members to participate or visit;
- Developed notebooks on The Drug War, Healthcare Professionals’ Fear of Prosecution and New Treatments for Pain which are available for members to check out.

This Committee inspires and energizes me to be informed and to participate in establishing good public policy.

Dee Watkins, Chair

ANNUAL REPORTS are continued on page 15 with the report of the FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT—Finance portfolio.

Don’t forget to bring your copy of this *Voter* to the May 2nd Annual Meeting.

See you there!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Welcome to new and returning members:

Ruth Long
5328 Veronica Dr NE 87111

Clare C. Wilson
10501 Lagrima de Oro Rd NE, #4103
87111

Address Corrections:
Linda Vanzi
New Mexico Court of Appeals
P.O. Box 2008
Santa Fe. NM 87504-2008

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
One Civic Plaza NW 87102

New email addresses available from
JoAnne Ramponi for Maggie Toulouse
Oliver and Clare C. Wilson

Submitted by Kathleen Kimler Altobelli, 02/27/09

ANNUAL REPORTS Continued

FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT

Finance, Planning

We continued again this year without a Fourth Vice President or Finance Chair. The following is a summary of fund-raising and planning activities.

Finance

Raising money for the Education Fund was our biggest challenge in the 2008 election year. This fund enabled us to publish our largest *Voters' Guide* ever, the *Who's Who* and the forum handbook, and to put on candidate forums. Most of the proceeds from a spring mail solicitation came in during the current fiscal year, and our members and friends were generous. Grants from both the National and State Leagues helped with the *Voters' Guide*. A second grant from LWVUS enabled us to put on a judicial candidates forum. The decision of the Board was to send an annual mail solicitation to our members and donors, and that mail campaign will be done after this report goes to press. Most proceeds are expected to come in the 2009-2010 year. The only special event fund raising for the Education Fund this year was a raffle held during the October launching of the *Voters' Guide*.

Dues and contributions included with membership renewal make up the largest portion of the income in the operating fund. That income comes in primarily during the September - November membership renewal drive, and again this year it went quite well. We did not sell *Entertainment Books* this year

because the work involved did not justify the benefit, and there was concern that the quality of the book had declined. Sponsorships purchased by supporters for the *Member Handbook* went into the operating fund. We held our annual theater party in conjunction with the League's birthday. Donna Hill did an excellent job of chairing that event, and her report follows.

Finance Committee

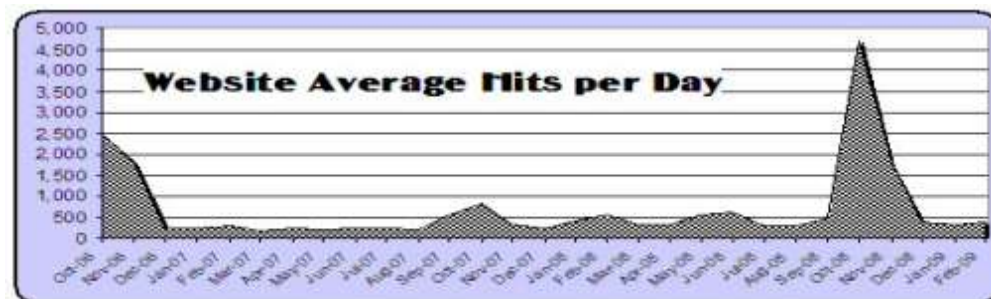
Enthusiastic Theatergoers celebrated the Leagues 89th Birthday Party on International Women's Day at the Adobe Theater. *Arsenic and Old Lace*, that delightful old-time classic, was followed by a social hour featuring friendship, food, beverages and birthday cake. Contributions over expenditures were credited to the Operating Fund budget—a fun way to keep LWVCNM's office open as an important Voters' Service. Thank you for all who supported this fund-raising event, and especially to Diane Goldfarb, Terry Quinn and Cheryl Haaker for their assistance.
Donna Hill

Long Range Planning

A Board retreat in September resulted in additional goals for us to consider for the organization. The two-year plan had its annual update. Because of our name change, we had to once again review and update all of our policies. Portfolio descriptions are an ongoing project.

Diane Goldfarb

Web Statistics: Below is a graph listing the "Average Hits per Day" from October 2006 to the present. Bearing in mind that these are monthly averages and that daily figures would go much higher, you can clearly see when elections were held. The graph starts at the 2006 mid-term General Election and ends shortly after the 2008 Presidential Election. In between these two major peaks are the 2007 Albuquerque Municipal Election and the two 2008 Primaries, each with small peaks of their own. The public continues to go to LWV for election information. Find this and more at:



www.lwvcnm.org/stats/
Cheryl Haaker
Technology Chair

UNIT	LOCATION	LEADER	MEMBERSHIP
Luncheon 2nd Thursday 11:45 a.m.	Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel 2910 Yale SE Reservations required \$17*	Marilyn Morgan	Vivian Boyle
Midtown 3rd Monday 1:30 p.m.	Manzano del Sol 5201 Roma NE Hobby Room (on first floor)	JoAnne Ramponi	Lois Reed
Evening 3rd Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	Erna Fergusson Library 3700 San Mateo Blvd NE Optional dinner after meeting	Jan Bray	Delores Watkins
Sandoval County 3rd Wednesday 12 noon	Corrales Community Center Meeting Room 4234 Corrales Road Brown Bag Lunch	Mary Mulvany	Carolyn Lindberg

* Luncheon Unit reservations: call the League office (884-8441) by 10:00 a.m. the preceding Monday. If you do not attend and have not cancelled by the deadline, you will be billed for the cost. Please note change in cost of luncheon.

- April
Calendar
- 1 Advocacy Comm. 1 pm
 - 2 LWVCNM Board 5:30 pm
 - 2 May Voter Deadline
 - 7 Membership Comm. 10 am
 - 9 Luncheon Unit 11:45 am
 - 15 Sandoval Cty Unit Noon
 - 20 Midtown Unit 1:30 pm
 - 21 Evening Unit 6 pm
 - 23 Drug Policy Comm 1 pm
 - 28 Fair Rep 1 pm

Membership
You can join LWV any time of the year. Contact JoAnne Ramponi at 884-8441

Non Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Albuquerque, NM
 Permit No. 443

League of Women Voters
 Central New Mexico
 2403 San Mateo NE, W-16C
 Albuquerque, NM 87110
 Return service requested



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.