

THE VOTER

April 2008

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Diane Goldfarb
President

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Voter Editor

APRIL UNIT MEETINGS — FAIR REPRESENTATION STUDY

The Fair Representation Study was approved at last year's LWVNM Convention. The Study Group has produced several articles which appeared in *La Palabra* and the *Voter*. Members of the group have traveled to Santa Fe, Los Alamos, and Las Cruces to present the first series of unit meetings. League members were briefed on the reasons for the study, New Mexico's mixed history of redistricting, more modern methods of apportioning representatives and counting votes to determine a winner, and defining terms. Then, a series of questions involving redistricting criteria, who draws up the redistricting plans, alternatives to single member districts, and different methods of determining winners in elections were discussed. The Study Group is now pleased to present this program to the LWV/ABC units

Members are encouraged to prepare for the unit meetings by reviewing material posted on the Study's web page www.lwvabc.org/fair/. Your responses at the units will be combined with those of the Santa Fe, Los Alamos, and Las Cruces members to see which issues the membership thinks are most important, and the priority of which issues to work on first.

Thursday, April 10, 11:45 a.m., Luncheon Unit

Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel
2910 Yale SE (Reservations required*)
Presenters: LWVNM President Katherine Campbell,
Study Group Chair Cheryl Haaker
Study Group Member Lisa Franzen

Tuesday, April 15, 6:00 p.m., Evening Unit

Cherry Hills Library, Community Room, 6901 Barstow NE
Presenters: Study Group Chair Cheryl Haaker
Study Group Members Lisa Franzen,
Judith Binder

Wednesday, April 16, 12 Noon, Sandoval County Unit

Corrales Community Center, 4234 Corrales Road
Presenters: Study Group Chair Cheryl Haaker
Study Group Members Lisa Franzen,
Judith Binder

Monday, April 21, 1:30 p.m. Midtown Unit

Manzano del Sol, Hobby Room, 5201 Roma NE
Presenters: Study Group Chair Cheryl Haaker
Study Group Members Judith Binder,
Lisa Franzen

IN THIS *VOTER*

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, May 3, 2008
Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel
2910 Yale SE

Speaker: Roberta Cooper Ramo
Attorney-at-Law
Topic: "Why Judicial Independence is
Critical to Our Democracy"

Schedule of Events

Registration 9:00-9:30 a.m.
Business Meeting 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Brunch 11:00 a.m.*

Your Annual Meeting packet is included in this *VOTER*
*** Please make your reservations by Monday, April 28**
Reservation information is in Annual Meeting packet

Come Help Your League!

Saturday, April 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
LWV/ABC's Garage Sale (See page 15)

*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, April 7. If you prefer a fruit plate rather than the menu item, please let us know at the time you make your reservations

**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.

President's Corner

Spring is officially upon us, and the signs are everywhere. This year, and in the years to come, spring will signify a time to give to the LWV/ABC Education Fund. If you have not already received it, you will soon get a letter asking for your support of our educational projects—The *Voters' Guide*, the *Who's Who*, *The ABC's of Conducting & Managing A Forum*, and the various forums and voter services that we provide. Our goal is to raise enough to cover these publications and events and to do it with one campaign. We do not anticipate coming back to the membership in the fall, asking for additional support for the *Voters' Guide*. However, it will be a large guide this year, and our goal is to raise \$10,000 through member contributions in this spring solicitation. As you know, you will not be asked to purchase tickets to a spring fundraising event such as the *Salute to Albuquerque*. We will have an October cocktail party with a raffle when the *Voters' Guide* is released, but costs for that event will be significantly lower. So I encourage you all to open your wallets and give as generously as you can when your letter arrives. Your League needs your help.

Election season is also in full swing. Thank you to all Leaguers who have been working on forums and voter registrations so far. We have been inundated with calls requesting all kinds of help from the League, and we are keeping Dolores Waller and her volunteers hopping. It has been gratifying to know that people look to the League when it comes to election-time activities.

Diane

Advocacy Committee

NOW IS THE TIME TO:

1. Thank your state legislators for participating in the Legislative session, reading and voting for/against bills — particularly for or against bills you thought were important — i.e. doing the job for which they were elected;
2. Find out what pleased and concerned them about this session;
3. Ask about their beliefs and rationale for health care reform;
4. Let the Advocacy Committee know if any legislator plans to hold a debriefing on the 2008 session.

STEERING COMMITTEE meeting on Wednesday, April 2, 1-3 p.m. at the League office. Agenda: Update on Voter ID and Public Financing of Campaigns. Matters to consider: the positions on which action is taken for each of these issues; review of the process for making action decisions and how action is carried out. The Committee will also address the question of determining if League members are well enough informed on a topic to take action.

Dee Watkins, Chair

In Memoriam: Elsie Hampleman

Elsie came to Albuquerque from Texas. She had been a League member in Texas and decided to become active in the League here. Her smile and energy became part of every activity in which she became involved. For many years Elsie worked with the LWV/ABC education committee and was also available to drive other League members to committee and unit meetings. She will be missed.

