



League of Women Voters of New Mexico

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The League of Women Voters of New Mexico, 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.

Call to State Convention

April 25 – April 27, 2025 in Santa Fe

The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County invites you to the 2025 LWVNM State Convention.

You will:

- network with members from all over the state
- enjoy a reception at the home of a local League member
- reflect on our achievements of the last two years and plan for the next two years
- hear from Alexis Juday-Marshall, our LWVUS board liaison, during lunch
- enjoy an afternoon sharing ideas with other League members, hiking on a local trail or a taking a guided museum tour
- dine at the venerable La Fonda on the Plaza and hear from Leon Howard, the Interim Executive Director of ACLU-NM on protecting New Mexico residents and defending democracy in 2025
- elect a new board, adopt a program for study and action and adopt a budget
- go home invigorated and prepared for the challenges ahead.

Details can be found on the lwvsfc.org or lwvnm.org websites.

The Co-Presidents' Corner

By Kathy Brook and Hannah Burling

LWVNM Co-Presidents

president@lwvnm.org



As you may be aware, LWVUS has issued two media releases since late January. The first was sent to League members and spoke to the recent “weaponization of the government against the American people.” More recently a letter (signed by LWVUS and the 50 state Leagues) called on Congress to assert its authority as the legislative branch of government – specifically to “protect the rule of law, defend the Constitution, and end the overreach by the executive branch of government.”

LWVUS President Dianna Wynn encourages League members to resist being overwhelmed, to focus on League priorities, and to remain strategic in addressing issues. LWVUS is interested in how the priorities of the federal administration are being applied in states and what voter education opportunities are identified by state and local Leagues.

At the March LWVNM board meeting there was a discussion about actions that could be taken by the League in working with immigrant communities. The League (at all levels) can play a significant role in providing accurate information to voters – such as the impact of federal programs on large numbers of citizens. We should all be thinking about how we might do this most effectively.

Many thanks to all those who have represented League positions before the legislature or who have advocated as individuals.

Congratulations to LWV of Santa Fe County for their publication of the national League statement in the *New Mexican*. Thanks as well to the leadership of Debbie Helper of LWVSFC in making arrangements for the LWVNM State Convention. I hope to see many of you there.

Kathy Brook

The assault on democracy, the violations of constitutional authority and the attacks on our rights have left many of us frightened and discouraged. The very best way to combat these is to take action. Join us in the fight to defend democracy. The League needs your skills, your experience, and your enthusiasm.....

The New Mexico Legislature is in session until March 22nd. We have advocates following issues closely both in the Roundhouse and remotely. If you'd like to learn more about the Action Committee, please check the Action page on our website at <https://lwvnm.org/Action/>

Convention is coming at the end of April. I hope I'll see many of you there. It's a time to learn more about how the League operates, meet League members from all over the state, plan and prepare for our next two years of work, and find inspiration in this very difficult time.

Hannah Burling

Table of Contents

Call to Convention	1
Co-Presidents' Report.....	2
Convention Schedule.....	3.
Convention Information.....	4
Registration Form.....	5
Nominating Comm. Report.....	6
Bylaws Amendments.....	6
Program Items for Consideration.....	14
Federal Judiciary Study.....	15
Budget Committee Report.....	16
Action Report.....	17
Budget Spread Sheet.....	18
Immigration Report.....	19
Local League News.....	20
.....	

2025 State Convention Schedule

Friday, April 25

4:30-7:00 p.m. **Evening reception at the home of Judy Williams**
13 Ute Circle, Santa Fe*

Saturday, April 26 **The Lodge at Santa Fe***

8:00-9:00 a.m. Registration.

9:00 Welcome from (TBD)

Introduction to LWVUS Liaison Alexis Juday-Marshall

9:30-11:55 **First Plenary Session**

Noon-1:30 **Lunch from the Market Street Deli**

LWVUS Liaison Alexis Juday-Marshall to talk to us about national League efforts to protect our democracy under current federal government conditions and outcomes of those efforts.

1:30-4:30 **Afternoon Activities**

**Meetings of directors of communications, fundraising, etc.

Member-led Hike OR Tour of Vladem Contemporary Art Museum*

6:00 -9:00pm **Banquet at La Fonda, New Mexico Room and Portal***

Speaker: Leon Howard, Interim Executive Director, ACLU-NM

Sunday, April 27 **The Lodge at Santa Fe**

8:30-9:00 am **Registration**

9 am -noon **Second Plenary Session**

Noon **Convention Adjourns**

12:15 pm **LWVNM Board Meeting** begins 15 minutes after the convention is adjourned.

Boxed Lunch for board members from Firehouse Subs

See “Convention Information” for * and **.

NM State Convention Information

Room Reservations: The Lodge at Santa Fe is reserving a block of rooms for delegates. **To reserve a room at a nightly rate of \$149+tax/double room, call the hotel directly at 505-992-5800 and refer to the League of Women Voters. Reservations must be made by March 26, 2025.**

***Directions to The Lodge at Santa Fe, 750 N St Francis Dr. (Convention venue):** The hotel is just off US Hwy 285 (St Francis Drive in town) on the north end of Santa Fe. From the north, continue south on 285 to the first stop light, which is Alamo Drive. Turn right and immediately turn right again onto Calle Mejia. The Lodge is up the hill a bit and on the left. From the south, you will be on Interstate 25 North and will take the St Francis Drive exit, continuing north through town until you reach Alamo Drive. Turn left and then take an immediate right onto Calle Mejia. The Lodge will be on your left up the hill. Parking is free.

***Directions to the home of Judy Williams, 13 Ute Circle (Friday evening reception):** From The Lodge, turn right onto Calle Mejia, then left onto Alamo Drive getting over quickly to turn right onto St Francis Drive. Continue for 2.5 miles and take a right onto the St Michael's exit, then stay left to turn east onto St Michael's. Continue on St Michael's, which becomes Old Pecos Trail, turn left onto Old Las Vegas Highway (NM-300E) and continue 2.7 miles to Ute Circle on your left. (Consider carpooling with a designated driver.) From I-25 North, take the Old Pecos trail exit and turn right onto NM-300E. From 84/285 South, take St Francis exit and continue as described above.

***Directions to La Fonda on the Plaza, Saturday night banquet with speaker:** From the Lodge, turn left out of the parking lot onto Calle Mejia and then left onto Alamo Drive and go through the light at St Francis to Guadalupe. Turn right onto Guadalupe and continue to San Francisco, where you will turn left. Follow San Francisco to the La Fonda, which will be on the right. There is a parking garage at the hotel (\$15). If that garage is full or you prefer, turn right just past the garage onto Cathedral Place, then take the next right onto Water St. Continue to a surface parking lot on your left where you will need to use a credit card at one of the pay stations. Metered street parking is free after 6pm. (Consider carpooling with a designated driver.) The banquet will be held in the New Mexico Room and will include a cash bar with wine and beer.

