



THE VOTER

JANUARY 2009

2403 San Mateo NE, W-16C
Albuquerque, NM 87110
505-884-8441
www.lwvcnm.org

Diane Goldfarb
President

Aileen Gatterman
Voter Editor

JANUARY 2009 UNITS — PAIN, DRUGS AND PRISON: THE CONNECTION AND ISSUES

Drug Policy is a multi-faceted issue with many social and economic consequences. It impacts individuals, families and all of us as taxpayers. The 2009 New Mexico Legislative session brings opportunities for policy change. There also may be challenges to maintain the good effects of the Pain and Medical Practice Acts. Unit meetings this month will have a variety of speakers to talk about four aspects of this issue as follows:

1. The Department of Corrections rehabilitation efforts for prisoners, both women and men, with addictive behavior;
2. Effective addiction prevention programs;
3. Addiction recovery and the need for supportive services when re-entering mainstream society, and
4. Magnetic resonance imaging research to understand how drugs affect the brain.

You are welcome to attend any or all units. If you need a ride, call the office and leave your name and the meeting for which you need a ride.

Thursday, January 8, 11:45 a.m., Luncheon Unit
Reservations are required*
Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel
2910 Yale SE

Speakers: Charles A. King, NM Corrections Bureau Chief—
Addiction Services
Pamela Brown, RN, MPH, Epidemiologist

Topics: Addiction Treatment in Prison: Remediating a Health
Problem Within the Criminal Justice System

Mr. King has been the Bureau Chief for Addiction Services for the past ten years. Ms. Brown has also been in her position for ten years. In their presentation to this Unit, Ms. Brown and Mr. King will address the following questions: What is the present status of drug abuse patterns in New Mexico? How has that impacted the treatment community and our state prison system? What makes a treatment successful in this setting? What are some of the barriers to success? What, if anything, can be done about this?

Monday, January 19, 1:30 p.m., Midtown Unit
Manzano del Sol, Hobby Room
5201 Roma NE

Speaker: Jeanne Block, RN, MA
Topic: Drug Addiction Prevention Programs

Jeanne Block is a registered nurse with a Master's in Health Education. Her 20+ years of prevention experience includes college teaching and development of several peer education programs for teens. She has written a broad range of health education and training materials and curricula. She is currently the Methamphetamine Project Coordinator for the Drug Policy Alliance New Mexico.

Fear-based strategies, zero tolerance policies, and "Just Say No!" slogans are the rule in many schools and prevention programs

for teens in both New Mexico and the nation as a whole. Research shows, however, that these strategies are not only ineffective, but often are counterproductive. Please join us for an interactive discussion on effective, science-based drug education and prevention.

Tuesday, January 20, 6:00 p.m., Evening Unit
Erna Fergusson Library
3700 San Mateo Blvd. NE

Speakers: Staff from The Mind RESEARCH NETWORK FOR NEURAL
DIAGNOSTIC DISCOVERY

Topic: Research Technology: Implications for League Issues
Can brain mapping help us to understand substance abuse and related disorders? The Mind RESEARCH NETWORK studies have made some key discoveries. How is this done? Why is it important? What are current studies exploring? Join us for an opportunity to learn about new research technology and emerging knowledge.

Wednesday, January 21, 12 Noon, Sandoval County Unit
Corrales Community Center Meeting Room,
4234 Corrales Road

Speaker: Sally Moore, Director, Empowering Our Communities
In New Mexico

Topic: A Personal View of Recovery

Ms. Moore has directed this program for eight years and is aware of the costly struggle of addiction. She has had many direct experiences with people in recovery. Her view of critical issues to **support addiction treatment may expand the League's consideration** of additional pieces of legislation. Please come, listen, and let us know what you think.

COMING EVENTS

January 20 — New Mexico Legislature Opens

February 3 — League Day at the Legislature (See page 3)

*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, January 5. If you prefer a fruit plate rather than the menu item, please let us know at the time you make your reservation.

**LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
CENTRAL NEW MEXICO**

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 Central New Mexico.

IN MEMORIAM

Our condolences to League
member Susanne Burks on the
death of her husband Bill.

President's Corner

How can 2008 be over already? Each passing year seems to go faster than the last. LWVCNM ended 2008 with a flurry of activities. The December 6 - 7 weekend was a full one. Thanks go to Tooker Walton for hosting Program Planning and a holiday party in her North Valley home on Saturday and to Dick Mason for once again leading us through the program planning process. And thank you to Lisa Franzen and her committee for putting on another successful Meet the Legislators event on Sunday. Myra and Richard Lynch graciously opened their home for that affair, and we are most grateful to them. Thanks, too, to JoAnne Ramponi for her work in making these arrangements possible.

