



The *Voter*

June 2010

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

Olin Bray
Jan Bray
Co-presidents
(505) 292-7270

Chris Burroughs
Voter Editor
(505) 822-9852

Lwvcnm home page: <http://www.lwvcnm.org>

The state of New Mexico's economy to be focus of June 10 meeting

Dr. Lee A. Reynis, director of the Bureau of Business & Economic Research (BBER) at the University of New Mexico, will discuss "The State of the New Mexico Economy" at the June 10 luncheon meeting of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico. The meeting will be held at 11:45 a.m. at the Airport Grand Hotel, 2910 Yale Blvd. in Albuquerque.

Given the present economic situation people wait expectantly for each new report on the state of New Mexico's economy. The BBER is one of the major sources of economic projections for the state of New Mexico. Reynis regularly testifies at legislative hearings on the status of the economy and on the implications of various policy options. She will be speaking to the League the day before the BBER will be releasing its latest forecast for the New Mexico economy.

Reynis is currently the director of both the Institute for Applied Research Services and the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at UNM. She has been a close observer of the New Mexico economy for some 25 years and is actively involved in the production of BBER's quarterly economic forecasts using the FOR-UNM model. She continues to be very involved in the research efforts of BBER, serving as principal investigator on a number of projects, including ongoing analysis of Industrial Revenue Bond proposals for the City of Albuquerque and a recent analysis of the financial feasibility of a South Valley municipality.

Before joining the BBER staff as associate

director in 1998, she was the City Economist for the City of Albuquerque. Prior to that she worked as an economic analyst and then as the chief economist for the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration in Santa Fe. Reynis has taught a number of courses over the years at UNM and was formerly on the faculty at the University of Utah. She holds an MA and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan.

The cost of the luncheon is \$17, payable at the door. Call the LWVCNM office by Monday, June 7 at 505-884-8441 to make reservations.



Members of the new LWVCNM Board of Directors pose for a photo following the May 1 Annual Meeting.

(Photo by Cheryl Haaker)

June Calendar

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| June 3 | Board meeting, 5:30 p.m. |
| June 5 | <i>Voter</i> deadline |
| June 10 | Luncheon meeting, 11:45 a.m. |
| June 19 | Calendar Planning, 9:30 a.m. |
| June 24 | Drug Policy Committee, 1 p.m. |

League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico
Board Meeting
1st Thursday of each month
Offices of Sutin, Thayer & Brown,
6565 Americans Parkway NE

Program Committees

Fair Representation Committee

Cheryl Haaker (298-7415)

Drug Policy

Delores Watkins (823-2308)

Natural Resources

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

All League members are invited to all unit meetings, committee and board meetings.

The *Voter* is published on partially recycled paper each month by the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico.

Calendar Planning set for June 19

The annual Calendar Planning meeting is scheduled for June 19 at 9:30 a.m. in the La Vida Llena card room, 501 Lagrima de Oro Rd. NE.

The League's calendar reflects the planning and priorities of the board. It is a guide to League activities, but flexible enough to let the League take advantage of unexpected opportunities to perform a community service, act on a program issue or adjust to unforeseen occurrences.

The calendar doesn't need to give the date of everything for the year, but it should clearly outline what the League will be doing to meet its goals and priorities for the year.

The calendar can include the following: deadlines for major decisions; local, state and national program planning; budgets; nominations for board and nominating committee; submission of board meeting dates; special membership activities; member and community finance campaigns/events; meetings of legislative and other governmental bodies; deadlines for *Voter* materials; local, regional, state and national meetings, workshops and conferences; scheduled unit and general meetings; special events, such as public forums; annual meetings, state and national conventions and councils.

Please plan to attend. We need your input.

-- Dick Mason

Presidents' Corner

If you could help LWVCNM raise almost \$4,000 painlessly without a major fundraising project would you be interested? Does that get your attention? Printing and mailing the *Voter* is about 15 percent of our operating fund budget -- \$3,840 out of \$26,687 for FY 2009-2010. It is our third largest expenditure, exceeded only by PMP (per member payment) to national and office rent. The costs of paper, printing and mailing (even at bulk mail rates) are not going down. If we electronically distributed the *Voter*, we could eliminate most of that cost, although probably not all of the costs because some members may not have access to an electronic version.

There are two paths for electronic distribution and we would use both. First, anyone on Topics could have the *Voter* automatically emailed to them. Currently, about 250 of our about 350 members are on Topics. Also distributing the *Voter* on Topics might encourage more members to subscribe and could also encourage more discussion about articles in the *Voter*. Second, for those not on Topics and who don't want to join that list, the *Voter* could also be posted on our website so any member with access to the Internet could download it and/or print it. This alternative would still allow members to get the *Voter* electronically without all of the other emails that go out on Topics. Not only would electronic distribution dramatically reduce our costs, it would also allow you to get the *Voter* a week or two earlier since you would now get it when it normally goes to the printer instead of after it has gone through both the printer and the post office. An additional benefit is that sometimes articles and reports have been dropped from the *Voter* because of limited space, a problem that would not occur with electronic distribution.