JoAnne Ramponi, Membership Chair

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING 2008
League of Women Voters of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County

Saturday, May 3, 2008
Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel
2910 Yale SE

Speaker: Roberta Cooper Ramo
Attorney-at-Law

Topic: “Why Judicial Independence Is Critical to Our Democracy”

Schedule of Events

Registration	9:00-9:30 a.m.
Business Meeting	9:30-11:00 a.m.
Brunch	11:00 a.m.*

Annual Meeting Agenda

Adoption of Agenda
Roll of Honor
Adoption of Rules for Annual Meeting
Minutes of 2007 Annual Meeting
Appointment of Readers for 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes
Treasurer’s Report
Finance Report
Adoption of Program for 2008-2009
Adoption of Budget for 2008-2009
Bylaws Changes
Nominating Committee Report
Election of Officers and Directors
Other Business
Announcements
Directions to the Board

Rules for Annual Meeting

1. No person may speak twice to the same motion until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so
2. Each speaker is limited to two minutes.
3. All motions must be made in writing and a copy given to the secretary.
4. Only members in good standing will be allowed to speak or vote on a motion.

*The cost of the brunch is \$16. Please make your reservation(s) with the League office — by phone, 884-8441, or by sending your check — so that your reservation(s) are received by Monday, April 28. You are responsible for the cost of any reservations that you make, and you will be billed for the cost if you do not attend and have not cancelled by the April 28 deadline.

ANNUAL MEETING — ADOPTION OF PROGRAM

PROGRAM PLANNING REPORT FROM THE
LWV/ABC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

National Program

RECOMMENDED:

The Board recommends to the Board of Directors of the LWVUS that LWV/ABC supports focusing on representative governmental issues over the next two years.

Local Program

RECOMMENDED:

Drug Policy: The Board recommends adoption of the Pain Management Position Statement to be added to the Drug Policy position.
Drug Policy Study: The Board recommends continuing the Drug Policy study as proposed.
Public School Governance Study: The Board recommends continuing the Public School Governance Study.

how to describe to health care professionals the levels and types of pain they are suffering;
Training of health care professionals and providers including: awareness that pain can be treated; how to identify and treat pain; and when to refer for specialized treatment; and
Research on more effective pain treatments and therapies and widespread dissemination of research results.

**PROPOSED CONTINUATION OF
DRUG POLICY STUDY**

Continue the Drug Policy Study by:

- Learning about addiction treatment programs and other high profile community concerns;
- Keeping current on position topics;
- Monitoring opportunities for position advocacy, and
- Building relationships with community organizations.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
DRUG POLICY STUDY COMMITTEE**

The Committee has two proposals for the membership. One is to adopt the proposed position statement on pain management and the second is to continue the study as recommended at the December 2007 Program Planning meeting.

Consensus was reached in the February 2008 Units that a position statement on pain management should include the points we have listed in the proposed position. Discussion during the consensus also brought out the need to develop a definition of pain management.

We present these two proposals for your consideration.

Dee Watkins, Chair

**PROPOSED PAIN MANAGEMENT STATEMENT
ADDITION TO DRUG POLICY POSITION**

The League of Women Voters of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County supports pain management for all citizens through:

Cooperation among consumers, health care professionals and regulatory agencies to promote pain relief and to decrease abuse, trafficking, and diversion of pain medications;

Education of consumers including: awareness that pain can be treated; the variety of therapies available and

PUBLIC SCHOOL GOVERNANCE STUDY

The Study Committee has been meeting regularly. The Committee has compiled a bibliography, done extensive internet searches and reviewed literature on school governance. We have found no studies that linked better student performance with any form of school or district governance.

We have found studies that report that school administration is important in establishing a culture of focus on student achievement. We have found that consistency and stability of support for teachers and principals in creating a focus on student achievement are important to success. We have not found that electing or appointing officials is more or less likely to achieve consistency and success.

Our next task is writing to Leagues in cities which have mayoral control of school boards or superintendents of schools to ask them for their studies or observations.

We respectfully request membership approval for continuing the Public School Governance Study.

Jan Bray, Chair

ANNUAL MEETING — ADOPTION OF PROGRAM

LOCAL POSITIONS

DRUG POLICY

LWV/ABC supports drug court programs; treatment for all persons with drug addiction; and syringe exchange programs in Bernalillo County. These programs should be prudently and appropriately funded. (2002, Rev. 2003. 2007)

EDUCATION

Support of a requirement that functional competence in basic skills be demonstrated before a high school diploma is awarded by Albuquerque Public Schools (APS).

Emphasis on basic skills which should include the fine arts (including music, art, and drama) and ongoing technological developments. Identification of children at risk should begin early in the educational process and continue through high school. Remediation should be provided as early as possible.

An alternative path to a high school diploma should be available.