The 2009 Member Handbook should be in your hands thanks to the efforts of Kathy Altobelli. She and JoAnne Ramponi work very hard to give you accurate and up-to-date member information. This year's Handbook reflects our name change, but position statements that reflect our boundary changes as well will take some time to work through. We will be asking the membership to vote on some of those changes at the annual meeting in May.

Also underway is work on the *Who's Who* directory of elected officials edited by Margaret Krahenbuhl and Mary Anne Giangola. They do a great job on this publication every year.

As we enter 2009 I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Let us hope that our organization will have as good a year as it did in 2008.

Diane Goldfarb

Coming in March, our League's Annual Theater Party

It promises to be another interesting season. The committee is looking into available plays, dates and theaters. We plan to finalize plans in early January. In the meantime, think March for an exciting and profitable way to raise money for LWVCNM's Operating Fund.

Drug Policy Update

There are many bills coming to the 2009 NM Legislature related to Drug Policy. Included are topics such as: a public health approach to substance abuse rather than a criminal justice system problem; voting rights for convicted felons who have met all the requirements for reinstating these rights; and a memorial to convene a task force to examine our current approach to drug policy.

The Committee will be reviewing specific bills and preparing testimony/letters of support or nonsupport. Once action has been reviewed by the Advocacy Committee, you will hear more about ways to be an activist.

There is no Drug Policy Study Committee meeting in January. Committee members will be learning about current issues along with you at each of the January units. Join in the activities by contacting members individually or the Chair of the Committee.

Dee Watkins, Chair

**We Need Your Voice – Attend the League Day
at the Legislature**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009

8am to 5pm

NEW MEXICO STATE LAND OFFICE

MORGAN HALL

310 OLD SANTA FE TRAIL, SANTA FE

(just down the street from the Round House)

The 2009 sixty-day Legislative Session will be dealing with many pieces of legislation that have been prioritized by the League of Women Voters. Legislation that will be considered will deal with areas such as: health care reform; natural resources; water; climate change; public education; campaign finance and ethics reform; election reform (including same day registration); rights for domestic partners; repeal of the death penalty and replacing it with life without parole; a woman's right to choose and drug courts. We need your voice to make a difference on these issues. Please plan to attend.

Although reservations are not required we would like to have an idea of the number of attendees. Please e-mail Dick Mason at the following: polirich@aol.com; or call the LWVCNM office at 505-884-8441. Further information on League Day can also be obtained from the office or visit the state website at www.lwvnm.org.

Transportation: Contact the LWVCNM office if you can drive or if you need a ride. Parking near the State House is hard to find during the session. The state does operate a shuttle from other parking lots. Get the schedule and locations here: <http://nmshtd.state.nm.us>. The Rail Runner will also be operating and stops near the Round House (South Capital). Check the schedule at www.nmrailrunner.com/santafe_schedule.asp#Draft%20Schedule.

Lunch: Bring or buy a lunch. For \$10, you may purchase a sack lunch that will include a veggie or meat sandwich, chips, cookie and drink. If you are buying a lunch, reservations are required and must be made by 3 p.m., Thursday, January 29. Call in your order and choice of sandwich to the League in Santa Fe, 1-505-982-9766, or e-mail Jody Larson at dtlars@aol.com. Questions? Call Dick Mason at 1-505-884-8441.

Accommodations: **Garrett's Desert Inn**, which is located across the street from the Land Office at 311 Old Santa Fe Trail, offers a legislative rate of \$59 plus tax. That doesn't include breakfast, but they have an attached restaurant. You may wish to leave your car parked at the Inn after checking out but as a non-guest you could be charged \$8.00. Call 1-800-888-2145 to make a reservation; say you are lobbying for the League of Women Voters.

The LWVNM Action Committee will be sending out email Action Alerts throughout the 2009 Legislative session. If you are not part of the LWVNM Topics List please go to www.lwvnm.org and sign up.

Dick Mason
LWVCNM 3rd Vice President

ADVOCACY CORNER

The Advocacy Steering Committee continues to meet regularly on the first Wednesday of the month at the League office from 1:00—3:00 p.m. The next meeting is January 7, 2009.

Local monitoring of issues for possible action include the following issues:

1. Proposed public campaign finance rule changes by the City Council;
2. Review of ethics and campaign finance contained in the City Charter.

