



# The Voter

League of Women Voters of  
Central New Mexico  
May 2015

League of Women Voters  
of Central New Mexico  
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LWVCNM homepage: <http://www.lwvcnm.org>

## Technology Development, Commercialization Topic of May Brunch

Cara Michaliszy of the New Venture Development Center of UNM's STC (formerly Science and Technology Corporation), told League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico members about the work being done to bring economic development to Albuquerque during the May 2 annual meeting. She discussed "Technology Development, Commercialization and Economic Development, looking at how UNM and other organizations -- such as the national labs and venture capital groups -- are collaborating to stimulate new technologies and grow the economy.

There are a number of new innovative initiatives being started in Albuquerque to stimulate

technology startups and economic growth. The speaker discussed the role of technology development and commercialization on economic development and the state's economy and described some of these new initiatives.

### Calendar Planning Meeting

Did you ever wonder how League comes up with the topics and speakers for meetings? Come to the June 13 Calendar Planning meeting and find out.

Calendar Planning is devoted to discussions on potential speakers and issues to look at during unit meetings. It is a three-part process. First, topics or issues are identified League members want to hear about. Second, topics are allocated to each month. Third people suggest possible speakers for each month.

Calendar Planning will be held at La Vida Llena on the corner of Juan Tabo and Lagrima de Oro, one block north of Montgomery. Coffee and munchies will be at 9:30 a.m. The actual meeting will last from 10 a.m.-noon.



During the annual meeting, LWVCNM members elected new board members. Pictured above is most of the board. They are, from the left, Olin Bray, Karen Douglas, Sonia Lersten, Cheryl Haaker, Peggy Howell, Carol Tucker Trelease, Judy Binder, Chris Burroughs and Michelle Meaders.

### May Calendar

May 2	Annual Meeting
May 5	Voter deadline
May 15-17	State Convention, Albuquerque
June 6	New Board Training
June 13	Calendar Planning

**League of Women Voters of  
Central New Mexico  
Board Meeting**

**1st Thursday of each month  
Offices of Sutin, Thayer & Browne,  
6565 Americas Parkway NE**

Program Committees  
**Education Group**

Judith Binder

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

The *Voter* is published on partially-recycled paper each month by the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico. It is also distributed via email and can be accessed online at our website [www.lwvcnm.org](http://www.lwvcnm.org).

## Welcome New Members

As of April 24 we have three additional new members and two more renewals: **Leslie Phinney** and **Rae Perls** have renewed; their contact information is the same as in the 2014 Directory. By my count, that is 16 additional members since January.

The newest members are  
**Daveen Green**, 1325 Park Ave SW #104, 87102

**Melanie Baise**, 262-4801, 4725 Trumbull Ave SE, 87108, [melaniebaise@gmail.com](mailto:melaniebaise@gmail.com)

**Heather Brislen**, 4905 Guadalupe Trail NW, 87107, [brislen@gmail.com](mailto:brislen@gmail.com)

--Peggy Howell

## Memorial

Long-time League member Dee Trester has passed away. Dee was 92 and an active member until about two years ago. She will be missed and we send our condolences to her friends and family.



Dee Trester

## President's Corner

By Andrea Targhetta

### THANK YOU AND THOUGHTS

These past two years have gone by relatively fast. First of all, thank you to all the members of Central New Mexico for your support. The league here in Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Corrales and surrounding areas has been a key organization for many years and is growing. We need to continue that growth. With additional members come opportunities to do more in our quest for a responsive government. It is not just the numbers, either. We must entice younger people who are interested in making a difference in our society -- people who are eager to learn, dig in and actively take part in a quest for better government

I want to thank all CNM League members because you have contributed to the sustainability of our organization. Any member who took part in the Natural Resources concurrence, those who went to the APS Board meeting and members who attended the Education Group meetings have enabled this League to further its mission. Those who aided in the candidate forums and every member who has taken part in our events and meetings has impacted this league for the better.

Beside our Board members who post articles in the *Voter* each month, there are other members who have contributed additional articles to our newsletter -- Laura Stokes, Nadyne Bicknell, Karen Wentworth, Leah Ingraham and Shelly Shepherd. Thank you for your insight and articulate editorials. I thank Trish Lopez for her insightful and very well received talk to the seniors at Grace Church.