Our speaker is Leon Howard, Interim Executive Director of ACLU-NM who will speak on their efforts to protect citizens and democracy in our state.

Saturday Afternoon Activities

****Meetings of directors of communications, fundraising, environmental issues, etc. Please check the box on the registration form.**

Tour of the Vladem Contemporary Art Museum led by Ellen Vladem at 3:30pm (\$7 without membership) or member-led nature hike on an area trail (free).

Other activities on your own can include many other area hikes on La Tierra, Dale Ball trails, in Hyde State Park and Santa Fe National Forest. There are many museums including the New Mexico Museum of Art, Georgia O'Keefe Museum, IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, New Mexico History Museum (all downtown on or near the plaza) The International Folk Art Museum, Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, New Mexico Heritage Arts Museum and Museum of Indian Arts and Culture are all on Museum Hill. SITE Santa Fe and Art Vault (railyard area, contemporary, free admission). Meow Wolf is an interactive installation/immersive art experience on Rufina.

2025 LWVNM STATE CONVENTION April 25-27 at The Lodge in Santa Fe

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Street Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

REGISTRATION STATUS (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

Board Member _____ Local League Delegate _____ (fee prepaid by the Leagues for official delegates)

All Others: _____ (include registration fee of \$100 below)

REGISTRATION FEE AND MEALS

Registration Fee @ \$100..... _____
(includes reception, snacks, coffee and tea, box lunch on Saturday, April 26th)

Saturday Banquet at La Fonda \$100..... _____

Dietary Restrictions for Lunch and/or Dinner: Vegetarian _____ Gluten-Free _____
Vegan _____

Post-Convention LWVNM Board Meeting box lunch @\$15..... _____
(Menu choices on a separate form lwvsfc.org.)

ADDITIONAL GUEST MEALS:

_____ Luncheon Guest(s) @ \$15..... _____

_____ Banquet Guest(s) @ \$100..... _____

Dietary Restrictions? Vegetarian _____ Vegan _____ Gluten Free _____

TOTAL: REGISTRATION AND MEALS..... _____

Will attend the Friday night reception (please indicate number) _____

Additional plans (please indicate number attending)

Member-led Hike **OR** _____

Attend tour of Vladem Contemporary Art Museum _____

REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE OF 4/10/25

Make checks payable to LWVSFC. Mail To: LWVSFC, P.O. Box 31547, Santa Fe, NM 87594 or go to www.lwvsfc.org to register and pay on-line. Online registration will be available after March 12.

Report of the Nominating Committee, March 2025

Respectfully submitted by the 2025 Nominating Committee: Karen Wentworth (Central New Mexico), Rebecca Shankland (Los Alamos), Felicia Orth (Los Alamos), Dick Mason (Central New Mexico.)

The nominating committee is preparing a final report for the state convention in April. We are continuing to search for a member for the Voter Services position and for a person to fill the position of first vice-president. This position is reserved for a person who is willing to fill the position of president in the future. Here is the proposed slate of board members for 2025-2027.

OFFICERS

President: Hannah Burling (Santa Fe)
 1st Vice President – vacant
 2nd Vice President – Barbara Calef (Los Alamos)
 Secretary –Edwina Jaramillo (Southern New Mexico)
 Treasurer – Kathy Brook (Southern New Mexico)
 Action Chair – vacant
 Past President – Kathy Brook (Southern New Mexico)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Elected (up to eight)

Archives – Jody Larson (Santa Fe)
 Communications – Janet Blair (Central New Mexico)
 Special Projects, Women’s Issues, Immigration, Education - Meredith Machen (Santa Fe)
 Voter Services – vacant
 Voting and Elections – Felicia Orth (Los Alamos)
 Nuclear Issues – Karen Douglas (Central New Mexico)
 Website – Akkana Peck (Los Alamos)
 Program – Judy Williams (Santa Fe)

The four local League presidents or their designated liaisons also serve on the board.
 The Board of Directors may appoint up to six additional members after the convention.

Bylaws Amendments

By Barbara Calef, LWVNM 2nd Vice-President and Akkana Peck, Webmaster

This year we must amend our bylaws to align with changes related to dues collection made by the national League. They are not optional. Other changes in wording were proposed in an effort to make the bylaws more readable. They must be approved at Convention.

Underlined material is new. [Bracketed text] is to be deleted. The LWVNM Board has approved the changes.

Article I. NAME

The name of this Corporation shall be the League of Women Voters of New Mexico, Inc., hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVNM. This state League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS).

Article II. PURPOSES AND POLICIES

Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of LWVNM are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. Political Policies.

1. LWVNM shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.
2. The League is fully committed to ensure compliance in principle and in practice with LWVUS's diversity, equity, and inclusion policy.

Article III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policies of LWVUS shall be eligible for membership. All members are invited to attend all meetings of LWVNM.

Section 2. Types of Membership.

- a. Voting Members. Persons of at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues or member-at-large units, and of LWVNM and LWVUS.
 1. Individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other League.
 2. Those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or ~~shall~~ be members-at-large.
 3. Those ~~[who make a lump-sum life membership payment to LWVUS shall be paid life members and those]~~ who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be ~~[honor ary]~~ life members excused from the payment of dues.
 4. ~~[Those who are students are defined as individuals]~~ Individuals enrolled either as full time or part time students at [with] an accredited institution. may join as student members.
- b. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

Article IV. OFFICERS

Section 1. Enumeration, Election, and Duties of Officers. The officers of LWVNM shall be president, a first vice-president/president-elect, a second vice-president, the action chair, the past president, a secretary, and a treasurer. They shall be elected at the State Convention and shall take office immediately after the Convention. They shall hold office until the election at the next biennial Convention or until their successors have been elected ~~[and qualified]~~. If the position of president is vacant and neither vice-president is able to assume the responsibilities of the president, the ~~[board]~~ Board of Directors shall function as a leadership team and shall possess all the powers and perform the duties of that office until that office is filled.

Section 2. The President. The president shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the state board or designate someone to preside. The president may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The president shall automatically be ~~[ex-officio,]~~ a member of all committees except the nominating committee. [and shall have such [usual] 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 state board.] Two or more individuals may serve as co-presidents.

