

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 2017

The VOTER

Volume 82 Issue 12



Director of NM Attorney Generals Consumer and Family Advocacy Services Division to Speak on Immigration at December Meeting

Jennie Lusk is in charge in putting together New Mexico's case to protect young people who were brought into the United States illegally as children will be the speaker at the League's December 14 lunch meeting.

New Mexico is one of 15 states and the District of Columbia that are suing the U.S. government. The lawsuit alleges the administration of President Donald Trump has violated the equal protection clause of the constitution by discriminating against 'dreamers' of Mexico origin. The suit involves an order enacted during the administration of President Barack Obama that offered temporary protection against deportation under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA program. President Trump has said he will eliminate the program if Congress does not take action within the next few months.

There are nearly 7,000 people living in New Mexico who are DACA grantees. Nationally more than 800,000 people are affected. The initial filing in the lawsuit alleges that deporting

'dreamers' would cost New Mexico \$7.5 million in state and local taxes if DACA is eliminated. Lusk is soliciting declarations of support from various New Mexico institutions of higher education and is preparing potential witnesses to testify in the national multi-state litigation. She will discuss developments in the anti-DACA litigation that New Mexico has joined.

Lusk spent years as a fundraiser for UNICEF and is as former director of ACLU New Mexico. She is currently the director of the Consumer and Family Advocacy Services Division of the Office of the New Mexico Attorney General.

***Luncheon Costs: Members \$17, Guests \$20.
Your reservation is a promise to pay.***

Please make reservations for the December 14th Luncheon Unit Meeting by emailing lunch@lwvcnm.org or by calling the LWVCNM office (505) 884-8441 by Noon Monday, December 11th.

***Please specify if you would like a
vegetarian meal.***

Welcome New Member

Niki Feldman

The VOTER
Published Monthly
The League of Women Voters^(R) of
Central New Mexico
2315 San Pedro Drive NE, Suite F-6
Albuquerque, NM 87110-
505.884.8441
www.lwvcnm.org
https://www.facebook.com/LWVCNM

Co-Presidents

Judith Binder & Leah Ingraham

1st Vice President

Karen Wentworth

2nd Vice President - MLD

Andrea Targhetta

4th Vice President - Fundraising

George Richmond

Treasurer

Jan Strand

Membership

Donna Rigano

Director

Susan Blasco

Director - Public Relations

Brenda McKenna

Director - Voter Services

Michelle Meaders

Director

Mary Wilson



Technology

Cheryl Haaker

Newsletter Format

Administrative Coordinator

Margaret Guinn Magee
mageelwvcnm@gmail.com



Office Hours

Monday – Friday

10 am to Noon

December 25 - January 2

Office Closed

December 2017

Thursday, December 7 5:30 pm Board Meeting

Sutin, Thayer & Browne

6100 Uptown Blvd, 4th floor

Enter on North side of building- Doors are locked after 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 9, 2017, 10:00 to 12:00 Noon

League of Women Voters^(R) of New Mexico Workshop on Effective
Citizen Advocacy at the Legislature

Monday, December 11 Noon Reservation Deadline

Thursday, December 14 11:45 am Luncheon Meeting

MCM Eleganté Hotel Albuquerque

2020 Menaul NE

Friday, December 15 Submission Deadline for January Voter

Monday-Friday, December 25-29 OFFICE CLOSED

January 2018

Monday & Tuesday, January 1-2 OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, January 4 5:30 pm Board Meeting

Monday, January 8 Noon Reservation Deadline

Thursday, January 11 11:45 am Luncheon Meeting

Topic: APD Forward

Monday, January 15 MLK OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, January 15 Submission Deadline for February Voter

Tuesday, January 16 Opening Day of New Mexico Legislature

Monday, January 26 10:00 am NE Heights Unit

Notice to League Members:

Don't waste your time reading most press releases today. It's only what we all know intuitively. Just pick up the phone and call the offices of those who were elected. Meet with them. Shake their hand and tell them what's bothering you. Perhaps it's the inability of those already in office to move our neighborhoods/country forward. Remind them that you (and your family/friends) are registered voters! You may not be able to fund their next election, but if you don't see results, you **will vote for someone else.**

Signed, Anon.

ARE YOU CURIOUS?

