

# THE VOTER

FEBRUARY 2008

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Albuquerque, NM 87110  
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www.lwvabc.org

Diane Goldfarb  
President

Aileen Gatterman  
Voter Editor

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## FEBRUARY 2008 UNIT MEETINGS — DRUG POLICY STUDY: CONSENSUS

The Drug Policy Study Committee recommends that LWV/ABC develop a position statement on pain management. For the past four years the Committee has provided education programs and articles to our members.

February Unit meetings will discuss the entrenched views about pain management and the barriers to relief. Some controversial areas to be included in the discussion are: stigma—patients in pain feel they are treated like addicts; patient/provider education—patients cannot find help for their pain; definitions—pain is subjective and hard to measure; drug policy—patients fear addiction and providers fear prosecution for prescribing treatment.

The Units will determine if consensus can be reached on these questions:

1. Should LWV/ABC develop a position statement on pain management?
2. If so, what actions should we support?
3. Which actions should be a priority?

Discussion and conclusions on consensus will be recorded at each Unit. From these records the Committee will compose a position statement to present to the Board in March. *Please see page 3 for background information for the Unit meetings.*

**Thursday, February 14, 11:45 a.m., Luncheon Unit**  
Wyndham Hotel, 2910 Yale SE (Reservations required\*)

**Monday, February 18, 1:30 p.m., Midtown Unit**  
Manzano del Sol, Hobby Room, 5201 Roma NE

**Tuesday, February 19, 6:00 p.m., Evening Unit**  
Cherry Hills Library, Community Rm., 6901 Barstow NE

**Wednesday, February 20, Noon, Sandoval Cty. Unit**  
Corrales Community Center, 4234 Corrales Road

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\*Cost of the luncheon is \$16, payable at the door. Reservations are required. Call the office at 884-8441 by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 11. If you prefer a fruit plate rather than the menu item, please let us know at the time you make your reservations

### THANK YOU TO OUR 2007 DONORS

The League depends on the generosity of many people to support its programs, operations and educational projects. We thank all of those who contributed to the League this past year. You helped in making 2007 a successful year for LWV/ABC.

#### LWV/ABC Education Fund

Donations to the LWV/ABC Education Fund supported our community educational projects, primarily the 2007 *Voters' Guide* to the Albuquerque Municipal Election and the *Who's Who: A Political Directory*. Our public forums also benefited from this fund. Memorial gifts from those who wish to remember loved ones and friends are part of the LWV/ABC Education Fund. In 2007 such gifts were received in memory of Rosemary Bingham, Daniel Peter Eyrich, Bill Heckman, Josephine Hillman, Frances Leiding, Pat Lucas, Helen Jansky Sanford and James Walton.

#### LWV/ABC Operating Fund

Contributions to our operating fund benefit League programs and help in maintaining our local office; we thank all of you who contributed to these efforts. In addition, we thank all of those who purchased Entertainment Books and tickets to the Adobe Theater fundraiser, and those who purchased Member Handbook sponsorships. Monies from such projects also support the League office.

Lists of contributors to the LWV/ABC Operating and Education Funds are on page 4 of this Voter

#### Volunteers and In-Kind Donors

As an all-volunteer organization, LWV/ABC depends on those who give their time and energy, and those who have provided goods and services at their own expense. Whether you paid for something that benefited the League, chaired a committee, helped with a fundraiser or a forum, brought food, gathered information, proofread a publication, distributed the *Voters' Guide*, or did any of a multitude of tasks in 2007, we are most grateful. Thank you.

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**WE SALUTE ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS AND  
BENEFACTORS, WITHOUT WHOM LWV/ABC  
WOULD NOT EXIST!**

**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  
community activities:

**Advocacy**

Delores Watkins

**Drug Policy**

Delores Watkins

**Natural Resources**

JoAnne Ramponi

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.

**CONDOLENCES**

Our sympathies to member Lois Reed on the death of her husband, Jack, and to the family of longtime member Marie Kramer who passed away on December 31, 2007.