Section 3. The Vice-Presidents. The vice-presidents shall perform such duties as the president and board may designate. The two vice-presidents, in the order of their rank, shall in the event of absence, disability or death of the president, possess all of the powers and perform all the duties of the presidency until such time as the ~~[board of directors]~~ Board of Directors shall select one of its members or a former president to fill the vacancy in the office of president. In the event of the resignation, disability or death of the first vice-president/president-elect, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board. Before the office holder may succeed to the presidency at the next state convention, that name shall be submitted, with those of the other

nominees for office, to the membership for vote.

Section 4. The Action Chair. The action chair will coordinate action activities for the LWVNM.

Section 5. The Past President. The former president [~~from the previous biennium~~] will provide guidance and continuity to the board.

Section 6. The Secretary. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the Convention, Councils, and of all meetings of the state board. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election. The secretary shall sign, with the president, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the state board, and shall perform such other functions as may [~~be incident to~~] pertain to the office.

Section 7. The Treasurer. The treasurer, or a duly appointed assistant, shall collect and receive all moneys due. The treasurer shall be custodian of these funds, shall deposit them in financial institutions designated by the state board, and shall disburse them in accordance with the budget or at the direction of the board or at the direction of the board. The treasurer shall present periodic statements to the state board at its regular meetings and an annual report to the Convention or Council. The books of the treasurer shall be reviewed annually at the end of the fiscal year.

Section 8. The Leadership Team. When a president is not elected and the vice-president/president-elect is unable to assume the responsibilities of the president, the board shall govern the organization as a leadership team. At the first board meeting following the biennial Convention, officers and directors that were elected to serve on the board will volunteer, [~~self-select,~~] or be nominated to accept the leadership position(s) of president and/or vice-president/president-elect. [~~Two or more individuals may serve as co-presidents.~~] The leadership team will identify the responsibilities of each member of the team and have responsibility for the routine business of the League (e.g., calling meetings, preparing agendas, chairing meetings).

Article V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office. The [~~board of directors~~] Board of Directors shall be voting members of LWVNM and shall consist of the officers of LWVNM, not more than eight elected directors, not more than six appointed directors, and the presidents or liaisons of the local Leagues and member-at-large units. The directors elected at the Convention shall take office immediately after the Convention. They shall hold office until the election at the next biennial Convention. The appointed directors shall be appointed by the state board as ad hoc directors as [~~the need arises in relationship to~~] necessary for projects adopted by the state board and shall serve until the project is completed or dropped or until a replacement is secured in case of resignation, illness or other cause(s). Presidents of local Leagues shall serve during their term of office and may serve in other capacities on the state board. While serving on the board, the ad hoc directors and the local League presidents shall have full voting rights.

Section 2. Vacancies. Any vacancy other than in the office of the president may be filled until the next Convention by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors [~~board~~].* Two consecutive absences from a board meeting without notification to the president or secretary and without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.

*Provisions for filling the vacancy in the presidency are made in Article IV, Section 3.

Section 3. Powers and Duties. The [~~state board~~] LWVNM Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the LWVNM, [~~corporation with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same manage property and conduct business,~~] subject to the instructions of the Convention. The state board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program adopted by the Convention. It shall accept responsibili-

ty delegated to it by the LWVUS Board of Directors [~~of LWVUS~~] for the organization and development of all Leagues and member-at-large units within the state. It shall also accept responsibility for implementing state and national program. [~~and transmission of funds toward the support of state and national budgets.~~] The state board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

Section 4. Regular Meetings. There shall be at least four regular meetings of the state board annually.

Section 5. Special Meetings. The president may call special meetings of the state board. Upon written request of five members of the board, a special meeting of the board must be called. Board members shall be notified of the time and place of special meetings at least six days prior to such meeting. During a Convention the president may, or upon the request of five members of the board, shall, call a special meeting of the board.

Section 6. Electronic Board Meetings. The [~~board~~] Board of Directors may conduct either regular or special meetings by [~~e-mail, or~~] telephone [~~and~~] or video conferencing provided that [~~all board members shall have access to the electronic media used and that~~] a quorum is present. Procedures for discussion, debate and voting shall be in place prior to the convening of such a meeting.

Section 7. Emergency Polling of the Board. When an urgent decision must be made by the board between regular meetings, the president may call and/or e-mail the members of the board. Board members must be given full information about the issue to be decided and sufficient time to share opinions before the final decision is given. A quorum of the board must respond. The emergency decision must be presented at the next board meeting for ratification and official report in the minutes.

Section 8. Executive Committee. An executive committee consisting of the president and four other members appointed by the state board from its own body following the state Convention shall act for the [~~board~~] LWVNM Board of Directors between regular meetings, provided that any action taken shall be [~~presented~~] reported to the board [~~for ratification~~] at its next meeting. Three members of the executive committee shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

Section 9. Quorum. A majority of members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI. RECOGNITION OF LOCAL LEAGUES AND MEMBER-AT-LARGE UNITS.

Section 1. Local Leagues.

- a. Local Leagues are those Leagues that have been so recognized by LWVUS.
- b. The state board shall recommend that the national board recognize as a local League any group of members of the LWVUS within [~~a community of~~] the state that meets recognition standards for local Leagues as adopted by LWVUS.
- c. In the event of recurring failure of a local League to maintain recognition standards, the state board may recommend to the national board that it withdraw recognition from the local League. All funds held by a local League from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to LWVNM.

Section 2. Member-at-Large Units. Member-at-large units may be formed by the state board in areas where the population dictates such organization. Rules and procedures for the formation and operation of member-at-large units shall be the responsibility of the state board.

Article VII. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the LWVNM shall be from May 1 to April 30 of each year.

~~{Section 2. Financial Support. Financial responsibility for the work of the state League shall be assumed by the members of LWVNM.}~~

~~Section [3] 2. Dues. [Members enrolled in local Leagues shall pay annual dues as adopted at their Annual Meeting.]~~ Members shall pay dues in accordance with LWVUS policy.

Members who fail to renew within the period specified by LWVUS will be removed from the roster.

- ~~a. [Members enrolled in local Leagues shall pay annual dues as adopted at their Annual Meeting.]~~
- ~~b. Dues for members-at-large shall be recommended by the state board and adopted at state Convention.]~~

~~{Section 4. Per Member Payment:~~

~~a. Each local League shall make an annual member payment (PMP) to LWVNM for local League members, additional members in a common household, student members, and associate members, the amount to be determined at state Convention by a three-fifths vote of the delegates.~~

~~b. Each local League shall pay the PMP in full directly to LWVNM by December 31 of each calendar year. The state treasurer shall notify each local League of the amount of PMP due not less than sixty days in advance of the due date.~~

~~c. The state treasurer shall make a PMP to LWVUS for each member-at-large in accordance with the bylaws and procedures of LWVUS.]~~

Section [5] 3. Budget Committee. The state board shall appoint a budget committee at least four months in advance of Convention. The treasurer shall be ~~[an ex-officio]~~ a member of the committee but shall not serve as chair. The committee shall prepare a balanced budget for the next two fiscal years and present it to the state board for approval during the state board meeting preceding the convention.

