



THE **Voter**

2403 San Mateo NE, W-16C
Albuquerque, NM 87110
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OCTOBER 2007

Diane Goldfarb
President
(505) 821-4229

October Units: Consensus on Name Change and Immigration

In October we will take consensus on two issues. First we will address an organizational name change proposed by your LWV/ABC Board of Directors. The recommended name is **League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico**. In the first part of each October unit meeting we will discuss the change and determine whether it is supported by the membership. Please refer to the article elsewhere in this issue of the Voter for more information.

In the second part of each meeting we will begin consensus on the Immigration Study done by the League of Women Voters of the United States. Members will facilitate the discussions. Because consensus is expected to take 2-3 hours, the process has been divided into two months and will continue with the November unit meetings. Included with this issue is an overview of U.S. immigration policy. This was condensed from a background paper written by one of the Immigration Study Committee members. Other background papers were included in the February and June 2007 issues of the *National Voter*, and another will be in the October issue. Those articles and other background information are available on the LWVUS website. You can link to it easily by going to our own website; www.lwvabc.org, scrolling down to "What's Current"

and clicking on "Consensus Kit." That will put you on the page where you can download study and consensus materials (lower right-hand side). You are urged to read the information prior to the October unit meetings.

Thursday, Oct. 11, 11:45 a.m., Luncheon Unit

Wyndham Hotel, 2910 Yale SE

Reservations are required*

Facilitators: Josephine Porter and Dolores Waller

Monday, Oct. 15, 1:30 p.m., Midtown Unit

Manzano del Sol, 5201 Roma NE, Hobby Room

Facilitators: JoAnne Ramponi and Diane Goldfarb

Tuesday, Oct. 16, 6 p.m., Evening Unit

Cherry Hills Library, 6901 Barstow St. NE

Facilitators: Delores Watkins and Olin Bray

Wednesday, Oct. 17, noon, Sandoval County Unit

Corrales Community Center

4234 Corrales Road

Facilitators: Dick Mason and Lisa Franzen

* Cost of the Luncheon is \$15, payable at the door. Reservations are required. Call the office at 884-8441 by Monday, October 8. If you prefer a fruit plate to the menu item, please let us know.

Another Way to Give

Were you aware that there is another way in which you have an opportunity to give to the LWV/ABC Education Fund? The United Way of Central New Mexico is currently conducting its 2008 fall campaign. Each year our Education Fund receives a few donations collected through the United Way campaign. For those of you who give to United Way through your workplace, please remember that you can designate the League of Women Voters of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Education Fund as the recipient of your gift.

As always, such gifts go to further the educational activities of our local League.

League of Women Voters Albuquerque/ Bernalillo County

Board Meeting
1st Thursday of each month
5:30 p.m.

Offices of Sutin, Thayer &
Browne, 6565 Americas
Parkway NE

Program Committees

Check with the following
League members about commu-
nity activities:

Advocacy

Delores Watkins (823-2308)

Drug Policy

Delores Watkins (823-2308)

Natural Resources

JoAnne Ramponi (298-2716)
Includes transportation, land use,
air quality, water, and energy.

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

The *Voter* is published
each month by the League of
Women Voters of Albuquerque/
Bernalillo County.

Garage Sale

*The Garage Sale planned
for October has had to be
postponed. But please keep
saving your items. We will
hold the sale in the spring to
benefit LWV/ABC's operating
fund.*

President's Corner

This month the *Voter* may look a bit different because Pat Freeman is no longer our editor. Pat did an outstanding job of editing this newsletter from November 2005 until September 2007. She was a lifesaver, stepping in when our previous editor had to resign and I was still new at the job of being president. Pat is conscientious and carefully attentive to detail, and she produced a newsletter of which we could all be proud. She has also edited our Member Handbook for years and is past editor of *La Palabra*. She was instrumental in beginning our *Voters' Guide* and has produced many invitations for the Salute to Albuquerque. Pat is surely a woman of many talents, and we owe her a great big THANKS.