1. LWVCNM is gearing up for discussions about Redistricting.
2. If you have any ties to APS administrators, teachers, counselors or school board members, please contact Judith Binder 265-4336.
3. FOUND - Two pairs of narrow-lens eye glasses were left at the MCM Elegante following our November 13th Luncheon.
4. Are your skills up to date with Social Media? Call the office and Sign Up for Training. What are your three best days and do you prefer 10 or 11 am, 12, 1, 2, or 3 pm? Classes will begin after the first of the year.

League of Women Voters[®] of New Mexico Workshop on Effective Citizen Advocacy at the Legislature

Saturday, December 9, 2017

10:00 to 12:00 Noon

New Mexico State Capitol, Room 322

(enter on the East side only)

The public is invited.

Learn tips from legislators and a professional lobbyist on how to interact with legislators, speak at hearings, and advocate for your cause.

League members will also provide tips on speaking for LWVNM.

Speakers

- Senator Peter Wirth, D-Santa Fe, District 25
- Senator Sander Rue, R-Albuquerque, District 23
- Jim Jackson, Chief Executive Officer of Disability Rights New Mexico.

NOTICE to all LWVCNM Members and Friends

The Albuquerque Branch of the American Association of University Women has invited our own LWVNM President Judy Williams to speak at their January meeting. The topic, Public Policy 101, is geared to prepare us to be more efficient when meeting with our legislators, especially during the upcoming Legislative Session.

North Domingo Baca
Multigenerational Center,
7421 Carmel Ave, NE
Saturday, January 6, 2018
1:00 pm- 3:00 pm
PLEASE RESERVE with
Linda McDowell 505-974-1942

The US Supreme Court Addresses Wisconsin Districting Case

The present case "Gill v. Whitford" before the US Supreme Court addresses the charge that Wisconsin legislature created legislative districts giving unfair advantage to one political party. The practice, known as gerrymandering, is a topic of great importance to the League of Women Voters[®] (LWV) and the LWVUS has filed an amicus brief to highlight that partisan manipulation of districts is in violation of the concept that each voter's vote counts. Similar cases are pending in North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

Protection against districts created to benefit only one political party is needed. To assure fairness, the pending legal rulings can result in requirements that districts be drawn not only to have equal numbers of voters but also to avoid sequestering voters of a particular inclination in such a way as to make their votes for representatives less effective.

Continued on page 4...

... *The US Supreme Court Addresses Wisconsin Districting Case continued from page 3*

The upcoming census in 2020 will provide the next opportunity for redistricting. Likewise it will be an opportunity to assure not only that each voter has a vote but also that there is equal opportunity for each vote to count toward the outcome. Hopefully court rulings will determine principles for districting to prevent over emphasis on political affiliation.

Fairness requires that non-partisan panels assume responsibility for redistricting rather than the usual practice of elected officials taking on that task and being motivated to protect their own positions by skewing the districts to favor themselves. At present only six states have truly independent commissions (Sanchez, 2017).

New Mexico, like the majority of states, places authority for redistricting in the hands of our elected state legislators. There is time to educate our public about other options that can assure fairness. Beginning in 2018, the League of Women Voters[®] of Central New Mexico (LWVCNM) will host evening meetings for discussion of various timely topics such as Redistricting. Watch for details in *The Voter*.

Reference: Sanchez, G.R. "The Changing Landscape with Redistricting." Presentation at League of Women Voters[®] of Central New Mexico. 2017.

The Gerrymander's Question



Which Votes Count?

Democracy is not a spectator sport

Book Review

The End of Loyalty: The Rise and Fall of Good Jobs in America by Rick Wartzman, 2017, Public Affairs, Hardcover, 418 pages.

Jobs and labor/management relations have changed drastically since the end of WW II. This book explores these changes by looking at four major companies — GM, GE, Kodak, and Coca-Cola, who were major players at the start but much less so at the end of the period. He includes a lot of details and examples from these companies and their employees. One of the problems is that the author did not include any of the major technology companies (computers and internet) that emerged later, which may or may not be very different.

Business and economics have changed drastically in the almost 75 years since the end of WW II and he describes many of these changes. However, he contends that the major change is the breakdown in the social contract and the role companies played in the country. Originally, companies and their management explicitly recognized four sets of stakeholders — customers, employees, investors, and communities. All of these stakeholders shared in the company's success. For employees there was the idea of lifetime employment and companies invested in and helped the communities where they operated and had facilities. Over time that social contract has disappeared and companies now almost exclusively focus on their stockholders. Some of this change was gradual, GE shifted from lifetime employment to lifetime employability — the idea that good training in state of the art technology and manufacturing would make people employable at GE or elsewhere if GE had cutbacks. However, the changes occurred at a different

continued on page 5....