Support for a community college in Albuquerque which should offer certificates and associates degrees for a variety of careers. Such degrees could be terminal or transferable toward a four-year program.

Support for the protection of the First Amendment rights of public school students and library patrons.

Support for a selection policy for APS school libraries and the Albuquerque

Public Library which allows for access to a wide variety of materials.

Support for a purchase and distribution system of instructional materials for public schools that is timely and cost effective.

Support for the selection of basic instructional materials for the Albuquerque Public Schools by a committee which consists of administrators, teachers, and parents and which represents a cross section of the ethnic, geographic and economic population of the community.

In addition, resource persons who have expertise in the subject under consideration will serve in an advisory capacity.

Support for a selection procedure which includes:

- a. A fair and thorough evaluation of materials;
- b. A method for public examination and input;
- c. A strong conflict of interest policy

Support for a policy which allows for informal resolution of controversy and a systematic reconsideration procedure for textbook and library materials.

HEALTH CARE

LWV/ABC supports health care, mental health care, preventive and educational health programs, comprehensive reproductive health care (which includes abortion), and home health care.

LWV/ABC believes society has a responsibility to provide comprehensive health care for the indigent of Bernalillo

County and supports a mill levy as a means of funding such health care.

HOUSING

The City has primary responsibility for making available, facilitating, and coordinating provision of affordable, decent, and safe housing using federal, state, county, or city funds. This may also be done by coordination with private builders, nonprofit organizations, and/or foundations.

We support the following guidelines for City government assisted housing:

- a. City assistance for private affordable housing projects under the following conditions:
 1. The surrounding neighborhood has been involved early in the planning for the project;
 2. Regulatory variances which may be granted do not permit unsafe or unsightly conditions.
- b. Design review by a qualified panel.
- c. A variety of home ownership and rental opportunities in public or private affordable housing projects
- d. An adequate maintenance system in all affordable housing projects. This system should include education and training for residents in maintenance skills.
- e. Encouragement of the formation of tenant organizations.
- f. Long Range planning, accountability, and neighborhood involvement in expenditure of federal Community Development Block Grant funds for housing rehabilitation.
- g. City leadership in assistance for homeless programs which provide

ANNUAL MEETING - ADOPTION OF PROGRAM

LOCAL POSITIONS continued

- both shelter and services for targeted populations, particularly families and the mentally ill.
- h. Boarding houses as a way of meeting housing needs.
- i. Community-based residential care for the mentally ill.

Support for assessing the cost and effectiveness of programs supported by federal funds in Albuquerque and Bernalillo County.

Support for the City of Albuquerque to share in the New Mexico personal income tax as the most effective and equitable source of revenue.

Support of land use policies and techniques which promote orderly growth of Albuquerque/ Bernalillo County. These shall include:

- a. Infill, to include residential building in downtown and midcity areas;
- b. Acquisition and appropriate use of open space;
- c. Preservation of agricultural lands as such;
- d. Utilization of mixed use in new development and in redevelopment;
- e. Revitalization of blighted sections of the community;
- f. Composition of neighborhoods to include a diversity of types of housing and of socioeconomic groups.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

The LWV/ABC supports the Initiative & Referendum process. However, we have reached a consensus on the need for revision of four specific sections of the City Charter. We support the appointment of a Charter Revision Committee to study the process for qualifying Initiative and Referenda, with a view to revising Article 3, Sections 3 & 3a of the Albuquerque City Charter that would:

- a. Increase the number of initiators needed to start the process;
- b. Increase the number of signatures required to compel an election;
- c. Refine the process of reviewing the petition title and summary; and
- d. Eliminate the requirement that the election must be held within 90 days after the date of filing the petition with appropriate signatures.

Support of combined form of government for the city and county.

Support for coordinating village, city, and county government with joint use of record.

Support for:

- a. The present Mayor/Council form of government;
- b. Nonpartisan city elections;
- c. A significant increase in the number of signatures required on a petition before a person can be placed on the ballot as a candidate for mayor. Preferably, the number of signatures should be based on either a percentage of voters having voted in the last mayoral election, or of registered voters, or of population of the city.

Support for coordinated city/ county and regional planning and zoning.

Support for coordinated regional land use and transportation planning.

TRANSPORTATION

Support for coordinated regional land use and transportation planning. This planning shall include:

- a. Consideration of the impact of traffic congestion;
- b. The provision of viable transportation choices.

Support for a regional public transit system with a policy-making board which includes citizens with voting powers.

WATER

Support for coordinated regional water planning.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Support for the development by Albuquerque and Bernalillo County of budgets that provide for long-range planning and evaluation programs.

Support for the city and county officials providing the media and citizens' groups with simplified budget information. This should occur prior to public hearings as a means of preparing citizens for the budget process

LAND USE

Land use decisions must be made with consideration to economic, environmental and social factors. We believe that it is possible to incorporate the principles of conservation of resources, to relate the use of land to its inherent characteristics and carrying capacities and still achieve an optimum balance between economic and social needs and environmental quality.