Beginning with the November issue Geta Aileen Gatterman will be the new *Voter* editor. Geta is well known to many of our members. She is a former LWV/ABC president and has edited this newsletter before. I'm sure she will add her special touches to future issues. Her deadline will be the first Thursday of the month.

The *Voters' Guide* for the Albuquerque Municipal Election was distributed in early September. This year we printed only 20,000 copies since more and more people seem to be reading it online. Once again, we have Josephine Porter and Andrea Targhetta to thank for a fine publication. Thanks, too, go to all of those who helped proof, distribute and perform various jobs to get it out. Everyone seems to know us for the *Voters' Guide*. Isn't it nice to be associated with a group that does such good work?

-Diane Goldfarb

Board Highlights

LWV/ABC Board

- An event for members to meet their representatives to the City Council and County Commission will be held on December 2.
- It was decided to hold the garage sale in the spring because of construction going on at our preferred location.
- LWV/ABC will support the Workforce Housing Bond.
- The Board voted to recommend League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico as a new name for the organization.
- Members of the LWV/ABC Board were elected to the Education Fund Board.

LWV/ABC Education Fund Board

- The following officers were elected to the Education Fund Board: Diane Goldfarb, President; Josephine Porter, Vice President; Ellen Evans, Secretary; Terry Quinn, Treasurer.
- 20,000 copies of the *Voters' Guide* are being distributed.
- A lobbying workshop will be held in December as part of the Community Education Series.

Memorial Gifts to the LWV/ABC Education Fund

In Memory of Bill Heckman
Marilyn Morgan

In Memory of Helen Jansky Sanford
Moreau Jansky Parsons

Fair Representation Study

The LWVNM Fair Representation Study Group is meeting monthly on the fourth Tuesday at 1:30 pm. So far, all meetings have been in Albuquerque; members in other locations are urged to volunteer to host meetings in their cities. Contact Cheryl Haaker, 505-298-7415 or cheryl@haaker.org. All meetings will also be teleconferenced; contact Cheryl for information on how to participate.

Articles by Lisa Franzen and Delores Watkins will be coming out in the October *La Palabra* discussing the history of redistricting/reapportionment in New Mexico, and why redistricting is necessary. These are the first of a series of articles. The printed articles will be abridged versions of more extensive, footnoted articles which will be posted on the website at <http://www.lwvabc.org/fair/>.

A listserv has been set up for the Study Group members and other interested parties. You are encouraged to join "LWVNMFair." To subscribe, send an email to LWVNMFair-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Resource materials, both hardcopy and URLs, are being collected and archived in Albuquerque. Study Group Member Kathy Altobelli has devised a data entry form where you can specify and evaluate reference materials, and this information can then easily be entered into a database. The form can be downloaded from the Fair webpage.

-Cheryl Haaker, Chair

Fair Representation Trivia Question

When was the first Census of the United States conducted?

- 1800, the first round-numbered year after the Constitution was ratified.
- 1792, the year the Constitution was ratified.
- 1790, because the Founders were really foresighted.

See page 7 for answer.

DUES ARE DUE

Thanks to all of you who sent in your dues when you received your renewal notices last month. Our membership year is October 1 to September 30. You become a local, state and national member when you renew through the local League.

Dues are \$50 for the first member of the household and \$25 for each additional member of the household. Student memberships are available for \$25. Contributions to the general operating fund can be included with your dues.

If you have any questions please contact me at 298-2716.