**President's Corner**

What a year 2008 promises to be! With the U.S. Presidency, a Senate seat and all three Congressional seats up for grabs, not to mention our state legislative and other races, New Mexico will be an exciting place to be this year. We anticipate that our small League office will be super-busy. Calls regarding the February 5 Democratic presidential caucus began coming in as soon as we opened for business after the beginning of the year.

We will certainly need all the help we can get in the office this year. Do you have any time you could give? It can be fun, a good way to learn about what the League does and of great benefit to members of the public who call in. A number of members have told me that they enjoy working in the office more than any other League job and that it is a good way to first get involved with the League. JoAnne Ramponi will be conducting periodic office training, so please give her a call if you are interested.

Another way to participate in election activities is to help register voters for the upcoming elections. Don't forget that the League will be offering training for voter registrars at the Clubhouse on Saturday, February 9, at 10 a.m. Dolores Waller is the person to call regarding this training, or you can leave your name at the office, 884-8441. For those of you who have taken this training before, check to see if your commission will expire soon.

And as we get heavily into this election season, I want to issue another reminder that when acting on behalf of the League or participating in League meetings, please keep in mind that we are a nonpartisan organization. That means that we cannot allow candidate petitions to be circulated at our meetings or express partisan views at the meetings. Thanks for your help in enforcing this fundamental League principle.

Diane Goldfarb

**Board Highlights—January 3, 2008**

**LWV/ABC Board:**

- The office will be open all day on the Monday preceding and the Tuesday of the NM Democratic party's presidential caucus. The office staff is preparing to be able to answer questions.
- The Board approved offering a special, one-time membership for the last half of the membership year. Cost will be \$25 and will be offered to nonmembers on our database.
- A position on pain management will be developed under Drug Policy.
- Sales of the Entertainment book made \$460.
- Tickets for the March 30 theater party will be set at \$25.
- April 26 is first choice for a date for a garage sale.

**LWV/ABC Education Fund Board:**

- The December Lobbying Workshop went well and resulted in a small profit.
- The *Who's Who* is being distributed.
- We have been asked to moderate a February mayoral forum in Rio Rancho.
- The 2008 fund raising campaign is being organized.

## DRUG POLICY STUDY: CONSENSUS Background Information for Unit Meetings

Many pain management policy issues relate to four types of barriers. Here are some examples.

1. Communication barriers...
  - a. Consumers do not know how to talk with their providers about their pain; providers do not know how to listen and discuss pain with their patients.
  - b. Providers do not have the time to listen to patients.
2. Cultural barriers...
  - a. Pain needs to be endured.
  - b. I don't want people to know I am using controlled substances.
  - c. Fear of pain medications causing addiction or dependence.
3. Educational barriers...
  - a. Few medical schools provide specialized training in pain management.
  - b. Misconceptions of such terms as addiction, physical dependence and tolerance.
  - c. Lack of current information on pain and its treatment.
  - d. Lack of current information about laws, regulations and protections related to pain.
4. Drug Policy barriers...
  - a. New Mexico law regulates the use of controlled substances as does the federal Controlled Substances Act. State law can be more restrictive. Some states have also legislated less restriction to challenge this federal Act.
  - b. Drug Enforcement Agency interpretations can restrict patient access to pain medications.
  - c. DEA and State agencies can create an atmosphere of fear for patients and healthcare professionals.

**(Please bring this information with you when you come to the meeting.)**

### Drug Policy Study Committee Meeting

The Committee will meet on Thursday, February 28, 1-3 p.m., at Manzano del Sol, 6th floor lounge. On the agenda will be review of the February Unit discussion, next steps in the study and an update on legislative action.

Dee Watkins, Drug Policy Chair

## REPORT FROM DECEMBER 2007 LOBBYING WORKSHOP



State Representative  
Larry Larrañaga



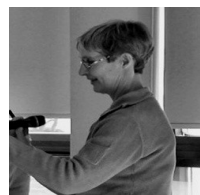
Linda Siegle, President  
Resources for Change



State Senator  
Gerald Ortiz y Pino



Lupita Blea, Office of  
Secretary of State



Katherine Campbell  
President, LWVNM

### THE SPEAKERS

*Photos by  
Cheryl Haaker*

The report on the Workshop was that the speakers were excellent and their presentations were most informative. The Workshop was well attended — overall, a great success.