Section [6] 4. Budget. The state board shall approve and distribute a proposed budget for the next two fiscal years to the membership at least 30 days prior to the Convention. A budget shall be adopted by the Convention. The state board shall review the budget prior to the ~~[succeeding]~~ next Council and distribute proposed modifications at least 30 days prior to the Council. Modifications may be made by the Council.

Section [7] 5. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of the dissolution of LWVNM for any cause, all moneys and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of LWVNM shall be paid to LWVUS. All other property ~~[of whatsoever nature]~~, whether real, personal, or mixed, which may at the time be owned by or under the control of LWVNM shall be disposed of by any officer or employee of the organization having possession of the same to such person, organization, or corporation, for such public, charitable, or educational uses and purposes as may be designated by the current state board of LWVNM.

Article VIII. CONVENTION

Section 1. Place, Date, and Call. A convention of LWVNM shall be held biennially at a time and place to be determined by the state board. The president shall send a first call for Convention to the membership not less than four months prior to the opening date of the Convention ~~[fixed in said call]~~. Thereafter the state board may advance or postpone the opening date of the Convention by not more than two weeks. A final call for Convention shall be sent to the membership at least 30 days before Convention.

Section 2. Composition. The Convention shall consist of the delegates chosen by the members through the local Leagues and member-at-large units as prescribed in Section 4 of this article and the members of the ~~[state board]~~ LWVNM Board of Directors.

Section 3. Qualifications of Delegates ~~[and Voting Members]~~. Each delegate shall be a voting member in the

state of New Mexico. ~~[Each delegate representing a local League shall be entitled to vote only if that League has met its per member payment responsibilities to LWVNM. The state board may make an exception in the case of proven hardship.]~~ Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote only at Convention even though the delegate may be attending in two or more capacities. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The Convention shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Section 4. Representation. ~~The members of LWVUS who are organized into recognized~~ local Leagues and ~~[state MAE]~~ member-at-large units in the state of New Mexico shall be entitled to voting representation in the Convention as follows:

- a. The president or designated liaison and one delegate who shall be chosen by the board of each local League; each local League having more than 15 voting members shall be entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 25 voting members or major fraction thereof.
- b. Each member-at-large unit shall be entitled to one delegate chosen by their members.
- c. Members-at-large shall be represented by a member-at-large delegate to be selected by the state board.
- d. The numbers of delegates shall be established by membership count of paid voting members as of February first of said year.
- e. In the event any delegate chosen is unable to attend the Convention, a substitute may be selected by the board of the local League, ~~[provisional League,]~~ or member-at-large unit.

Section 5. Powers. The Convention shall consider and adopt a program for study and action, shall elect officers and directors, shall adopt a balanced budget for the ensuing two years, and shall transact such other business as may be presented.

Section 6. Quorum. Forty percent of the possible number of voting delegates other than members of the state board shall constitute a quorum provided that there is representation from a majority of the local Leagues.

Article IX. COUNCIL.

Section 1. Place, Date, and Call. A meeting of the Council shall be held in the interim year between Conventions, approximately twelve months after the preceding Convention, at a time and place to be determined by the state board. A formal call shall be sent to the presidents of the local Leagues and member-at-large units at least 30 days before a Council meeting. Special Council meetings may be called by the state board.

Section 2. Composition. The Council shall be composed of the following delegates: the presidents of the local Leagues, or a designated liaison ~~[an alternate in the event the president is unable to attend]~~; one delegate chosen by each local League and each member-at-large unit; a member-at-large representative to be selected by the state board; and all members of the LWVNM state board.

Section 3. Qualifications of Delegates ~~[and Voting Members]~~. Each delegate shall be a voting member in the state of New Mexico. ~~[Each delegate representing a local League shall be entitled to vote only if that League has met its per member payment responsibilities to LWVNM. The state board may make an exception in the case of proven hardship.]~~ Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote only at Council even though the delegate may be attending in two or more capacities. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The Council shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Section 4. Powers. The Council shall give guidance to the board on program and methods of work. The Council is authorized to change program only in the event of an emergency, using the following procedure:

- a. At least eight weeks prior to the Council meeting any local League proposing a change shall submit it to the state board, which shall decide whether to recommend it.

- b. At least six weeks prior to the Council meeting, the state board shall send to the presidents of the local Leagues all proposed changes.
- c. Any change proposed by a local league but not recommended by the state board shall first require a majority vote of the Council for consideration.
- d. A two-thirds vote of the Council shall be required to adopt any change.
The Council shall confirm or modify the budget for the ensuing year and shall transact such other business as shall be presented by the state board.

Section 5. Special Council Meeting. In the event of an emergency, the state board may call a special meeting of the Council. A formal call specifying purpose, time and place shall be issued to local presidents and member-at-large units at least 30 days in advance.

Section 6. Quorum. A majority of the possible number of voting delegates shall constitute a quorum provided that there is representation from a majority of the local Leagues.

Article X. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS.

Section 1. Nominating Committee. The nominating committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the state board. The chair and two members, who shall not be members of the state board, shall be elected by the Convention. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current nominating committee. The other members of the committee shall be appointed by the state board. Any vacancy occurring in the nominating committee by reason of death, resignation, or disqualification shall be filled by the state board. Contact information for the chair of the nominating committee shall be published in [~~the state newsletter and on the state~~] La Palabra and on the LWVNM website.

Section 2. Suggestions for Nominations. The [~~chairman~~] chair of the nominating committee shall request, through the president of each local League and member-at-large unit, suggestions for nominations for offices to be filled. Suggestions for nominations by local Leagues shall be sent by the president or secretary of such local Leagues to the [~~chairman~~] chair of the nominating committee at least three months before the Convention. Any member may send suggestions to the [~~chairman~~] chair of the nominating committee.

Section 3. Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor. The report of the nominating committee of its nominations for officers and directors, [~~and~~] as well as the ~~chairman~~ chair and two members of the succeeding nominating committee shall be presented to the state board and sent to the membership at least 30 days before [~~the date of~~] the Convention. The report of the nominating committee shall be presented to the Convention on the first day of the Convention. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor provided that the consent of the nominees shall have been secured.