*-JoAnne Ramponi
Membership Chair*

Welcome New & Returning Members

Robert Ford
4817 Brenda Street NE 87109
292-7821

Karen Giannini
2226 B Wyoming Blvd NE, #307 87112
480-9766

Margaret (Peggy) Gutjahr
445 Aquina Ct
Belen 87002
864-6908

Herb H. Hughes
7112 Lantern Rd NE 87109
884-8035

Eloise Pope-Schuch
717 Douglas MacArthur Rd NW 87107
344-4622

Marcia Rosenstein
2448 Agua Fria Dr NE
Rio Rancho 87144
867-4899

Mary Ellen Smith & Judson Ford, Jr.
P. O. Box 80267 87198
265-3305

Peter Snow
1529 Catron Ave SE 87123
293-6867

JoAnn Strathman
1609 Morningside NE 87110
268-3821

Julie R. Tierney
2900 Vista del Rey NE 9A 87110
h: 323-1275, w: 872-4299

Change of address:

Virginia Jaschke
2223 Camino de los Artesanos NW 87107
h: 345-1598

New phone numbers:

Lois Reed: 235-9722
Laura Stokes: 328-1767
Jennice M. Fishburn 771-2641

New email addresses available from office or JoAnne for Karen Giannini, Pamela Hilty, Christine Billing Kamm, Jaredene (Jarie) Kovac, Judith Moss Minks, Lenore Reeve, Eloise Pope-Schuch, JoAnn Strathman, Karen Wentworth

Submitted by Kathleen Kimler Altobelli

Shall We Change Our Name?

A year ago the LWV/ABC Board began to seriously discuss a change in our organization's name to better reflect the area we serve. Several possible names were discussed, two articles were published in the *Voter*, member suggestions were solicited, and at the 2007 Annual Meeting it was announced that the Board had voted to pursue a name change.

Now the Board has voted to recommend the name **League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico** to our membership. Further, the Board has recommended that, although not part of our formal name, our materials say "Serving Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia Counties."

Back in December we took a look at our membership numbers and discovered at that time that 12% of our membership resided outside of Bernalillo County. And the numbers appear to be increasing as the metropolitan area grows. This new name would be more inclusive, better describe the area we serve and perhaps enable us to grow further into the surrounding counties.

We don't anticipate that the change will result in a budget adjustment at this time. We are already serving Sandoval County with a supplement to our *Voters' Guides* and a unit meeting there monthly. We are occasionally called upon to provide services in Valencia County, but our national organization has informed us that this name change would not obligate us to publish a *Voters' Guide* there until such time as we have the people and resources to do so. We currently have very few members in Torrance County, but it is an adjoining county—and the home of our national president.

We do, however, realize that there will be some costs attached to this name change. While we can continue to use some of our supplies, such as stationery, until they run out, we will have to make new signs, a banner and a number of other items. There will be paperwork required as well, but nothing that should pose any type of problem for us. We will need to allocate something for this in our 2008-2009 budget, and the recommendation from our Board is \$500.

The proposed name change will need to be discussed at the October unit meetings so that we can reach consensus on whether or not the membership approves of the recommended name. If it does not, we will go back to the drawing board. If it does, then we will submit an application to LWVNM for approval. With state Board approval, it will go to LWVUS, where the Outreach Committee will review it and make a recommendation to the national Board. If the LWVUS Board approves, then we are informed and the name change can take effect. Of course, bylaws will need to be changed and voted on at the next annual meeting. It sounds like a burdensome process, but those who have been through it elsewhere say it is not difficult. As most of you know, several other Albuquerque-based organizations have done the same thing in recent years.

This is a significant step, so please think about the possible new name and come to the October unit meetings ready to share what you think are the advantages and disadvantages.

-Diane Goldfarb

Drug Policy News

September is Pain Awareness Month.

1. Do you know if pain care policy in New Mexico has improved since 2001 when pain treatment was found to be a major problem in NM? Yes/No
2. Do you know what score NM received on the 2007 State Report card? Choose A – F.
3. What major positive/negative factors contributed to this score?
 - a. Physical dependence or analgesic tolerance are not confused with "addiction".
 - b. Practitioners are encouraged to treat chronic pain.
 - c. Public health and welfare are promoted by detecting and preventing substance abuse and encouraging appropriate treatment of pain and other conditions for which controlled substances are prescribed.
 - d. Unprofessional conduct includes "excessive prescribing or administering of drugs".