## CELEBRATE WITH THE LEAGUE

Come join the fun on Sunday, March 30, at 2 p.m., when we celebrate the League's 88<sup>th</sup> birthday at a matinee performance of *Harvey* at the Adobe Theater. *Harvey* is an American classic. Written by Mary Coyle Chase, it was first brought to the Broadway stage in 1944. The story is about Elwood P. Dowd, a good-natured, mild-mannered eccentric who is known in all of the cafeterias and saloons in his small town. Elwood is polite and cheerful and always friendly toward any strangers he might encounter, and he has just one problematic character trait: his best friend is an invisible six-foot-tall rabbit, Harvey.

A ticket for this entertaining play is \$25, and net proceeds will go into the League's operating fund. This fund covers expenses such as the *Voter*, Member Handbook, office rent, telephone and advocacy work.

Because the Adobe Theater has been remodeled and new seats and carpeting installed, no food will be allowed in the seating area this year, but we will make this a special event nevertheless. Please send your check for \$25 per ticket to LWV/ABC, 2403 San Mateo NE, W-16C, Albuquerque 87110. Please also include the names of your guests so that we can make nametags for everyone. Your check is your reservation.

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2007 DONORS

## Operating Fund

Barbara Adkins	Martha and Henry Erwin	Carol Pierce
Barbara Allender	Pauline Lucero and Martin Esquivel	Josephine Porter
Anonymous	Jennice Fishburn	Joyce Price
Jan Bray	Lisa and George Franzen	Gayle Thompson Prinkey
Doris Buckman and Peter Snow	Kathleen Gavey	Louise and Bill Prowell
Glenelle Butler	Mary Anne Giangola	Therese and Charles Quinn
David Colton	Diane and Donald Goldfarb	Dorothy Reynolds
Deborah Dawson	Cheryl and Richard Haaker	Shelly and Gary Shepherd
Denish & Kline Associates, Inc.	Cynthia and Leo Harris	Virginia Shipman
Karen Douglas	Donna Hill	Mary T. Young
Sondra Eastham	Janet Kelbley	
	Carolyn Lindberg	

## Education Fund

AQ Safety, Inc.	Diane and Donald Goldfarb	Louise and Bill Prowell
Norma and Anthony Argo	Anne Gonzales	Dixie Lee Prowell
Janice Bandrofchak and Cleveland Sharp	Cheryl and Richard Haaker	Therese and Charles Quinn
Judith Binder and Milton Bock	Cynthia and Leo Harris	Roberta and Barry Ramo
Vivian Boyle	Charlotte Heady	Shirley Rawls
Alice Boynton	Donna and John Hill	Lenore and John Reeve
Sarah Belle Brown	Dixie Hornby	Signe Rich
Sandra Browne	Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hughes	Dorothy and Vern Reynolds
Susanne and W.F. Burks	Margaret Krahenbuhl	Shelley Roberts
Rebecca Calvert	Judith and Henry Lackner	Douglas Schneebeck
Ann Carden	Anne Letherer	Arthur Schreiber
Carol and Edward Carpenter	Paul Lin	Shelly and Gary Shepherd
Center for Civic Values	Carolyn and Richard Lindberg	Barbara Shiller-Ferkiss
Joan Chism	Christina Little	Mary Ellen Smith
Kathryn Colbert	Robert Lofffield	Carol and James Steeves
Dianne Cress and Jon McCorkell	Jane Longhurst	Jean and David Steinhaus
Karen Douglas	Henrietta Loy	JoAnn Strathman
Doris and Wayne Eckles	Marita Marshall	Sutin Thayer & Browne
Pauline Lucero and Martin Esquivel	Mary Louise Martignoni	Jane and Doug Swift
Ellen Evans	Richard Mason	Andrea and Francis Targhetta
T. & A. Fitzpatrick	Susan McKinstry	Alice and Donald Thompson
Jane and Michael Flax	Michelle and Donald Meaders	Richard Todd
Janet Long and Robert Ford	Janice Micali	Sei Tokuda
Edna Fowler	Paulina Miller	Marilyn Hunter and Roy Torburn
Lisa and George Franzen	Marilyn Morgan	Dorothy Trester
Phyllis and Richard Frederiksen	Mary and John Mulvany	Dorothy Walton
Patricia Freeman	Kimberly O'Brion	Susan Walton
French Mortuary, Inc.	Dianne Parker	Delores and Roland Watkins
Friends for Deanna Archuleta	Moreau Jansky Parsons	Margaret and Hermann Wente
Dorothy and Kenneth Gardner	Clifton Perry	Karen Wentworth
Elsa Glassman	Carol Pierce and Christopher Phillips	Julia White
Therese Goetz and Ronald Lipinski	Josephine Porter	Buelah Woodfin
	Joyce Price	Helen Wright
	Margaret Prince	Mary T. Young
	Gayle Thompson Prinkey	