Article XI. PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

Section 1. Principles. The principles are concepts of government supported by the League and are the authorization for adoption of national, state and local program.

Section 2. Program. The program of LWVNM shall consist of action to implement the principles and those governmental issues chosen by the Convention for concerted study or concurrence and action as follows:

- a. The boards of local Leagues, LWVNM committees, and member-at-large units may make recommendations for program including amendment of a state League position or adoption of a position by concurrence. Recommendations must be sent to the state board at least [~~ten~~] eight weeks prior to the Convention.
- b. The state board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program,

which shall be sent to the membership at least 30 days prior to the Convention.

- c. Any local League, LWVNM committee, member-at-large unit, or the state board planning to propose the amendment of a state position or adoption of a position by concurrence shall send background information, including pros and cons on the issue and an explanation of the rationale of using concurrence, to all Leagues at least 30 days prior to the Convention.
- d. The Convention shall adopt a program by a majority vote on each subject presented to it.
- e. A program recommendation properly submitted by a local League, LWVNM committee, or by a member-at-large unit at least [ten] eight weeks prior to Convention but not proposed by the state board may be so considered only if it is ordered by a majority vote of the Convention on the first day. ~~[and the]~~ The vote on adoption comes on the following day. Adoption of any such recommendation will require a two-thirds vote.

Section 3. Program Action.

- a. League members may act on national and state program only in conformity with League positions. Members may act in the name of the League only when authorized to do so by the appropriate board.
- b. After the LWVNM board approves a new or amended position for inclusion in the program, it becomes LWVNM's position and basis for action on the issue. Changes to the position may be made by the Convention according to the procedures described above in Section 2.
- c. The state board shall have the power to request emergency concurrence action. Requests for emergency concurrence may be initiated by local Leagues or by the state board. The state board shall establish procedures for emergency concurrence action.

Section 4. Council Action. The Council may change the program as provided in Article IX.

Article XII. NATIONAL CONVENTION

Section 1. National Convention. The state board, at a meeting before the date on which names of the delegates must be sent to the National Office, shall elect delegates to that Convention in the number allowed the LWVNM under the provisions of the bylaws of LWVUS.

Section 2. National Council. The state board, at its meeting preceding the meeting of the Council of LWVUS shall elect delegates to such Council in the number allowed the LWVNM under the provisions of the bylaws of LWVUS.

Article XIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the corporation in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

Article XIV. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any Convention by a two-thirds vote provided that the proposed amendment was submitted to the state board at least ten weeks prior to the Convention by a local League, member-at-large unit or has been proposed by the state board. The state board shall send all such proposed amendments together with the recommendations of the board to the membership at least 30 days prior to the state Convention.

If LWVUS changes any of the first three Articles of the LWVUS Bylaws, the LWVNM Board must change its Bylaws to conform; no vote is required at Convention.

Program items to be considered by the 2025 Convention

By Judy Williams, LWVNM Program Chair

LWVNM Positions

A. Revisions from Council 2024

The 2024 LWVNM Council considered and adopted some revisions to positions. They are being brought to the 2025 Convention for ratification. The following positions were revised at Council: The Ethics position was revised by concurrence; and the Transparency position was revised by adding a statement from another LWVNM position.

Ethics. The Board considered a concurrence with the LWV of Connecticut position on ethics. The position, to be added to our position on Campaign Finance and Ethics: “The League of Women Voters of ~~Connecticut~~ New Mexico supports government officials and employees being held accountable for carrying out their duties in an effective and ethically responsible manner.” <https://my.lwv.org/connecticut/position/ethics>

Transparency. The Board voted to move a statement on transparency that is currently in the position on Land Use to the LWVNM position on Transparency. The LWVNM position on Land Use includes this statement: “Transparency and public participation in decision-making must be part of the process at all levels of government.” <https://www.lwvnm.org/positions.html#landuse>

B. New Proposal: Revision of the Affordable Housing Position with concurrence requests indicated by underlining.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports current and future efforts to increase the availability of safe, decent affordable housing for moderate and low-income households through the following actions.

1. Increase housing options for households in New Mexico, including but not limited to seniors, the disabled, and first-time homebuyers.
2. Promote a variety of housing styles and types for rent and for purchase that are integrated within communities, which should have a mix of market-rate and affordable units. (LWV Los Alamos)
3. Support strategies including public and private partnerships and grants, developmental agreements, rehabilitation, fee waivers, density bonuses, and an affordable housing trust fund and land bank.
4. Support programs and policies that link energy-efficient building electrification, transportation, land use, and affordable housing. (LWV Southern New Mexico)
5. Support protection of the rights of both tenants and landlords. (LWV California)
6. Support assistance for homeless programs which provide both shelter and services for targeted populations, particularly families and the mentally ill. (LWV Central New Mexico)

Justification

In recent years, the availability and affordability of housing in New Mexico has become a critical issue. Three of the local Leagues, as well as the State League have Housing positions. The State position was adopted in 2013 and requires amendments in order to address the changing landscape of housing needs in New Mexico and allow advocacy. The sheer number of housing related bills and the issues they are addressing is proof that

members of the Legislature are engaged. However, the current LWVNM Affordable Housing position does not explicitly address the rights of tenants or landlords.

In the 2025 Legislature there are several bills addressing the terms of rental applications, background and screening processes as well as adequate notices of fee and rent increases, e.g. SB267, SB 216, HB43, HB98, HB339. While there is language in both the LWVNM Affordable Housing position and LWVUS position on Meeting Basic Human Needs that can be construed to support advocacy in this area, we would welcome an explicit statement regarding tenant and landlord rights in the LWVNM position removing all doubt.

Another area missing from the LWVNM current position is allowing advocacy for supportive services for transitional or permanent supportive housing. Supportive housing is a highly effective strategy that combines affordable housing with intensive wrap-around services to help people struggling with chronic physical and mental health issues maintain stable housing. Senate Bill 273, Transitional Housing for Veterans, is an example of this deficiency and no support or oppose action can be taken because the action is to provide supportive services along with housing.

Finally, the United States is in a time of transition from reliance on fossil fuels to more renewable and efficient energy. Building electrification technologies are available now and this transition requires us to ensure our LWVNM position is up-to-date with the moving landscape of electrification and energy efficiency in affordable housing.

LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study

Background – studies and positions

The League of Women Voters advocates for good government and many other issues. It can only do so if it has arrived at a position that supports the advocacy. Positions are arrived at after careful study and meetings of the members to come to consensus on the study results.

The League operates at three levels:

- LWVUS studies, takes positions and advocates on national issues affecting government
<https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>
- LWVNM does the same for state level issues - <https://www.lwvnm.org/positions.html>
- All local Leagues do the same for local issues – check your local League website.