Answers

1. Yes.
2. NM has improved from a B to a B+. The NM Pain Relief

Act and the Federation of State Medical Boards" pain management guidelines contributed to this score when the NM Medical Board formalized its rules and changed the Medical Practice Act.

3. a,b, and c are positive factors which support establishing policy to improve pain care.

d. is a negative factor because "excessive" is ambiguous and can lead to debate and be a potential cause for discipline. Already federal drug policy has led to physician censure and imprisonment due to differing interpretations of the controlled substances act.

Although improved pain care is supported by state regulation and law, understanding of these regulations and laws is still in process. The consumers' role in developing this understanding is one of the goals of the LWV/ABC Drug Policy Committee.

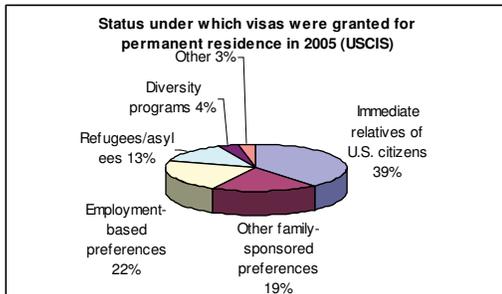
Next Drug Policy Study Committee meeting: Thursday, October 25, 2007, 1:00-3:00 p.m., at Manzano del Sol, Sixth Floor Lounge.

-Dee Watkins, Drug Policy Study Committee Chair

Overview: Federal Immigration Policy

Federal immigration policy determines who may immigrate to the U.S., how or if they may become citizens, and many aspects of their lives once here. It does not apply to persons born in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories, as these are native-born U.S. citizens.

Legal immigrants and categories under which they may enter the U.S.: Immigrants who enter the U.S. legally today are most likely to do so as a spouse or child of a citizen or permanent resident, or as another family member. The next largest groups enter under an employment-based preference or as a refugee/asylee. Diversity immigrants come from a variety of countries under a “lottery” system without respect to the number entering from their countries via other visa groups.



In 1965, a major revision of immigration law set quotas for these various groups. These quotas indicate the primary foci for U.S. immigration policy:

- *Employer need and employment-based preferences*, including high-level professionals and entrepreneurs who provide work for others
- *Family reunification*, especially with immediate relatives
 - For citizens
 - For other permanent residents (lower

priority)

- *Human rights issues* related to needs for refuge, asylum or other protected status
- *Diversity* of country of origin

The quotas for these different groups are complicated. For example, the total quota for family-based immigration is 480,000, but immediate relatives of U.S. citizens are exempt, and actual totals generally exceed 600,000.

The 1965 diversity requirement set a maximum for each country of 7 percent of the total immigration in a given year (excluding refugees), now slightly over 25,000 per year. As a result, legal immigration from Mexico, China, India and the Philippines, the countries that send us the most immigrants, is markedly lower than it would be if entry from a country were proportionate to those who wanted to come.

Temporary visitors: Federal policy also determines who may enter the U.S. on a temporary basis, for instance as a tourist, a student or a guest worker. Temporary work quotas are also complicated. For example, in 2005 the quota for skilled professional workers was 65,000, but the actual number of these temporary workers was roughly 124,000. This number includes 20,000 workers with advanced degrees, not counted against the quota, who worked for the government, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions.

Temporary visitors should have little relevance for permanent immigration, but 25 to 40 percent of unauthorized immigrants are individuals who have overstayed temporary visas. Adjustment from temporary to permanent status is frequent.

Quotas as policy: Much of the current focus on control stems in part from the very visible increase in immigration over the last several decades. This is true even though the percentage of immigrants today in terms of current population figures is no larger than it was in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Nationally our foreign-born percentage increased from less than 5 percent in 1970, its lowest point since before 1850 when records were first kept to between 12 and 13 percent in 2005.