If your name does not appear above and you think it should, please notify our office. We apologize for any omission.

## IMMIGRATION STUDY CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

In late November we consolidated the answers gathered at our individual unit meetings in October and November, 2007. The following report was submitted to LWVUS. In addition, a letter on behalf of our local immigration committee was sent to the LWVUS Immigration Study Committee, sharing some of our concerns with the process. We felt that the scope of the study was too large, the questions were not consistently worded and they were open to differing interpretations. We suggested that a trial run of the process would have revealed some of those problems and that attention to them would likely have resulted in fewer “no consensus” answers.

### Question 1: Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as the following:

#### Part a:

a. Ethnic and Cultural Diversity	Lower Priority
b. Economic, Business and Service Employment Needs	High Priority
c. Environmental Impact/Sustainability	No Consensus
d. Family Reunification of Authorized Immigrants and Citizens with Spouses and Minor Children	High Priority
e. History of Criminal Activity	High Priority
f. Humanitarian Crises/Political Persecution in Home Countries	High Priority
g. Immigrant Characteristics (health and age)	No Consensus
h. Rights of All Workers to Safe Working Conditions and Liveable Wage	Disagree
i. Rights of Families to Remain Together	No Consensus
j. Rights of All Individuals in U.S. to Fair Treatment Under the Law	No Consensus
k. Education and Training	No Consensus

**Part b:** The following items, rated in part a as “High Priority”, were further ordered as:

- 1) Economic, Business and Service Employment Needs
- 2) Family Reunification of Authorized Immigrants and Citizens with Spouses and Minor Children
- 3) Humanitarian Crises/Political Persecution in Home Countries

### Question 2: Unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. should be treated as follows:

a. Deport Unauthorized Immigrants	Disagree
b. Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Length of Residence in U.S.	No Consensus
c. Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Needs of U.S. Employers	No Consensus
d. All Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status by Doing Things Such as Paying Taxes, Learning English, Studying Civics, Etc.	High Priority
e. If Deported, Assess Fines Before Possible Re-Entry	Disagree
f. Assess Fines Before Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status	No Consensus

### Question 3: Federal immigration law should provide an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry into the U. S. for immigrants who are:

a. Immediate Family Members Joining Family Member Already Admitted for Legal Permanent Residence in the U.S.	High Priority
b. Entering the U.S. to Meet Labor Needs	High Priority
c. Entering the U.S. as Students	Lower Priority
d. Entering the U.S. Because of Persecution in Home Country	High Priority

*Continued on page 6*

*Continued from page 5*

**Question 4a: In order to deal more effectively with unauthorized immigrants, Federal immigration law should include:**

Social Security Card or Other National Identification Card with Secure Identifiers for All Persons Residing in the U.S. No Consensus