THE CONSTITUENCY PROJECT

This month you may receive a call from a League Leader for Advocacy. We are developing a model for contacting you by email or phone to keep you up-to-date on what is happening with legislative issues: local, state and national. This is in addition to information sent in the *Voter* and on the Listserve.

The immediacy of action makes the email contact most useful for many action activities. The Constituency Leader will ask you if you want to be involved and will explain how this will work. This is a great opportunity to be educated on particular issues and to take personal action. The Advocacy Steering Committee hopes you will give it a try and say "yes" to being contacted.

Dee Watkins, Advocacy Chair



League members and guests (at left) State Senator Bernadette Sanchez, State Representatives Edward Sandoval and Jimmie Hall, at the December 7 Meet the Legislators Reception share a laugh with Myra Lynch (center) who opened her beautiful home for the event. Other Legislators attending but not pictured: State Senators Tim Eichenberg, Timothy Keller and Sander Rue; State Representatives Rick Miera, Benjamin Rodefer and Jack Thomas. Photo by Cheryl Haaker

LWVCNM PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico (LWVCNM) met on December 6, 2008 to receive committee reports and to review local positions to see if any positions needed revision.

Committee Reports

Advocacy. Delores Watkins reported. The Advocacy Steering Committee recommended continuing local action on Ethics, Public Financing of Campaigns, and Natural Resources/Land Use. The Committee will continue to monitor pain management legislation and drug policy issues at the local, state, and national levels. Two projects are planned to encourage members to increase their visibility as activists.

School Governance. Jan Bray reported. The charge of the School Governance Committee was to investigate whether there was any connection between the way a school was governed, and the way authority was acquired, and the performance of children in the school. After researching, no connection could be found. Findings were that it depends on the community and how it operates—that there are many ways to success. What matters is how well the school administration communicates, as a whole, and how well they are able to define what needs to be done. The recommendation was to disband the Committee and to make no changes to the current position.

Drug Policy. Delores Watkins reported. The Drug Policy Committee recommended continuing the Committee with a focus on addiction treatment programs and monitoring, educating, and advocating for 2009 legislative proposals supported by our positions.

Natural Resources. JoAnne Ramponi reported. The Natural Resources Committee has been dormant but not out of commission. If an issue comes up that needs addressing the committee will regroup. The Committee did meet on November 8, 2008 to review and make recommendations for changes to the Land Use, Transportation, and Water Positions.

Local Positions

A committee met this year to examine the local positions of the league for changes necessary in adjusting to our new name, LWVCNM, and boundaries. These changes were presented for discussion. Additional suggestions were made. All of these suggested changes will be presented to the Board, will be delineated in the March Voter, and will be submitted to the membership at the Annual Meeting in May for approval. The reviewed positions included: **drug policy, education, health care, housing, initiative and referendum, local government, land use, transportation, and water.**

Some issues surfaced which required the establishment of a task force. Jan Bray agreed to head up the Housing Policy Task Force to look at the use of “city” in the position statement.. Jo Porter agreed to review revisions necessary

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to the Initiative and Referendum Position relating to “Article 3, Sections 3 and 3a of the Albuquerque City Charter and to make recommendations to the Board and then to the membership.

Kathy Altobelli recommended that a committee be formed to look at the possible revision of the format of local positions to include paragraph numbering and dates of adoption and revision and to include all other recommendations that the Board would then recommend as a package at the annual meeting. Therese Barts agreed to help.

State Positions

Government. Delores Watkins agreed to work with a committee to draft a recommendation to the LWVNM regarding the initiation of a study to look at New Mexico’s budgeting process (income, expenditures, and effectiveness of programs).

Other State Positions. There were no comments or recommendations made regarding **Natural Resources, Social Policy, or Sustainability.**

Michelle MacDonald

10th Circuit Rules Against League and For Photo Voter ID

On November 17 the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the City of Albuquerque and against the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico and the other plaintiffs in the Voter ID case. The 10th Circuit reversed the 2007 decision of Judge Armijo of the U.S. District Court of New Mexico. Judge Armijo had found that the City’s photo ID requirements for in-person voting violated the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution “because it imposes a significant burden on the fundamental right to vote, and because that burden is not narrowly tailored to meet the City’s interest in preventing voter impersonation at the polls.” The City appealed the district court’s decision to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The 10th Circuit delayed the appeal until the U.S. Supreme Court case of Crawford v. Marion County Election Board (2008) was decided. Crawford was the first time that the Supreme Court had addressed the constitutionality of a photo ID requirement. In the Crawford decision the U.S. Supreme Court found that Indiana’s law requiring photo identification at a polling place was only a “limited burden on voters’ rights.” The Court determined that the justifications for Indiana’s law, very general allegations of voter fraud without specific proof of fraud, were sufficiently strong to uphold the law. Although somewhat factually and legally distinguishable, the Supreme Court’s decision in Crawford, without question, made our arguments opposing the photo ID requirement very difficult.