Thanks goes to Josephine Porter for her expertise as *Voters' Guide* editor. Thank you to the many members who participated in the Question Committee for the *Voters' Guide* and those who distributed the *Guide*. Jo is also specialized in organizing and managing elections for CNM to conduct. Thank you to those who helped with those elections -- Helen Wright, Cheryl Haaker and Mary H. Smith.

CNM moderated many forums this last year. Thanks go to Diane Goldfarb, Mary H. Smith, and Jo Porter for representing the League and doing such a skilled undertaking. These ladies are highly experienced and create positive visibility for our League. I am grateful to past Presidents Mary Wilson, Diane Goldfarb, Shelly Shepherd, Sandra Browne and Jo Porter for their support and counsel.

Thank you to Pam Harris for her outstanding work in Voter Services. Pam began as a novice and became a professional while also making sure the League was well represented at each Naturalization Ceremony for new citizens.

One person whose judgement I trust and who always

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## Book Review -- *Tension City: Inside the Presidential Debates*

*Editor's Note: Book Review -- This review of an important public policy book is a regular feature in the Voter by Olin Bray, author of ebook Political Incompetence: What's Wrong With Our System and How To Fix It.*

*Tension City: Inside the Presidential Debates from Kennedy-Nixon to Obama-McCain* by Jim Lehrer, 2011, New York: Random House, hardcover, 209 pages.

The presidential debates started with Kennedy-Nixon in 1960 and some say they cost Nixon the election. Although their format and number vary, the debates have become a regular part of the campaigns now and Lehrer has participated as moderator or panelist in 11 of them. The League of Women Voters played a key role in some of the early debates but stepped out once the candidates and their campaigns started controlling more of the conditions and arrangements.

According to Lehrer most of the candidates he interviewed liked the debates. George H W Bush was nervous and did not like them, but still participated. The consensus seems to be that the debates are good for informing the public about the candidates and seeing them perform. However, the debates are usually not good campaign strategy, for at least one candidate – the incumbent or the best-known candidate, but they have become impossible to refuse.

There are often disagreements over who won or lost the debate, and interestingly it can be different if you watched the debate on TV or just heard it on the radio. One participant suggested that you really can't win a debate, but you can definitely lose it. Often the difference between winning and losing the debate hinges on trivial details that have nothing to do with a candidate's positions or ability to govern. In fact, some critics contend that given two or three minutes to answer complex questions and issues, the debates don't really provide the public with much information. However, given that the staple of most campaigns has become the 15 or 30 second attack sound bites, that may not be a valid criticism.

The rules and formats of the debates have changed over the years, often in light of what one candidate saw as a problem in their performance. For example, after one candidate was caught impatiently looking at his watch and another grimacing at his opponent's response, there was a rule that the camera

had to stay on the candidate who was speaking. The format also shifted between a moderator and several panelists to just a moderator. Lehrer points out that one year there was a moderator and three panelists because of out of 100 journalists suggested the two campaigns could only agree on the three.

While we often hear about the candidates' long prep time, Lehrer points out that the moderators and panelists also have a long and rigorous prep time, which he describes in some detail.

Although the League no longer participates in the presidential debates, it still sponsors a lot of candidate debates/forums at other levels. Some of the points in the book might be useful for refining those programs. Lehrer identifies a number of mechanisms that can affect the debates. Ideally, it is only the top two candidates. Only once, with Perot, did they go to three candidates. This is one of the reasons the presidential debates are more effective and interesting than the primary debates with four or five or more candidates. Are the candidates standing or seated? Is there just a moderator or also panelists who ask questions? That affects how much follow up and detail you can get into on a topic. Time limits and follow up rules are also important. There is also the issue of whether the candidates can address and question each other or do they only speak to the moderator. In more recent debates a live audience in a town hall format asking their own questions seems to add interest, but it increases the uncertainty and risk for the candidates.

The book is an interesting and easy read. However, its focus is from the perspective of the debate's participants – candidates, moderator, and panelists. It would have been interesting to see more analysis, such as did the debates actually change anybody's choice and if so under what conditions. Did they result in closer or more one-sided election results?

### President's Corner

*(Continued from page 2)*

has the League's best interest in mind is Margaret Magee. Margaret is our Office Coordinator, and I am indebted to her for her assistance and common sense. Thank ou so very much.

Our office staff is a group of skilled people who assist CNM and take time out of their day to provide a very important service to our members and the public. Thank you all for being reliable, capable guides to all who call or come into the office.