In 1990, our foreign-born were concentrated in a few states. Only five coastal states showed 12 percent or higher. Today, 14 states do. Many states remain below the 12 percent threshold, but have experienced a doubling or tripling of the



(continued)

percentage of foreign-born residents. This marked increase has been a major factor in nationalizing the attention paid to immigration.

Naturalization and rights of naturalized citizens: The naturalization process to become a citizen requires five years of residence (three for spouses of U.S. citizens or members of the military); the ability to read, write and speak simple words and phrases in English; and a basic knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of American history and principles of U.S. government. An immigrant seeking naturalization must have maintained good moral character for the requisite five years.

A naturalized citizen has all of the rights of a native-born citizen with the exception that a naturalized citizen cannot become president of the United States. Because of a ruling in a recent lawsuit, naturalized citizens may remain subject to deportation/removal in certain instances.

Rights of other immigrants: Legal immigrants who have not gone through the naturalization process, as well as unauthorized immigrants, have many of the same rights as native-born citizens, including constitutional rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights. Permanent (legal) immigrants may sponsor immediate relatives (spouses and children under 21) and other family members, but at a lower priority than citizens. Since 1996 permanent residents other than refugees have faced increasing restrictions with respect to access to the courts and use of social services such as Temporary Aid For Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, Social Security and other welfare services. Some state and local jurisdictions allow non-citizens to vote.

Rights of U.S. citizens by virtue of birth: Children born in this country are U.S. citizens, with all the rights of other U.S. citizens. This includes U.S.-born children of unauthorized immigrants. Legal challenges to their citizen status have been unsuccessful, but procedural challenges may have more impact. For example, proof of citizenship, which could take several weeks, is now required for a child to receive treatment under Medicaid.

National language: The U.S. has never had an official language. Each time the issue has been raised over the years, it has been rejected as impractical, generally because of the burden it would impose on major groups of citizens, residents and visitors. Several states, territories and communities have passed or attempted to pass legislation requiring English as the language of government or as one of two or three such languages.

Changes and proposals since 2001: People judged to be “anarchists and political extremists” have been excluded since 1901, but in 2002, the PATRIOT Act extended the criteria for foreign-born entrance (or its denial) to include security and terrorist concerns, health grounds, criminal history, indigence and previous removal.

The 2005 Sensenbrenner bill that was signed into law, but largely unfunded, included provisions for building 700 miles of security fencing along the Mexican border. Other areas in which reform or new legislation have been attempted include pathway to citizenship, amnesty or other special provisions for children, state/local enforcement of immigration law, expansion of the list of deportable offenses, and increased quotas, especially for temporary workers.

This is a condensation by Martha Beattie, LWV-SJ/SC, California, of the policy portions of the background paper, “Overview: Federal Immigration Policy and Proposed Reforms”, by Deborah Macmillan, LWV of East Windsor-Hightstown, NJ, a member of the Immigration Study Committee. The full paper with citations is available (along with other background papers) at www.lwv.org.

Advocacy Corner

Advocacy education activities: Are you “tuned in” to the current media and neighborhood/family discussions about ethics reform? Call Dee Watkins for resource information. Join LWVNM and LWVABC Topics listserves. These e-mail sites provide up to date information as it is happening or about to happen. Send an e-mail to Cheryl Haaker for more information on joining. Health care reform? Read “Insurance Basics” at LWVNM.org web site or Dr. Henry Simmons speech: “Building a Better Health Care System.” Copies are available from Dee Watkins or Dick Mason. Read the listserve.

Advocacy action activities: Do you know your state legislative Senate and Representative District? Legislator’s name? Best way to contact her/him? His/her thinking on suggested ethics proposals? Thinking about health care options? Greatest legislative concern?

A Few Other Advocacy To Dos

October -- Call other members in your legislative district about upcoming action. Learn how to be an OBSERVER of governmental meetings.

November -- Help plan and attend a reception for City Councilors and County Commissioners.