Our counsel, Andy Schultz, presented compelling legal arguments to the 10th Circuit supporting the district court’s decision that the Albuquerque photo ID law was unconstitutional. Citing extensively from the Crawford decision the very conservative three judge 10th Circuit panel found otherwise and reversed the lower court. The court rejected our argument that the City had failed to justify the burden photo ID placed on the voter with any evidence of voting fraud and stated “[j]ust as the Supreme Court did not require Indiana to present specific instances of past conduct to justify its photo identification requirement, we do not require Albuquerque to make such a showing.” A key part of the district court’s decision was that it is unconstitutional to treat in-person voters differently than absentee voters. The 10th Circuit summarily dismissed this argument concluding that they were “unpersuaded by Plaintiffs’ argument that the law treats absentee voters who ultimately cast their ballot in-person differently than nonabsentee in-person voters.” Finding “that states have wide latitude in determining how to manage election procedures” the court made the distinction that “[t]he Albuquerque law is intended to target in-person voters and not all voters, and because there are clear differences between the two types of voting procedures, the law’s distinction is proper.”

It is difficult to summarize this complicated case in a short article and frankly much of the decision is difficult to understand even for those of us in the “business.” But the long and the short of it is that we lost. After reviewing the decision and consulting with our counsel, the Board has determined that, in light of the precedent of Crawford and the current make-up of the Court, it is not advisable to appeal this case to the U.S. Supreme Court. And so, regrettably, the case will end with the 10th Circuit’s decision reinstating Albuquerque’s photo ID requirement for in-person voting.

Josephine Porter, LWVCNM 1st Vice President

Fair Representation Consensus Report

Over two weeks in November, members of the Fair Representation Study Group traveled the state, visiting each local League from Las Cruces to Los Alamos, conducting a total of seven consensus meetings on redistricting. The meetings were attended by 81 League members (not including the presenters, Dee Watkins, Barbara Goedecke, Lisa Franzen, Josephine Porter, Katherine Campbell, and me). At each meeting, members exchanged ideas and opinions with one another on the three Consensus questions:



1. Who should draft redistricting plans?

Everyone leaned toward an independent commission, and not the Legislature, to draw the redistricting maps. Members felt that it would be acceptable for the Legislature to vote on well-drawn maps, as long as they were not permitted to make modifications.

2. What criteria should be used to determine districts?

- **Essential to important criteria:** contiguity, compactness, taking into account geographic features, respecting jurisdictional boundaries, and not intentionally favoring any political party.
- **Criteria not to be considered:** None were unambiguously agreed upon.
- **Criteria that are not important:** preserving the cores of previous districts.
- **No consensus:** the location of the homes of the current incumbents. preserving communities of interest, partisan voting history, political competitiveness, and connection by transportation links.

3. How should the public - you - be involved?

The process for redistricting needs to be transparent. All information must be available to the public, on a timely basis. Voters need to know that their input will be heard and that they can make a difference. The League should be involved in public education, particularly in how redistricting can harm or help voters.

From this information, the study group will be formulating an updated position on reapportionment and redistricting to submit to the LWVNM Board in January. If approved by the Board, the new position will be used for action during the legislative session. Check the Winter *La Palabra* to see what was decided!

The Fair Representation Study Group meets monthly, on the 4th Tuesday at 1:00pm. The group is not winding down; preparations are underway for lobbying the Legislature and informing the public on issues relating to redistricting. If you'd like to get involved, your help will be welcomed!