**Question 4b: Federal immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants should be enforced by including:**

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| i. Physical Barriers (Such as Fences) and Surveillance at Borders  | Disagree      |
| ii. Increased Personnel and Land, Air and Sea Entry Points   | High Priority |
| iii. More Effective Tracking of Persons with Non-Immigrant Visas Until They Leave the Country  | High Priority |
| iv. Verification Documents, such as Green Cards and Work Permits with Secure Identifiers   | High Priority |
| v. Improved Technology to Facilitate Employer Verification of Employee Visa Status   | High Priority |
| vi. Improved Technology for Sharing Information Among Federal Agencies   | High Priority |
| vii. A Program to Allow Immigrant Workers to Go In and Out of the U.S. to Meet Seasonal and Sporadic Labor Needs                         | High Priority |
| viii. Significant Fines Proportionate to Revenue for Employers Who Fail to Take Adequate Steps to Verify Work Authorization of Employees | High Priority |

**Question 5: Federal immigration law should address and balance the long-term federal financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.**

Consensus

**Question 6: Federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to proactively help improve economies, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.**

No Consensus

**Question 7: Comments**

Question 1e: Should be felonies under U.S. law.

1f: Should be equitably applied.

1h: Created confusion. Does it belong in immigration policy?

1i: Not well defined. What constitutes a family?

1j: Created confusion. Why is it in immigration policy when it is in the U.S. Constitution?

1k: Covered in 1b.

Question 2: Other preferable options not even addressed.

2d: More specific language should be used. Don't like "all" and don't like "etc."

Question 4i: Should be two separate questions.

4viii: Should also include number of infractions.

Diane Goldfarb

## ALTERNATIVE ELECTORAL SYSTEMS

The United States, along with many other former British colonies, inherited a legislative electoral system that is an example of a “single member plurality” (SMP) system. “Single member” means that the population is divided up into districts of approximately equal size and each district elects one member to the legislature. “Plurality” means that the candidate obtaining the most votes wins, even if this is not a majority of the votes cast. This is the system used to elect the U.S. House of Representatives and both houses of the New Mexico Legislature.

Other systems are, of course, used in the United States. U.S. Senators and Santa Fe City Councilors are elected from two-member districts, but since the two seats are filled in different elections, these are still essentially single member plurality elections. The Los Alamos County Council is elected under a system called “block vote,” in which each voter gets as many votes as there are seats to be filled. Some states with bicameral legislatures use different electoral systems for one of the two houses.

SMP elections are simple to understand and administer. Over time, they tend to produce two major parties, which in turn leads to single-party governments (as opposed to coalition governments), but there have been many exceptions to this tendency. The major parties have strong incentives to seek broadly acceptable candidates and to offer inclusive positions. The flip side of these advantages are that minority parties seldom achieve representation in proportion to the number of their adherents, while major parties tend to differentiate themselves on relatively unimportant issues. Thus the system can be very slow to react to significant shifts in public opinion on important issues (think single payer health care!). Women and minority candidates are less frequently put forward than in more proportional systems. But probably the two biggest flaws in SMP systems are that:

1. outcomes are extremely sensitive to the drawing of boundaries, and
2. a large plurality, and sometimes even a majority, of votes are “wasted” in the sense that they do not help to elect any representative. (In New Mexican legislative races, this already serious problem is aggravated by the fact that fewer than half of the seats are even contested in any given election.)

Originally SMP districts were presumed to be geographically logical, promoting strong links between constituents and their representatives. This was important in the late eighteenth century, when travel and communication across large distances were difficult. But since then, as the electorate became more inclusive, race, ethnicity and political considerations have come to influence heavily the drawing of boundaries, leading to the cynical observation that politicians choose their voters, not the other way around. Other articles in this series deal with “fixes” to this problem.

In recent years a number of new democracies have come onto the world scene, and it is noteworthy that very few have chosen SMP systems. Perhaps more relevant for the U.S., even established democracies are shifting away from these systems towards proportional representation (PR) systems. Among other effects, voter turnout is higher under PR systems, perhaps because far fewer votes are “wasted”; almost every vote goes toward electing a candidate from the party favored by the voter, although perhaps not one who resides near him. Proportional systems also encourage the formation of coherent parties, and significant minority views can obtain representation.