Support of development that protects natural resources and promotes the equal right of all to an environment beneficial to life .

ANNUAL MEETING — BYLAWS; NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORTS

BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

.Recommended Bylaws Changes:

1. ARTICLE I

Name. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of ~~Albuquerque/ Bernalillo County~~ Central New Mexico, Inc., hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as ~~LWV/ABCNM~~. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico.

This reflects consensus for the name change by the League of Women Voters of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County and subsequent approval by the League of Women Voters of the United States.

2. ARTICLE VI Financial Administration

Sec. 2. Dues.

Annual dues shall be determined at each Annual Meeting by a three-fifths (3/5) vote of those voting and present. Effective October 1, 1991, dues shall be payable on the first day of October of each year. ~~For those members joining after October 1 of any year, dues for their first year of membership shall be prorated based on the number of months of their first year of membership.~~ Any member who fails to pay dues within two (2) months after they become payable shall be dropped.

The Membership Chair suggests that this provision, which has caused confusion, be deleted for the sake of clarity. Prorating will be done on the basis of Board policy.

Bylaws Committee: Norma Argo, Helen Wright

The Board of Directors recommends approval of these changes to the Bylaws.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Officers

2 nd Vice President	Ann Kirkpatrick	2008-2010	1 st Term
3 rd Vice President	Richard Mason	2008-2010	2 nd Term
Treasurer	Jon McCorkell	2008-2010	1 st Term

Elected Directors (2 year terms)

Lisa Franzen	2008-2010	1 st Term
Michelle MacDonald	2008-2010	1 st Term
Carolyne DeVore-Parks	2008-2010	2 nd Term

Nominating Committee (1 year terms)

Helen Wright, Chair
Jan Bandrofchak
Eileen Longsworth

Respectfully submitted by the 2007-2008 Nominating Committee
Therese Barts, Chair

Lisa Franzen	Marilyn Morgan
Carolyn Lindberg	Josephine Porter

ANNUAL MEETING — BUDGETS

Due to technical difficulties the LWV/ABC Operating Fund Budget and the Education Fund Budget could not be included in this on-line Voter. These budgets are on pages 8 and 9, respectively, of the printed version distributed by USPS.

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ANNUAL MEETING — REPORTS

PRESIDENT**Advocacy, Technology, Public Relations, Office**

The 2007-2008 year was a full one with its ups and downs. We struggled a bit as we lost the 4th Vice President, the Finance Chair, the *Voter* and Member Handbook Editor and the Office Manager—all within a short period of time. In addition, our Treasurer had to take 6-month leave of absence. And yet, our Board members and others came through with flying colors. While we have yet to replace our 4th VP and Finance Chair, and even though most of our fundraising efforts will come a little later in the year, they will still take place.

JoAnne Ramponi stepped in to manage the office. Donna Hill took charge of Entertainment Book sales for the operating fund. Josephine Porter and Lisa Franzen will be heading up the garage sale, and Josephine will be helping me with solicitation for the Education Fund. Aileen Gatterman is now the *Voter* editor, and Kathy Altobelli filled in this year as Member Handbook editor. And last, but not least, Don Goldfarb, my husband and “administrative assistant” kept the books for six months.

Although we did not have an immigration committee, Board members and a few others took on the task of conducting consensus on immigration for LWVUS over a two-month period. We also went through the process of consensus for a name change, which will come up for a formal vote at the Annual Meeting.

Most of the many and varied activities that went on during the year are reported elsewhere in the annual reports. One special event was the highly successful reception for city councilors and county commissioners.

The Board of Directors also worked at updating policies and procedures, as well as the two-year plan.

We were busy, our various projects went very well, and our membership grew. Thank you one and all!

Diane Goldfarb

Advocacy Committee

During 2007-08 the Committee changed its name from action to advocacy to better describe the two components of its function — educating and influencing. In addition, the advocacy program description was completed, which means that the Advocacy committee is organized by a Steering Committee of six members with opportunities for members to participate in different ways. For instance, the yearly City Council/County Commission reception was a joint effort by this committee and a Board of Directors ad hoc committee.

Official League positions and action are expressed as needed. At present, League President Diane Goldfarb and committee member Lisa Franzen will participate in meetings on Albuquerque’s campaign finance reform. In planning are letter-writing sessions to policy makers.

Monthly *Voter* and unit meeting announcements are two methods regularly used to keep members informed on focus issues of this committee.

Dee Watkins, Chair

Technology

Listserves: The number of members on *LWVABCTopics* has remained pretty constant, around 110. New members are regularly invited to join. A new list was added for the Fair Representation Study Group, *LWVNMFair* and currently has about 20 members throughout the state.