Many organizations, such as AAUW, have shifted to electronic distribution, and some of their members print a copy if they want a paper version. Given LWVCNM's demographics, we may have more older members who don't have access to electronic distribution (email or the Internet), so we need to ensure that there is still a way for them to get our information. However, at this point we don't know how many members are in that category. It is probably a small subset of those members not on Topics since some members with electronic access have chosen not to be on Topics. Later this summer we will survey our

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League members reminisce about early days of League: Monna Utter and Ann Taylor share their memories

Editor's Note: *This year the LWVCNM celebrates its 60th anniversary. In February Judith Binder put together a retrospective program presented at all Unit meetings that consisted of members sharing in their own words memories of League. This is the second in a series of articles that includes some of those memories.*

Monna Utter: "I came to Albuquerque in 1948, when League meetings consisted of president Carol Martindale reading — and the group taking turns — the contents of the *National Voter*. We then had some lively discussions. In the mid 1950s, another League president, Freda Hayes, turned the League towards opening the housing market when her husband became concerned because his colleague at Sandia, a black Ph.D. scientist from MIT, was unable to purchase a suitable home. A few League members, joining with the NAACP, attended many meetings around the city to promote civil rights and locate housing for black residents. Sometimes I was known as a "GUTSY LADY." There had even been threats at my home and my children. But the people coordinated our efforts. We went to ministers, who, in turn, urged their parishioners to extend a hand of friendship."

"Albuquerque was the third city in US to write a fair housing ordinance. At that time, these "gutsy ladies" also tried to develop a Black League Unit."

"Moving ahead to the 1960s and 1970s, the League began to encourage legislative action on day care. Albuquerque didn't have day care nor a kinder-

Presidents' Corner

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members to determine the number of paper copies of the *Voter* we would need to continue. This will probably be done through Topics and phone calls to members who are not on Topics.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas about shifting to an electronic *Voter* for most of our members, please let us hear from you. We know this idea has come up several times in the past, but was never implemented. At this time, given the financial considerations, we need to reconsider it. This time we probably need to focus on how to make the shift and how far to go, rather than whether or not to move in that direction. -- Olin and Jan Bray, Co-presidents 3

garten system. So I went to Dr. Randy Lovelace, the nephew of William Randolph Lovelace, who gave me \$200, when usual donations were \$5 or \$10 and the truly rich gave \$25. This was quite a scoop and that's how I became the League's financial chair."

Ann Taylor: "I began my activities in the early 1960s when the League membership was attracting women with young children in school and some were even working away from home. We were definitely pressed for time. First, we had to get those kids settled with dad and then go off to an evening Unit meeting. We met in members' homes. Sometimes over breakfast or lunch. The luncheon has proved most successful."

"There was a year or so when the *Voter* was published at a local high school — and often not available to mail on a regular schedule. Once it was a month late! Albuquerque was growing like mad along with the county, and the stage was set for League to do more. The League was present in the community at many levels, and members would go directly to the city and county offices to retrieve information, especially for our *Voters' Guides*. We had an Observer Corps, where members attended many city and county meetings, after seeking safe parking spots. Meetings began at 7:30 p.m. and could last well into the night. They were held in a building where the jail is now located. Studying City-County Consolidation has taken a bunch of time."

"In the early 1970s when I was vice president, I did recommend that League needed a second vice president. (Now we have four!) However, I didn't quite retire but became Unit Coordinator and continued with my interest in monitoring government organizations. Support for humanitarian issues, environmental, and social goals through reducing barriers, became major topics."

Welcome to new, returning members

Sallie Andrade-Cervera, 2531 Candelaria Rd NW, Apt. L, 87107, 410-6500; **Leah M. Ingraham**, 1916 San Pedro Dr. NE, 87110; **Janice Kando**, PO Box 90 Corrales, NM, 87048; **Dawn McIntyre**, 4724 Sandpoint Rd NW, 87114-4533; **Cynthia Yabut**, 6350 Eubank Blvd NE Apt 1416, 87111-7356
Member address changes: **Kathleen L. Gavey**, 5201 Roma Ave NE, Apt 527, 87110, 299-3816)

Drug Policy Committee to meet June 24

The Drug Policy Study Committee will meet Thursday, June 24 from 1-3 p.m. at Manzano del Sol, sixth floor lounge. You are always welcome to come and observe or participate in the discussions. Currently the study is focusing on learning facts about the legal drug, alcohol.

The April luncheon meeting presented disturbing information about the human and economic costs of alcohol abuse in New Mexico and policies that have successfully reduced DWI deaths. However, we also learned New Mexico has been among the top three states with the highest alcohol-related deaths since 1981.

It was suggested that other causes of alcohol-related deaths such as binge and chronic drinking lead to impaired driving and that strategies to impact these problems could reduce harm to individuals and society. The committee will be looking for answers to these questions:

* What is the impact of alcohol on the LWVCNM community?

* What is the trend? Is alcohol abuse increasing?

* What is the impact on the individual user, such as physiologically, culturally, psychologically?

* Why is alcohol abuse so difficult to treat?

* How much funding is available for alcohol abuse-related programs? How is it being spent?

* Are there interventions that are harmful? Ineffective? Show promise? How are interventions judged to be effective?

* What is needed to reduce the impact of alcohol on individuals and society?

* Are effective interventions related to specific populations or behaviors? For example, are there . . . effective interventions aimed at teen drinkers? abuse behaviors indulged in by many people of different ages, such as binge drinking?

Let us know about your interest in this topic. Join us or contact a committee member for more information. -- *Dee Watkins, Chair*

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2315 San Pedro NE Suite F-6
Albuquerque, NM 87110
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