# LWVCNM Officers, Directors, Nominating Committee 2015-2016

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b>Treasurer/ Technology Voter Editor</b>	<b>CHERYL HAAKER</b>	298-7415	cheryl@haaker.org
	<b>CHRIS BURROUGHS</b>	306-8163c	coburroughs@cybermesa.com
<b>First Vice President</b>	<b>CAROL TUCKER TRELEASE</b>	275-1827	CarolTT@aol.com
<i>Voters' Guide</i> Editor (off board)	<b>JO PORTER</b>	858-3160	joporter@nmia.com
<b>Voter Services</b>	<b>MICHELLE MEADERS</b>	266-8823 82-5130c	shellout@earthlink.net
<b>Second Vice President</b>	<b>PEGGY HOWELL</b>	503-7800	phowell6300@comcast.net
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<b>Secretary</b>	<b>SONIA LERSTEN</b>	884-4495c	sonialersten@yahoo.com
<b>Director/ Public Relations</b>	<b>BRENDA MCKENNA</b>	263-7553	brenda.g.McKenna@comcast.net
<b>Director</b>	<b>JUDITH BINDER</b>	265-4336	bjudy@unm.edu
<b>MLD Director</b>	<b>MARILYN FIFIELD</b>	299-9019	mari673@msn.com
<b>Nominating Committee:</b>	Judith Binder, Chair	265-4336	
	Michelle Meaders	266-8823, 382-5130c	
	Pam Harris	255-1222	



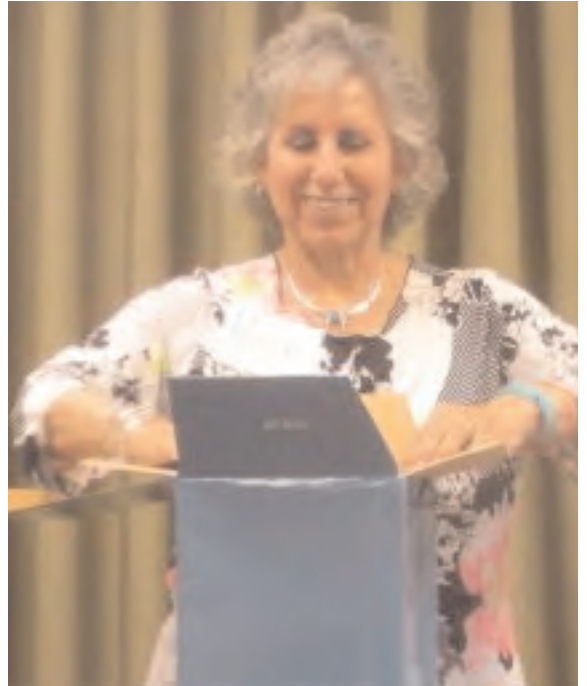
## **New Mexico Chief Justice Vigil and Martha Burk to Speak at League of Women Voters Convention**

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico will open their two-day convention on Saturday, May 16 with a luncheon featuring New Mexico Chief Justice Barbara Vigil as keynote speaker. The title of her speech will be “Understanding the Judiciary – The Third, Co-Equal and Least Understood Branch of the Government.”

Vigil will offer her insights on the unique role of the courts in our democracy, address the importance of a strong and independent Judiciary and suggest strategies for strengthening the judicial system in New Mexico.

Burk, political psychologist, syndicated columnist and nationally recognized authority of women issues, will be the keynote speaker at the banquet on Saturday evening. Burk is co-founder of the Center for Advancement of Public Policy, a research and policy analysis organization in Washington, D.C. She serves as the Money Editor for *Ms.* magazine and is a syndicated newspaper columnist and frequent blogger for Huffington Post. In January 2012 she launched a new national show on public radio, "Equal Time with Martha Burk." Her latest book is “Your Voice, Your Vote: The Savvy Woman's Guide to Power, Politics, and the Change We Need.”

League members from throughout the state will gather at the Albuquerque Crowne Plaza Hotel



Outgoing LWVCNM President Andrea Targhetta opens her gift from the board, a Nambe bowl, at the annual meeting.

to look at the organization's future. The luncheon will be held from noon-1:30 p.m., and the banquet will begin at 7 p.m.

The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government and maintains an unbiased position on candidates running for public office.

For more information contact LWVCNM at 505-884-8441 or [info@lwvcnm.org](mailto:info@lwvcnm.org) for registration information.