There are many flavors of proportional systems. Here we illustrate two that might be feasible for at least one house in the New Mexico legislature: the “single transferable vote” (STV) and a mixed system. Both require the delineation of multi-member districts.

For example, the 42 seats of the New Mexico Senate might be apportioned among seven to ten regional districts, each of which would elect between four and ten representatives using STV. Voters rank some or all of the candidates on their ballots. Counting is quite complicated, as it involves redistributing fractional “surplus” votes as

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*Continued from page 7*

well as the votes of the candidate with the fewest votes (similar to instant runoff voting). The final result is reasonably proportional, allowing representation for smaller parties who can garner at least 10 to 25% of the vote in their district, while the geographical link between the voter and his representative is not completely lost. There are a good many theoretical criticisms of STV, but they do not seem to have occurred in practice. The fact that counting would require the use of computers might be of concern to the election integrity community.

Alternatively, perhaps 27 of the 42 seats could represent somewhat smaller, equal-size single-member districts, while the remaining 15 would be allocated to ensure that all parties receiving a certain threshold of the total vote statewide (say 5%) were represented in the Senate in proportion to that total vote. This called a “mixed member proportional” (MMP) system. Voters may vote both for one candidate and for one party (not necessarily the party of the selected candidate!). In other versions, voters vote only for a candidate and party preference is inferred. Usually the PR seats are filled at the discretion of the party, but systems that take into account how many votes the losing candidates received are possible.

Both of these systems tend to result in more proportional representation of the electorate, including third parties, and many fewer “wasted” votes. In an MMP system, parties often make significant efforts to promote ethnic and gender diversity through their PR seats, with the result that women in particular occupy a significantly higher fraction of seats in legislatures elected by PR or mixed systems.

As this discussion makes clear, it is important to establish criteria and priorities for what an electoral system should accomplish. No system can satisfy all desirable criteria. But as the next reapportionment cycle approaches, New Mexicans need to give serious thought to whether using a different system for at least one house of its bicameral legislature might do more to promote fair representation than merely tinkering with the boundaries of single member plurality districts.

Submitted by Katherine Campbell, Fair Representation Study Group

### **Fair Representation Prepares for Spring Units**

In January, the Study Group worked on completing preparations for its first series of unit meetings for the Santa Fe League which take place this month.

The next Study Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at 5701 Klondike St NE, in Albuquerque. We encourage you to attend or to participate by teleconference. For more information contact Cheryl Haaker or check out the web page at [www.lwvabc.org/fair/](http://www.lwvabc.org/fair/).

Also see Katherine Campbell’s article (above) on “Alternative Electoral Systems.” Redrawing district lines may not be all that has to be done in order to get better representation!  
Cheryl Haaker, Chair

### **Fair Representation Trivia Question**

#### **True or False:**

1. When one representative is elected per electoral district, the outcome will depend upon what the boundaries of that district are.
2. One representative per district systems are what has caused today’s two-party system.

*Answer on page 9*

### **Registrar Training**

There is still time to reserve your place for the training on Saturday, February 9, 10:00 a.m., at the Clubhouse. Call Dolores Waller or the LWV/ABC Office, 884-8441. Deadline to make reservations: Wednesday, January 30.

### **ADVOCACY CORNER**

Next Committee meeting—Wednesday, February 6, 2008  
1:00-3:00 p.m., LWV/ABC Office; BRING YOUR MEMBER HANDBOOK

Some people say “all politics is local.” I think this reflects that there is easy access to political officials, constituents have influence and local decisions often directly affect us. Come and learn about some topics which likely will be action items this year. Background information will be provided on tax incentive development districts and mental health policies for Albuquerque. Related League positions and different types of actions will be considered as well as the process of developing League statements. How do you want your tax dollars spent? Join the discussion and be active.

Dee Watkins, Advocacy Chair

WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Kayla Cotkin  
2012 White Cloud NE, 87112

Lara Honeycutt  
11127 Monticello Drive NW 87114

Phone Number for Petra Duffett: \_\_\_\_\_  
Apologies to Summers Kalishman for misspelling her name in the Handbook.