Consensus is agreement among a substantial number of members, reached after study and group discussion at face-to-face meetings. No voting takes place. Consensus is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather it is the overall sense of the group as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions. The Study Committee uses questions to guide discussion, after providing background materials prior to a consensus meeting.

LWVUS Study of the Federal Judiciary

The League of Women Voters of the US and other groups have become increasingly concerned about financial impropriety and ethical compromises in the US Supreme Court. The League believes that our advocacy could be important as good government is our priority. Thus the League is conducting a one-year study of the Federal Judiciary.

Please join your local League for the Consensus Meeting to discuss and come to consensus on the issues. Following the Consensus meeting, we will send the results to LWVUS, where all results from all Leagues will be weighed to create a national position.

The best way to prepare for this meeting is to go to the LWVUS webpage and read the study guide and background papers. They cover these topics and will be indispensable for the discussion at the Consensus Meeting. There is also a study guide and the questions for the consensus meeting.

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/advocacy-litigation/2024-2025-federal-judiciary-study-process-committee-and>

The background papers are:

- Financial Disclosure
- Judge Shopping
- Judicial Ethics and Enforcement
- Legitimacy and the US Supreme Court
- Key Terms for the Federal Judiciary Study
- Recusal
- Representation
- Shadow Docket
- Stare Decisis and Binding Precedent
- Structural reforms for the US Supreme Court

Also highly recommended: watch the Feb. 4 Town Hall with legal experts, study leaders and staff: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0gEKqafpg4>

Discussion prompts can also be used to start discussions: <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/Discussion%20Prompts.pdf>

The study guide contains information on the process and issues. <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/STUDY%20GUIDE%20FOR%20LEAGUES%20FINAL1.pdf>

Questions? Contact Judy Williams, Program Chair: jkwilliams24@gmail.com

Budget Committee Report

Submitted by Kathy Brook (chair), Starlyn Brown, Dick Mason, Judy Williams

Below are some details about lines in the proposed budget.

Income Items

Grants: We have had grants from LWVUS during the past few years. We do not know whether such funding will be available in the coming two years, so the \$10,000 budgeted each year is far from definite.

Dues: Under the new dues system, LWVNM will receive funding directly through ChapterSpot rather than by billing local Leagues annually. There is no need for individual budget lines for each of the local Leagues. The new dues structure is designed to increase the share of dues directed to state Leagues but the impact on state League revenues is subject to uncertainty. We have 577 current members, but we don't know what level of dues they will pay under the current system. We have assumed dues income of \$16,000 annually. This compares with about \$6,000 in dues last year.

MDW award event: An event for the Making Democracy Work award is anticipated to be self-supporting (e.g., by selling tickets) and is budgeted with income equal to expenses.

Expense Items

Delegate Expenses: LWVNM normally pays registration fees for board members, other than the local League representatives, who attend the state convention and council. Similarly, LWVNM pays registration fees for state League delegates attending LWVUS convention and council.

Diversified Membership Dues to Local Leagues: LWVNM has a fund of \$1740 for the purpose of assisting local Leagues in diversifying membership. Information needs to be shared with local Leagues.

Position support/advocacy: This includes funding for lobbying and other forms of advocacy.

Legislative reception: The reception is attended by League members and a small number of legislators, though all are invited. It provides some visibility because the legislators receive invitations even if they don't appear. The next board may want to consider alternatives.

Given that the state League portion of dues is increasing, LWVNM may want to consider ways that it can extend support to local Leagues.

See budget details on page 18

Action Report

By Akkana Peck, Action Committee Chair

The Legislature is in session, and the Action committee is busy advocating on bills. Our priorities this session are Voting & Elections & Ethics; Environment; Health Care; and Housing. We're also advocating on bills related to Budgets & Taxes; Immigration; and other topics including the gun and public safety bills. A lot of bills seem to be making good progress, at just past the midpoint of the session.

For up-to-date details on which bills we're supporting and how they're doing, see the tracking sheet linked from the Action page on our website: <https://www.lwvnm.org/Action/>.

League of Women Voters of New Mexico Proposed Budget FY 25-26 and FY26-27

		Current Budget 2024-2025 (with revisions)	Proposed Budget 2025-2026	Proposed Budget 2026-2027
	Income			
1	Contributions from Members	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
2	Contributions from Non-Members	\$1,000.00	\$225.00	\$225.00
3	Grants	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
4	Dues	\$6,217.00	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00
5	Conv/Council Auction	\$700.00		\$1,000.00
6	MDW Award Event		\$500.00	\$500.00
7	Interest			
8	TOTAL INCOME	\$18,117.00	\$26,825.00	\$27,825.00
	Expenses			
	Expense- Organizational			
9	Delegate expenses – LWVNM	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
10	Delegate expenses – LWWUS	\$2,400.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,400.00
11	Newsletter Editor Expenses		\$20.00	\$20.00
12	Diversified Membership Dues to Local Leagues	\$200.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
13	Fund Raising	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
14	Total Organizational Expenses	\$4,100.00	\$3,520.00	\$4,920.00
	Operating Expenses			
15	Office Rent	\$600.00	\$800.00	\$800.00
16	Constant Contact	\$750.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
17	Website/internet services	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
18	Office administrative expenses		\$100.00	\$100.00
19	Copying/printing		\$50.00	\$50.00
20	Insurance	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
21	Postage/P.O. Box	\$20.00	\$85.00	\$85.00
22	Zoom fee		\$500.00	\$500.00
23	Sec. of State report	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
24	Total Operational Expenses	\$2,830.00	\$4,097.00	\$4,097.00
	Program- Advocacy-Education Expenses			
25	MDW Award Event	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
26	League Day	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
27	Position support/advocacy	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
28	Legislative Reception	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
29	VOTE411	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
30	VOTE411 contractor		\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
31	Social media	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
32	La Palabra (InDesign)	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
33	Total Program-Advocacy-Education Expenses	\$6,450.00	\$16,400.00	\$16,400.00
34	TOTAL Expenses	\$13,380.00	\$24,017.00	\$25,417.00
35	Net (Income - Expenses)	\$4,737.00	\$2,808.00	\$2,408.00

New Dues Structure/PMP

LWVNM share of dues (net of processing fees) if 500 members pay \$75 = \$16,540

We have assumed that LWVNM does not charge local Leagues PMP for 2025-2026.

Immigration

By Starlyn Brown

The League of Women Voters has had an Immigration Position since 2008. Positions are the foundation for League advocacy. No Position, No Advocacy.