Website: The website is updated monthly, or more frequently, if necessary, to include information about the calendar, upcoming unit and committee meetings, the *Voter* in PDF format, and League publications, such as the *Voters’ Guide* and *Who’s Who*. We have received web statistics on hits on our website from our hosting service, New Mexico Internet Access, for over a year (see page 15 for a chart of these statistics). We’re looking forward to seeing the stats as the fall Presidential Election approaches! You can view the statistics in full at www.lwvabc.org/stats/.

Also, the complete edition of each *Voter* is now available online in PDF format. As a result, the “News” page now contains a full table of contents for each *Voter*.

Cheryl Haaker, Chair

Office Manager

The League office is the everyday contact with the community. We are staffed by volunteers Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to noon.. Mary Mulvany schedules the volunteers. If you would like to help in the office you can call JoAnne at 298-2716 and come in on any Tuesday morning and go through the office training.

We would like to thank the following volunteers: Helen Wright, Sandra Browne, Susie Heide, Marilyn Morgan, Josephine Porter, Barbara Shiller, Meg Wentz, Linda Cotton, Susan McKinstry, Clara Moore, Terry Quinn, Margaret Krahenbuhl, Michelle Meaders, Andrea Targetta, Anne Letherer and Dick Mason. These volunteers are the voice of the League to persons calling with questions about elections or League issues.

JoAnne Ramponi

ANNUAL MEETING — REPORTS

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**Voter Services, Publications, Community Education**

The portfolios under the 1st Vice President are primarily involved with outreach and education of the community. The publication of our *Who's Who* and the *Voters' Guide* provide the League's primary contact with the community and are the services for which we are most identified. Our Voter Services reach out to a broad spectrum of our service area providing the electorate with voter registration, candidate forums, election information and speakers. The Community Education Series is also a key element in providing the community with non-biased, accurate information to encourage involvement in our democracy. This past year the League's community service has been outstanding and all members should be extremely proud of the League's contribution.

Josephine Porter

Voter Services

Requests for voter services from LWV/ABC increased as interest grew in municipal elections around the region during the past few months.

The October 2, 2007 Albuquerque City Council elections drew requests for candidate forums in contested districts. The League moderated four candidate forums, two of which were televised on Public Access Channel 27. In addition, the League actively provided voter registration services at schools, senior citizen facilities, farmer's markets and at Family Day on Civic Plaza.

After the holidays, the League again received requests to moderate forums prior to the March 4, 2008 municipal elections in Edgewood and Rio Rancho.

The support and attendance at all of the forums was remarkable. The resurgence of interest in elections and increased voter participation is a reason for some optimism.

League members from around the region received training and were sworn-in as registrars, by representatives of the Bernalillo County Clerk's office, at a session held at the League office on February 9th. Fifteen new registrars were sworn-in. This has helped to fulfill the numerous requests we continue to receive for voter registration services.

Also on the increase are requests for the League representatives to speak at various service clubs and organizations. Requests received in 2007 have resulted

in speaking engagements scheduled into October of 2008.

2007 set the stage for what promises to be an active and interesting presidential election year; a year in which the League of Women Voters will play a significant role.

Dolores Waller

Publications

Shirley Ash is League Publications Chair. We produced 10,000, 2008 *Who's Who, A Political Directory*, for distribution throughout the community, with emphasis on the public libraries. Margaret Krahenbuhl did a stellar job gathering all of the information on the public officials for the two county area and Mary Anne Giangola did her usual expert work publishing the directory. This year a special effort was made by Therese Barts and Mary Mulvany to distribute the *Who's Who* to the far reaches of Sandoval County, no easy task. The 2007 *Municipal Voters' Guide* is reported on later but, needless to say, it was the usual great success. Publications also reviewed the League's pamphlets and voter education materials and are in the process of updating and republishing our supply.

Josephine Porter

Community Education

The League Board acknowledged its commitment to continuing community training by including a Community Education position on the 2007-2008 Board. Great interest had been expressed on the correct way to lobby members of the State Legislature. To this end, five speakers presented a wealth of information to League members and non-members at the December 8 Lobbying Workshop. The presentation styles of State Senator Jerry Ortiz y Pino, State Representative Larry Larrañaga, and two experienced lobbyists: Linda Siegle, President of Resources for Change, and LWVNM President Katherine Campbell were inviting and persuasive. Lupita Blea of the Secretary of State's office provided the rules.

Committee member Lisa Franzen helped compile an excellent portfolio of information for each attendee. Vice President Josephine Porter provided guidance; volunteers Dolores Waller, Cheryl Haaker, George Franzen and John Hill filled in where needed. Additional recognition to President Diane Goldfarb, a working member of the

(Continued on page 12)

ANNUAL MEETING — REPORTS

(Continued from page 11)

Committee, who served as moderator, and Susan Walton who helped the League secure the Sandia Preparatory facilities for the meeting.

The Community Education Series Committee is planning to present a panel of judicial candidates prior to the fall elections. Josephine Porter applied for and received a grant from LWVUS to help underwrite the panel's expenses.