December -- Notify members and attend a lobbying workshop.

Next Advocacy Committee Meeting: Wednesday, October 3, 2007, 1:00-3:00 p.m., at the LWV/ABC Office, 2403 San Mateo NE, W-16C

Dee Watkins, Advocacy Chair

“Entertainment on Vacation” Specials

Wow, another way to save big! For every Entertainment Book you buy, you will receive a FREE 2-week *Entertainment on Vacation* membership card--a \$9.95 value. You can save \$100s on vacation (whether at home or away). Just enter your unique code, and then make your choices to download unlimited printable coupons from the *Entertainment on Vacation* website (www.entertainmentonvacation.com). FYI: Donna did this for a Chicago trip. It is doable, especially when you organize your preferences before starting.

This is in addition to Entertainment Books with those over 700 2-for-1 and dollars-off savings you have received in past years for outings, restaurants, groceries, merchandise, services, and reservations for cars, hotels, and more!

Buy your Entertainment Book(s) now at the LWV/ABC office. Every book you purchase is also your gift to the LWV/ABC. 20% of purchase price is credited to the operating fund. Out-of-state book gifts count, too. Prices may differ, so contact Donna, 797-4690, or the office, 884-8441, to ask about these prices.

Thanks for supporting the League while you enjoy your savings.

-Donna Hill

Answer to Trivia Question: c. The first census was taken in 1790, under the responsibility of Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. That census, taken by U.S. Marshals on horseback, counted 3.9 million inhabitants. (Taken from U.S. Census Bureau History. See the Census website at <http://www.census.gov/acsd/www/history.html>.)

Vote Yes for Workforce Housing

Ten General Obligation (G.O.) Bond questions for the two-year bond cycle are on the ballot for the Oct. 2 election in Albuquerque. The last one is called “Affordable Housing Bonds.” As a result of the City Council’s ordinance O-06-8, the Workforce Housing Opportunity Act, passed Sept. 6, 2006, it reads:

“Shall the City of Albuquerque issue \$10,100,000 of its general obligation bonds in support of the Workforce Housing Act to provide resources towards the construction and rehabilitation of high quality, permanently affordable housing for low to moderate working families, including affordable senior rental?”

The LWV/ABC Board voted to support the bond, based on both national and local positions. Information about it will be distributed at unit meetings this month, from “Vote Yes for Workforce Housing,” the coalition promoting it.

In the Oct. 2 election you have a chance to help put thousands of young families on the path to homeownership, according to the supporters of this program. Please vote yes for #10, and encourage others to do so too.

-Michelle Meaders

UNIT	LOCATION	LEADER	MEMBERSHIP
Luncheon 2 nd Thursday 11:45 a.m.	Wyndham Hotel 2910 Yale SE Reservations required \$15*	Marilyn Morgan 266-5131	Vivian Boyle 266-1417
Midtown 3 rd Monday 1:30 p.m.	Manzano del Sol 5201 Roma NE Hobby Room (on the first floor)	JoAnne Ramponi 298-2716	
Evening 2 nd Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	Cherry Hills Library 6901 Barstow NE Optional dinner after meeting	Jan Bray 292-7270	Delores Watkins 823-2308
Sandoval County 3 rd Wednesday 12:00 p.m.	Corrales Community Center Meeting Room 4234 Corrales Road Brown Bag Lunch	Marie Ross 771-0103 Mary Mulvany 792-9287	Janet Kelbley 898-4123

* Luncheon Unit reservations: call the League office by 10:00 a.m. the preceding Monday. If you do not attend and have not canceled by the deadline, you will be billed for the cost.

October Calendar	
1	Dues are due
3	Advocacy
4	Board meeting
4	Deadline for Voter
11	Luncheon Unit
15	Midtown Unit
16	Evening Unit
17	Sandoval County Unit
25	Drug Policy

Membership

You can join LWV any time of the year.
Contact JoAnneRamponi, 298-2716



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Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.