Since taking office on January 20th, the President has issued executive orders significantly impacting US Immigration Policy. While your immigration status may not be in question, the new rules may impact you in unforeseen ways at your business, your work, at worship, at school, and in many other places. Anyone may experience an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operation.

The key directives of the Presidents executive orders are:

- Enhanced Border Security and Enforcement “Protecting the American People Against **Invasion**”*
- Reevaluation of Birthright Citizenship calling for a review of the current interpretation of the 14th Amendment concerning birthright citizenship. [birthright_citizenship_factsheet_241017.pdf](#)
- Enhanced Vetting Procedures with stricter vetting processes for visa applicants, which includes more comprehensive background checks and increased scrutiny of applicants’ social media activities.
- Changes to Asylum Policies aiming to expedite the processing of claims and reduce the backlog of cases and may impose stricter eligibility criteria.
- Suspension of Refugee Admissions. The administration has temporarily suspended the admission of refugees into the United States, citing national security concerns.

*The use of the word “**Invasion**” is a tactic being used to try and expand the power of the President.

Immigrants in the U.S., **regardless of their immigration status**, have certain legal rights protected by the U.S. Constitution and federal laws.

Basic Constitutional Rights for All Immigrants

- Right to Remain Silent** – You do not have to answer questions from **ICE, police, or other law enforcement** about your immigration status.
- Right to an Attorney** – You have the right to speak to a lawyer, but the government **does not** have to provide a free one (except in criminal cases).
- Right Against Unreasonable Searches** – **ICE and police cannot search your home without a warrant signed by a judge.**
- Right to Due Process** – You have the right to a **hearing before an immigration judge** before being deported (except in certain expedited cases).
- Right to Work Protections** – All workers, **regardless of immigration status**, have rights under **labor laws** (minimum wage, safe working conditions, protection from discrimination).

New Mexico is an immigrant-friendly state. After the current administration **reversed** a federal guideline discouraging the arrest of undocumented immigrants in public places such as houses of worship and schools, the New Mexico Department of Justice issued guidance for houses of worship, public schools, colleges, local law enforcement officers, magistrate and district courts and hospitals. Those guidelines can be found on the New Mexico Department of Justice website.

There are multiple resources and guidance available to help understand what this all means and what legal actions people and organizations can take to prepare for ICE. Here is one:

- <https://www.nmilc.org/toolkit> is an excellent resource.

Best practices from research; not legal advice:

- You do not have to answer questions; you have the right to remain silent.
- In a public place you do NOT have to show ID or answer questions.
- A warrant MUST be signed by a Judge. An ICE administrative warrant does not give ICE the authority to enter private spaces like homes, schools, or workplaces without consent.
- At home you do not have to open your door until ICE provides a signed warrant, preferably presented under or through a door.
- ICE is only allowed to enter public areas. They cannot enter areas marked private without a warrant signed by a judge.

Local League News

Central New Mexico

By Starlyn Brown, President

New Mexico Black Leadership Council: Starlyn Brown gave a presentation to the NMBLC Uplift meeting on January 29. Topics covered were what LWVUS is doing, LWVNM priorities for the NM legislative session, and LWVCNM activities.

Events: Our February monthly educational meeting topic is LWVUS Moonshot Goal: Abolition of the US Electoral College. Anne Galer was the presenter. The meeting was well attended and sparked a lot of discussion. The recording and the presentation are available on our website. Moving forward, we will be looking for more educational opportunities.

We had a very special Book Club and Author event on January 22nd. *Whiskey Tender* author Deborah Taffa joined us for a discussion of her book and a pot luck dinner.

Our yearly Program Planning Meeting was January 25, 2025.

Another special Book Club and Author event is scheduled for March 19, 2025. The book is *Hell If We Don't Change Our Ways: A Memoir by Brittany Means* (Publisher: Zibby Books).

The Judicial Study Consensus meeting is scheduled on Zoom, April 5, 9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.

New Membership System: Launched February 3rd; it has been rough. We were very proactive and had already reconciled our membership data. The system has had and continues to have issues. However, we have had members join and renew using the new system.

2025 Legislative Session: LWVCNM members are very engaged with the Action Committee. Their areas of focus are environment and housing. Members from LWVSNM and LWVCNM are collaborating on housing. The number of housing related bills introduced in the session is very high. There are, however, several bills that

cannot be addressed because we do not have a LWVNM or LWVUS position.

Housing Position Concurrence: The Housing committee for the 2025 Legislative session quickly discovered that the 2013 LWVNM position is inadequate to address some of the current issues. The LWVUS positions are also inadequate. Interestingly, LWVLA, LWVSNM, and LWVCNM all have existing Housing Positions. However, renters and landlords were not addressed anywhere. Beth Bardwell of LWVSNM and Janie McGuigan of LWVCNM drove the effort to revise the LWVNM Position by including language from LWVLA, LWVSNM and LWVCNM, as well as LWVCA for concurrence.

FYI: We still have Job Training Albuquerque scholarship dollars available for classes. We would be happy to share with other state Leagues if there are members interested in taking a class. Starlyn is taking an online grant writing class Tuesdays 4/8 – 5/23. The link to look at classes is Trainings - Job Training Albuquerque.

Southern New Mexico

By Jo Galván Nash, President

Women's History Month: We're excited for our March Membership meeting which will also be a celebration of Women's History Month. A panel of three experts will be featured to discuss the impact of women in history and their involvement in women's rights. We're eager to hear from Dr. Judy Long, professor emerita, creator of the first Women's Studies Program in the country at Cornell University; Dr. Patti Wojahn, former head of the NMSU Interdisciplinary Studies Department; and Dr. Laura Anh Williams, NMSU program head of the Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Know Your Local Govt.: Know Your Local Government Day is an annual youth engagement event involving local high school students. Sponsored by LWVSNM, the City of Las Cruces, and the Las Cruces Public Schools, students learned about various aspects of city government. The students were given a citywide challenge and tasked with developing solutions that would benefit the department and the community. The teams get judged on their work; the winning team centered on issues with Parks and Recreation.



Program Planning: There was a good turnout for our yearly Program Planning. Vice-President Beth Bardwell led the discussion with the members breaking into groups to develop next year's blueprint. Our League will continue our voter services efforts even though it will be a light turnout for local races and school bonds. We will combine our Spanish and English Voters Guides for the first time since fewer candidates will be on the ballot. Our Program, if adopted at the Annual Meeting, will also include updating our Libraries, Water, Healthcare, and Immigration Positions.