YEAR END TAX APPEAL 2017

First, I want to thank all the generous donors to League of Women Voters[®] Central New Mexico. We need both your financial support to operate LWVCNM as well as the many donors who give their time and experience.

Without you, we could not produce our Who's Who, a brochure of our elected officials. Our next version will be out in early 2018 to reflect the changes of 2017. And of course, the Annual "The Voters' Guide" which in 2018 will reflect political challenges on the County and State level, including the all important vote on Ethics in Government, is an important annual production. Plus our monthly Luncheon Meetings as well as the Monday morning meetings at La Vida Llena offer a wide range of speakers on many topics to keep us informed. Thus we will need your time as a volunteer and your financial support to keep us going.

Our office on San Pedro is open weekday mornings and answers many telephone calls as well as occasional drop in visitors. (Thank you Volunteers, but we need more of you.) While the printing is done at reduced rates, this is a major expense of the LWV Educational Fund.

Remember that your membership in LWVCNM also includes membership in the LWV New Mexico and the National LWV. They, too, appreciate your membership in LWV CNM.

So, please consider making a yearend gift to the 501 c 3 Education Fund. Or you can make a gift from your IRA. Finally, by including the JoAnne Ramponi Remembrance Society in your trust/estate plans, you can continue to make donations.

The Remembrance Society was created to recognize donors who have communicated to us that they are giving to the LWV Education Fund in their will, trust or other planned giving instrument. As such a supporter, we would be honored to list you as a member of The Remembrance Society. Please let us know of your planned giving intentions by contacting us at (505) 884-8441

*Best Holiday Wishes,
George Richmond, 4th Vice President Fund Raising*

... **Book Review continued from page 4** pace in different companies. Long after GE was doing major layoffs IBM still had a no layoff policy, although even companies like IBM eventually had to change. The change started slowly but it took off later. As late as 1990 the Business Roundtable, a leading industry group, stated explicitly that all stakeholders should be recognized and gain as companies grew and profited, but by the late 1990s the organization was saying that only the stockholders mattered. The author makes the distinction that cutbacks and restructuring may be necessary when a company is losing money and market share, but that many of these changes occurred while companies were still profitable, sometimes like today with record profits. He points out that in 1965 in major companies CEOs made about 20 times what the average worker did, while by 2000 the difference had jumped to 376.

He says these changes were the results of three distinct changes. First, there was a decline in the size and role of organized labor and unions. While there was always a conflict between management and unions, during this period companies became much more

continued on page 6...

... *Book Review continued from page 5* anti-union and as union membership declined so did their power. Not only did this affect the unionized companies' salaries and benefits, it also affected non-union companies because what the unions negotiated often became a benchmark or floor for other companies. The rise and fall of union power also corresponded with the rise and fall of many benefits such as better health insurance and pensions. Second, technology had a major impact. Like earlier with agriculture, as industry output (in both quantity and value) increased dramatically labor requirements declined significantly. This reduced the labor force in existing large plants, reducing the union membership and influence, but it also made much smaller factories feasible with smaller labor forces, which were much harder to organize and represent. Third, globalization had an effect with US workers competing against much cheaper workers in other countries, although improved technology made US workers much more productive. However, as foreign markets for US companies grew, it made sense to produce more goods closer to their market.

Wal-Mart is perhaps the classic example of a company that maximized the use of cheap foreign labor. Its strategy of being the lowest cost retailer drove it to cut costs everywhere. This drove many of its suppliers to cheaper overseas production. It also drove it to a low paid workforce, often part time and without traditional benefits such as health care and pensions which were usually only available to full time employees. Wal-Mart and Costco provide an interesting contrast in corporate strategies. While Wal-Mart's part time employees were getting about \$9 an hour with no benefits, Costco had a much larger percent of full time workers and was paying about \$18 with benefits such as health care and pension. Costco's CEO said that better pay and benefits allowed them to hire better workers who were more loyal and with better training provided much better customer service.

The author contends that while we won't return to the "golden age" and its social contract things can and must improve. The government needs to provide more protection for workers, perhaps taking over some of the old union role, although he doesn't go quite that far. Since lifetime employment is not coming back, benefits such as health care and pensions need to be portable so workers can carry them with them. Education needs to be improved with an emphasis on lifelong learning and training for employability. Finally, tax changes are needed to reduce the incentives for corporations to focus on short term purely financial performance.

Olin Bray