Pauline Eisenstadt  
P.O. Box 658  
Corrales 87048

Dixie Hornby  
9105 Luna del Oro NE 87111

Email addresses available from office or JoAnne Ramponi for: Kalya Cotkin, Pauline Eisenstadt, Katie Gardner,

Mildred G. Elrick  
4136 Sunningdale Ave NE 87110

Constance Slavin  
1821 Notre Dame NE 87106

Lara Honeycutt, Dixie Hornby, Sonia Lersten, Elizabeth Staley

Elene Gusch  
622 Espanola St 87108

Elizabeth Staley  
P.O. Box 2395  
Corrales 87048

Submitted by Kathleen Kimler Altobelli

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES

Member Handbooks

Because of problems in printing, the 2008 Member Handbooks did not get mailed in December but you should have them by now. We want to thank Kathy Kimler Altobelli, Diane Goldfarb and Helen Wright for the great work they did on the Handbook. Thanks also go to Kathy's mother and sister who joined us in reading through everything, and to Louise and Bill Prowell for doing the mailing. If you should find an error in the Handbook, or need to make a change, please put the correction/change in writing and send it to me at the League office. JoAnne Ramponi, Membership Chair

Save Your Used Items for Biennial Garage Sale

Saturday, April 26 is the date. Save those white elephants from your spring cleaning. We can take almost anything for this sale *except clothing*. Help with pricing and selling will also be needed on that day; check the March Voter for details.

December Web Statistics

Visitor sessions to the lwvabc.org website remained steady throughout the month of December, declining slightly as Christmas and New Year's Day approached, and at about the same level as other non-election months. See it all at [www.lwvabc.org/stats/](http://www.lwvabc.org/stats/).

*Submitted by Cheryl Haaker, Technology Chair*

Answer to Fair Representation Trivia Question:

1. Generally true. Outcomes of elections are very sensitive to the boundaries of electoral districts (that is, who is in the district). This is why gerrymandering has remained popular over the last 200+ years.
2. Most likely true. Single member plurality (SMP) electoral systems often result in dominance by two parties, at the expense other points of view. The two "major" parties achieve this dominance by running broadly acceptable candidates at the expense of more innovative viewpoints.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The membership year for LWV/ABC is October 1 through September 30. Join any time during the year. Dues are not tax-deductible. With membership in LWV/ABC you also belong to LWVNM and LWVUS. The first membership in a household costs \$50. Add \$25 for each additional membership in a household (all mail goes to the same address). Student memberships are \$25. Make your check payable to LWV/ABC and mail with this form to:  
Membership, LWV/ABC, 2403 San Mateo NE, Suite W-16C, Albuquerque, NM 87110

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Work Phone

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

UNIT	LOCATION	LEADER	MEMBERSHIP
<b>Luncheon</b> 2nd Thursday 11:45 a.m.	Wyndham Hotel 2910 Yale SE Reservations required \$16*	Marilyn Morgan	Vivian Boyle
<b>Midtown</b> 3rd Monday 1:30 p.m.	Manzano del Sol 5201 Roma NE Hobby Room (on first floor)	JoAnne Ramponi	Lois Reed
<b>Evening</b> 3rd Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	Cherry Hills Library 6901 Barstow NE Optional dinner after meeting	Jan Bray	Delores Watkins
<b>Sandoval County</b> 3rd Wednesday 12 noon	Corrales Community Center Meeting Room 4234 Corrales Road Brown Bag Lunch	Mary Mulvany	Carolyn Lindberg

\* Luncheon Unit reservations: call the League office (884-8441) by 10:00 a.m. the preceding Monday. If you do not attend and have not cancelled by the deadline, you will be billed for the cost.

**February Calendar**

- 6 LWV/ABC Advocacy Committee
- 7 LWV/ABC Board
- 7 Voter Deadline
- 9 Voter Registrar Training
- 14 Luncheon Unit
- 18 MidtownUnit
- 19 Evening Unit
- 20 Sandoval County Unit
- 26 Fair Representation Study Group
- 28 Drug Policy Study Committee

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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 influences public policy through education and advocacy.