LWVUS messages: It is reassuring that the national League is sending more letters and online messages regarding the current state of politics in Washington, DC. We have utilized those messages on our website and through social media. We continue to keep abreast of the League's posture, especially with relation to federal employee dismissals and immigration. Like much of the state, federal employment is a huge factor in our area.

Bylaws, Policies & Procedures Committee: SNM's new committee is off-and-running. We've made recommended changes to our Bylaws and Procedures that needed updating due to ChapterSpot. We'll continue the ongoing review of bylaws, policies and procedures each month. Our next task is to solidify parameters regarding

the acceptance of donations to the League. We also will review and possibly revise our guidelines for candidate forums, specifically when there is an “empty seat” situation.

ChapterSpot: A few members have checked their online accounts and have paid dues. There have been few problems except for one bad email address. However, the majority of our members won’t need to renew until May 1; that’s when we’ll truly know if everything is running smoothly. From what we’ve seen so far, the platform is working well with the exception of setting up the Stipe (financial payment) function.

Santa Fe County

By Debbie Helper, SFC Liaison

Membership: We have had a marked increase in new members with 11 since the January State Board meeting. The notifications are now coming in from ChapterSpot although, for some reason, they are sending them to my personal email rather than to our League gmail account. We had 171 before culling the list for PMP (removing non-renewals). Renewals were 126 (74%). Total membership is now 139. We have 10 LWVSFC sponsored members.

Administration: We have established LWVSFC.org specific emails for the Board officers, VPs and Directors. We will encourage our Leadership Team to use these rather than personal emails for League business.

Program:

- We held our Program Planning meeting on Feb 18th at which time we reviewed state and national positions with few changes. Accurate, up-to-date positions have been posted on our website. Eleven members were in attendance.

- The Community Health Study is ongoing and study committee members requested a one-year extension. No other studies were recommended.

- Plans were made for the consensus meeting for the national Judicial Study. A CC was sent out inviting members to that meeting to be held on March 25th from 10-noon. Links to study materials were included in the invitation. Ten have RSVP’d so far.

Action and Advocacy: The committee continues to meet monthly and is preparing a matrix for prioritizing efforts. Currently their focus is mostly on monitoring, but more effort to act and advocate is desired going forward.

PR/Communications: The Board decided to publish the LWVUS press release as a full-page ad in the Santa Fe New Mexican Sunday newspaper. It was expensive, but very well placed. We had a favorable response to the ad. Two phone calls thanking us. Two emails thanking us. Five new members immediately after publication. Donations of over \$350. No negative response. We continue to post information about upcoming bills in the legislature in a timely fashion on social media. We no longer post to X but will start posting on BlueSky.

Events:

- o A Sunshine Week event is planned for Monday, March 17th from 5:30 – 7p.m. on the topic of IPRA. It will be co-sponsored by NMFOG with Inez Russell Gomez (SF New Mexican Opinions page editor) as the moderator; Christine Barber, NMFOG – how the public uses IPRA; Phaedra Haywood, SFNM journalist – how she uses IPRA; Amanda Lavin, legal director, NMFOG – challenges to IPRA. We (LWVSFC and NMFOG) are submitting an OpEd to the New Mexican in advance to promote the event.

o We are supporting the organizers of the International Women's Day Event to be held on Saturday, March 8th. We printed their flyer and helped distribute it, will have an informational table at the event, and are promoting it on our social media and to like-minded organizations.

State Convention:

- Save the Date CC was sent out and a request was made (and fulfilled) to put it on the state website calendar.
- Venues have been secured for the convention (The Lodge) and the Banquet (LaFonda). The registration fee will be \$100 for 30, \$75 for 40 attendees and the banquet will cost \$100. These are revenue neutral including beverages, pastries, a box lunch and printed materials
- Speakers have been chosen – **Alexis Juday Marshall**, our national league liaison (confirmed) will speak at lunchtime on Saturday about ongoing efforts by the national League to protect our democracy as well as any outcomes of such efforts. For the banquet, **Leon Howard** the interim executive director of the ACLU-NM, (tentatively confirmed at the time of this writing) will speak to their efforts and what we can do to protect our democracy at the state and local levels from the all-out assault at the federal level.
- We are now developing the registration form, which will be filled out on-line and posted soon after the Call to Convention is sent out via CC, at which time we will also need the state League Convention documents to link to and to print out for the convention folders.
- Deadline for reservations for rooms at the discounted rate at The Lodge is March 26th. Deadline for notice of number of attendees at the convention and the banquet is April 21st.
- Saturday afternoon museum tour and hike are being planned.
- Friday night reception location will be at the home of Judy Williams.

Voter Services: A thank you event was held for our student VRAs and it was well-attended. We are gearing up for the November election. We are discussing how best to encourage citizens to run for office and to dispense information about the requirements and responsibilities of various offices. We are also planning a series of programs on Mis/Dis/Mal information, AI and Media Literacy in the run-up to the elections. We continue to table at several locations with voter information and voter registration. We continue to engage the students in the local high schools around voter registration, education and civic engagement.

Los Alamos Report

By Felicia Orth, President

Annual Program Planning meeting: On February 2 we gathered at Ellen Mills's house for a program planning discussion. No one proposed changes to our positions. Felicia noted that LWVUS had asked that we expedite participation in the national study of the federal judiciary; the Los Alamos consensus meeting will be Monday, March 3.

League Reception and League Day: Several Los Alamos League board members attended the LWVNM Legislative Reception at La Fonda on February 5, and the League Day events on February 6 at the Round House and the State Land Office.

Lunch with a Leader: On February 20, we heard from Hari Viswanathan, an Artificial Intelligence expert at

LANL. His was a very well-attended talk, and very engaging. The video and slides are on our webpage now at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oz0uCx1d_yM&t=2397s&ab_channel=LeagueofWomenVotersofLosAlamos

Advocacy: Barbara Calef has been an attentive and dedicated advocate during the New Mexico legislative session, paying special attention to voting and elections, environmental protection, housing, and health care.

Looking forward: We will gather for our annual League membership meeting on April 17. Local NM State Representative Christine Chandler will be our speaker. The Nominating Committee has been hard at work and has a full slate. Barbara already obtained Board approval of the necessary bylaw changes related to ChapterSpot to be presented for vote by the membership that day.



League of Women Voters of NM
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Please consider helping your local League or LWVNM to pay for our voter guides and candidate forums. You can send a tax-deductible gift by check to your local League or to LWVNM. See www.lwvnm.org for more information and links to our local Leagues. Thank you for making democracy work!

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that helps the public play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, regional and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Anyone 16 years of age or older, male or female, may become a member. The League of Women Voters never endorses candidates for office or supports political parties.