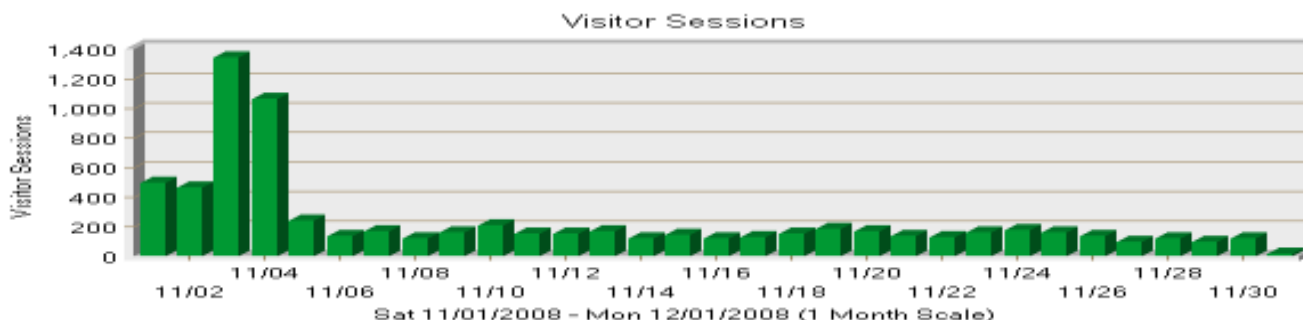
For more information, check out the web page, www.lwvcnm.org/fair/ and join the listserve by sending an email to: LWVNMFair-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Cheryl Haaker
Chair, Fair Representation Study Group

NOVEMBER WEB STATISTICS

The ramp-up of visitor accesses to the *lwvcnm.org* website continued through election day, November 4th — and then abruptly dropped back to normal. This, in spite of the link to the state's election results that was posted on the home page by 9 p.m. on election night. The bottom also fell out of the number of files downloaded. View it all at www.lwvcnm.org/stats/

Cheryl Haaker, Technology Chair



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Member Handbook: The LWVCNM 2009 Member Handbook should be arriving in the mailboxes of paid-up members about the same time as this newsletter -- the latter half of December -- so be on the lookout for a Handbook with a light purple cover. Please notify Kathleen Kimler Altobelli or JoAnne Ramponi if there are any errors in your directory listing or if you haven't received your copy by the first of the year.

A big thank you to all those who helped with the making of the Handbook: Kathleen Kimler Altobelli, Diane Goldfarb, Jo Porter, Dee Watkins, Cheryl Haaker, Ann Kirkpatrick, JoAnne Ramponi, and Aileen Gatterman.

Welcome to new members: Sherri Miller and Julia Shirek Smith.

New email addresses which are in the 2009 handbook are also available from the office or JoAnne Ramponi for Marlene Brown, Liz Davenport, Janet Espinosa, Ida Humphrey, Katrina T. Ladwig, and Belle Roberts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES

NEW HANDBOOK

As noted in the Membership Committee Report above your Member Handbook should arrive soon. You will find the updated memberships list, calendar, officers and other information to show the day-to-day operation of LWVCNM. One copy is sent to each household.

Special thanks go to Kathy Kimler Altobelli for editing the Handbook. She has done an excellent job.
JoAnne Ramponi, Membership Chair

LOCATION CHANGE—EVENING UNIT

This is to notify all interest persons that the Evening Unit, which meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m., is changing the location of its meetings. The new location will be at Erna Fergusson Library, 3700 San Mateo Blvd. NE.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please call Dee Watkins, 884-8441, the Membership Chair for the Evening Unit.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The membership year for LWVCNM is October 1 through September 30. Join any time during the year. Dues are not tax-deductible. With membership in LWVCNM you also belong to LWVCNM 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 LWVCNM and mail with this form to:
Membership, LWVCNM, 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
Luncheon 2nd Thursday 11:45 a.m.	Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel 2910 Yale SE Reservations required \$16*	Marilyn Morgan	Vacant
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.	Erna Fergusson Library 3700 San Mateo Blvd. 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	Carolyn Lindberg	Mary Mulvany

* 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.

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 Deadline for February Voter
- 1-2 Office Closed
- 6 Membership Committee, 10 am
- 7 Advocacy Committee, 1 pm
- 8 Luncheon Unit, 11:45 am
- 8 LWVCNM Board, 5:30 pm
- 19 MLK Jr. Day—Office Closed
- 19 Midtown Unit, 1:30 pm
- 20 NM Legislature Opens
- 20 Evening Unit, 6 p.m.
- 21 Sandoval County Unit, Noon
- 27 Fair Rep Committee, 1 pm

Membership:
You can join LWV anytime of the year.
Contact Membership Chair JoAnne Ramponi at 298-2716.

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League of Women Voters
Central New Mexico
2403 San Mateo NE, W-16C
Albuquerque, NM 87110
Return service requested



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.