Donna Hill

Voters' Guide

The *2007 Albuquerque Municipal Election Voters' Guide* was a 12-page journal. We presented information on eight Albuquerque City Council candidates, ten bond issues, five Albuquerque City Charter Propositions, and a District 9 recall election. Also included, as usual, an outstanding Spanish translation of the first page by Christine Nelson.

We published approximately 20,000 copies which were distributed by our members to the Senior Centers around town, the Albuquerque Public Libraries, city banks, UNM Libraries, and various other locations. Our Webmaster, Cheryl Haaker, placed a PDF version of this *Voters' Guide* on our website, www.lwvabc.org, which included photos of the candidates.

Automated Election Services, a certified trademark name of Ink Impressions, has once again provided the League with some financial help and professional printing. We wish to thank them for all their efforts and recognize that they provide a distinctive service. Thank you also, League members, for your reliable help in making this year's *Voters' Guide* something of which we can be very proud.

Jo Porter and Andrea Targhetta

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT Membership, Unit Coordinator, Voter

Appreciation is due to the many members who worked on producing our newsletter, organizing membership activities, and coordinating unit meetings.

Aileen Gatterman assumed the editorship of the *Voter*. Kathleen Kimler Altobelli and JoAnne Ramponi produced the 2008 Member Handbook. Louise and Bill Prowell handled the bulk mailing. Thanks to each of them for their contributions.

The Membership Committee has continued to plan dynamic activities devoted to recruiting and integrating new members. The Unit Coordinator and unit leaders have worked hard to continue the effort of supporting League goals of member education and participation.

Helen Wright

Membership, 2007-08

2007 was a very good year for LWV/ABC. Our membership grew from 305 to 323 — rounded up, a 6% growth. We've grown 10% in the past two years!

In July, thirty people attended our new member event. It was an opportunity for new members and board members to meet and socialize. Another event for new members is planned for late summer.

On Saturday, September 15, 2007 we reinstated the member salad luncheon. It was a huge success with many members in attendance. We will do this again so mark your calendar for Saturday, September 13, 2008.

The membership committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month, at 10:00 a.m., at the League office. Anyone who is interested in participating is invited to attend. Please call JoAnne at 298-2716 for an agenda.

We will soon meet with members in Valencia County to plan a membership event. Several members also want to form a unit and start activities in the fall.

JoAnne Ramponi, Membership Chair

Unit Coordinator

Total attendance for all Unit meetings has varied from the high fifties to the high nineties. Discussions have been lively and informative with both outside speakers and with League committee members' presentations. The Sandoval County Unit found a new home at the Corrales Community Center meeting room, which has proven to be very pleasant and accessible.

Lisa Franzen, Unit Coordinator

ANNUAL MEETING — REPORTS

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT**Program**

This was my second year in this position and I think I am getting the hang of it. I have appreciated the assistance of Michelle MacDonald, Programs Coordinator; Dee Watkins, Drug Policy Study Group Coordinator; and Jan Bray, School Governance Committee Chair. In addition, I would like to thank Lisa Franzen, Unit Coordinator, and those who coordinated the individual Unit meetings.

Dick Mason

Unit Meetings

Each of the four League of Women Voters/Albuquerque Bernalillo County (LWV/ABC) Units meet once a month—in September, October, November, January, February, March, and April. The themes and speakers for 2007-08 were as follows:

September: “Water Issues in New Mexico.” Speakers were Ned Farquhar, National Resources Defense Council; Mark Sanchez, Executive Director, Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority; David Gutzler, Professor, UNM Earth and Planetary Sciences; and Bob Wessely, Consultant to Sandia National Laboratories.

October: “Consensus on Immigration.” Consensus was sought on the immigration study done by the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). Facilitators included Josephine Porter, Dolores Waller, JoAnne Ramponi, Diane Goldfarb, Delores Watkins, Olin Bray, Dick Mason, and Lisa Franzen.

November: “Immigration Consensus Continued.” Facilitators in November included Diane Goldfarb, Dolores Waller, Dick Mason, Lisa Franzen, JoAnne Ramponi, Delores Watkins, and Olin Bray.

January: “Legislative Action and Local Advocacy.” Speakers included Matt Brix, Policy Director Center for Civic Policy; Debbie O’Malley, City Councilor; Brad Winter, City Councilor; and Dick Mason, Co-Chair League of Women Voters of New Mexico Action Committee.

February: “Drug Policy Study: Consensus.” Drug Policy Study Committee Chair Delores Watkins and other members of the committee facilitated discussions regarding whether the LWV/ABC should: (a) develop a position statement on pain management; (b) if so, what action should be supported; and (c) which actions should be a priority. A report on these discussions was

submitted to the LWV/ABC Board in March.

March: “Sunshine Week: March 16-22.” Speaking on the importance of open government and the public’s right to know were Steve Robert Allen, Executive Director of Common Cause; Daniel Ivey-Soto, State Bureau of Elections Director and New Mexico Attorney General Gary King.

April: “Fair Representation.” The Fair Representation Study Group Chair Cheryl Haaker and members of the Study Group facilitated Unit Meetings. Discussion included: (a) why the study is being done; (b) definition of commonly used terms to make communication more effective; and (c) presentation of some thought-provoking questions. The goal is to see what the membership thinks is important, what can be impacted, and what priorities need to be set with regard to fair representation.

General Meetings

General Meetings are held in June, July, August, and December. For 2007, these luncheon meetings were as follows:

June: New Mexico Supreme Court Chief Justice (Ret.) Gene E. Franchini spoke on “The Status of Civil Liberties in New Mexico and the United States”

July: Dr. Pauline Rindone, Legislative Education Study Committee, a permanent committee of the New Mexico Legislature, reviewed the LWVNM education position and provided information on related issues of importance in the 2008 Legislative session. Dr. Rindone also discussed emerging issues in New Mexico’s K-12 public education system.

August: Terry Brunner, State Director to U.S. Senator Jeff Bingham who is Chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. Senate, spoke on “Key Issues in Energy and Natural Resources.”

December: Dr. David J. Schmidly, President of the University of New Mexico (UNM), spoke on “Future Plans for UNM”

Program Planning

In the year leading up to the LWVUS Convention, the LWV/ABC program planning meeting includes a review of the local and national positions to decide whether to recommend new studies, reviews of existing positions or whether to recommend endorsement of proposed changes in existing LWVUS positions. The program planning

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ANNUAL MEETING — REPORTS

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meeting was held on December 1, 2007. The results of these reviews were:

1. LWV/ABC should review its Health Care position to assure that it is consistent with the state and national positions.
2. LWV/ABC should work with the LWVNM group studying water issues. We should rewrite our local position to reflect the positions developed from that study.
3. LWV/ABC should review all of our current positions and make any revisions/additions growing from the name change to the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico.

LWVUS positions: No changes or additions to the LWVUS program arose out of this meeting. A recommendation was made that LWV/ABC send a brief statement to the LWVUS stating that they should focus on representative government issues over the next two years.

Michelle MacDonald

Fair Representation Study Group

From February through April, the Fair Representation Study Group has been giving its first series of unit meetings, first in Santa Fe, then Los Alamos, next Las Cruces, and concluding with Albuquerque. The goal is to find out which areas of the Fair Representation study are, in the opinion of the membership, the most important to pursue, which should be done immediately and which might be deferred, and the general direction to go next.

For more detail on what the Study Group has done in the last year, please see the Call to Convention, Spring 2008, issue of *La Palabra*. To join, contact Cheryl Haaker (505.298.7415, cheryl@haaker.org). The group's web page is at www.lwvabc.org/fair/.

Submitted by Cheryl Haaker, Chair

Drug Policy Study Committee

In the February 2008 unit meetings consensus was reached to develop a position statement to present for adoption at the Annual Meeting. This statement and a recommendation for continuation of other aspects of the Drug Policy Study are on page 4 in the Adoption of Program section.

Dee Watkins, Chair

FOURTH VICE PRESIDENT Finance, Planning

Both our Fourth Vice President and Finance Chair had to resign during the year; however, activities continued and are summarized below.

Finance

Despite delays in putting on our usual fundraising efforts, all of the projects for the operating fund have been held or scheduled. There are changes in fundraising for the Education Fund.

The operating budget depends primarily on member dues and contributions to operate the office and pay expenses related to our membership and advocacy work. Individuals gave additional donations when renewing their membership during September – November. Other fundraising projects occurred during the year as well. *Entertainment Books* were again sold in order to supplement this budget. Supporters of LWV/ABC purchased sponsorships in the *Member Handbook*. The annual theater party, a fundraiser usually timed to celebrate the League's birthday, was scheduled a little later this year, once again at the Adobe Theater. We were unable to use our preferred location for our biennial garage in the fall, so the sale was postponed until April, after the deadline for this report.

The Education Fund provides for voter services and voter education. In August a solicitation letter to the membership was included in the *Voter*, and contributions received in response to that letter went toward expenses for the 2007 Municipal *Voters' Guide*. A decision was made not to continue with the *Salute to Albuquerque*, an event held since 1991 to raise money for the general election *Voters' Guide*. In its place will be a spring campaign for the Education Fund aimed at the membership, other individuals and businesses. A cocktail party and raffle will accompany a fall kickoff for the publication of the *Voters' Guide*.

Long Range Planning

The two-year plan was updated by the Board of Directors for 2008-2009. LWV/ABC policies are in the process of review and adoption by the Board of Directors. Portfolio descriptions are still being reviewed and updated. Thanks to Clara Moore for her assistance over the past two years. Michelle MacDonald will continue with that project.

Diane Goldfarb



WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Sara Keeney
1112 La Font Rd SW 87105

Sheryl Roller
5509 Mountain Rd NE 87110

Suzanne Williams
528 Breech
Los Lunas 87031

Marjorie Laffin
13212 Montgomery Blvd NE 87111

Carol Schwarz
1000 S. Hope St, Apt 407
Los Angeles, CA 90015-1494

Correction:
Elene Gusch's address is:
622 Espanola St NE 87108

Jennifer Pincus
1040 Talang NW 87120

Sylvia Tazbir
28 Calle Playa Del Sol NE 87109

Email addresses available from the office or
JoAnne Ramponi for Sara Keeney, Jennifer
Pincus, Suzanne Williams

Submitted by Kathleen Kimler Altobelli

GARAGE SALE – Come Help You League!

Saturday, April 19, the day of our Garage Sale, is coming fast and we need all the help we can get to make this a success. The sale will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at First Congregational Church, located at Lomas and Girard. This is your opportunity to not only rid your garage and house of unused "stuff" but also to assist your League in generating much needed income. We sell just about anything except clothing. The more items we can sell the greater the income for the League, so please tell your friends as well.

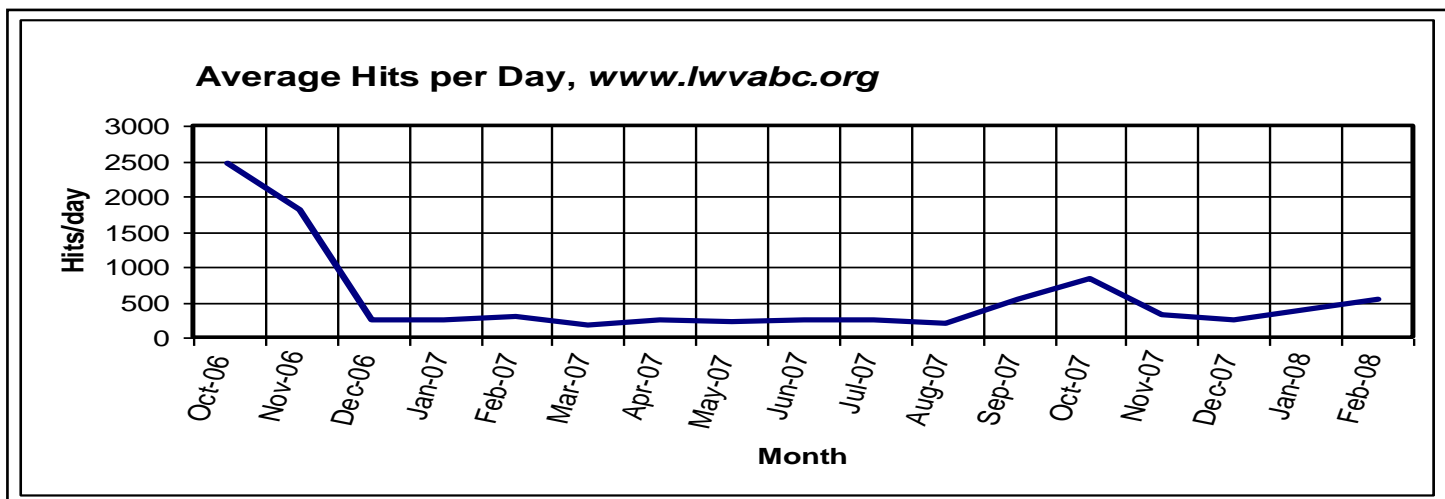
The work begins on Thursday and Friday before the sale, from 2 to 5 p.m., when you bring your items to the First Congregational Church and, if possible, stay to price and organize the sale items. We also need volunteers with pick-up trucks to drive around Thursday or Friday, and pick up larger items from donors. Additional needs are pop-up canopies or market umbrellas for shade on sale day. We especially need healthy volunteers early Saturday to move tables out to the parking lot. Many volunteers are needed from 7:30 am through 2 p.m. on sale day to move the items out to the parking lot and oversee the sale — we estimate at least 12 volunteers are needed for the early Saturday morning push and 8 throughout the sale. Any help you can give will be appreciated, even if it is only a couple of hours. Call the League office at 884-8441 to sign up to help.

Josephine Porter

WEBSITE HITS

The graph below shows the average hits per day, by month from October, 2006 through February, 2008. Note the big peaks as major elections approach: the November, 2006 General Election, the October, 2007 Albuquerque Municipal Election and the February, 2008 Democratic Presidential Caucus. People looked to the League for general information, links to other sites, to view the online **Voters' Guide** or to download the PDF **Voters' Guide**.

Cheryl Haaker, Technology Chair



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

- April
Calendar
- 2 Advocacy Committee
 - 3 LWV/ABC Board
 - 3 Voter Deadline
 - 10 Luncheon Unit
 - 15 Evening Unit
 - 16 Sandoval County Unit
 - 21 Midtown Unit
 - 24 Drug Policy Study Committee
- Membership
You can join LWV any time of the year. Contact JoAnne Ramponi at 298-2716.

* 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.

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Albuquerque/Bernalillo County
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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.