



The *Voter*

July 2010

League of Women Voters
of Central New Mexico
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Outgoing national president Mary Wilson to speak at July 8 meeting

Mary G. Wilson, outgoing president of the League of Women Voters of the United States will be the luncheon speaker at the League of Women Voters meeting on July 8 at 11:45 a.m. at the Airport Grand Hotel, 2910 Yale SE.

Wilson will speak about activities of the LWVUS during her tenure as president.

She has held leadership positions with the LWV at the national, state and local levels during her 20 years of service. In 2004 she was elected to a two-year term on the LWVUS and LWVEF boards where she served as Advocacy Chair and helped



Mary G. Wilson

guide the League to its Democracy Agenda, a public education effort to strengthen and renew the basic tenets of American Democracy

Wilson is an attorney with more than 30 years of experience in a variety of fields, including estate planning, litigation, regulatory compliance, commercialization and privatization, corporate and environmental law and employment law. She is an owner of Aungier & Wilson, P.C. and an adviser on initiatives to privatize government services and to create commercial opportunities at downsized government facilities.

The cost of the luncheon is \$17, payable at the door. Reservations must be called into the League office at 884-8441 by Monday, July 5.

Your Voters' Guide Needs You!

As we get closer to the 2010 general election, your LWVCNM is gearing up to publish its umpteenth *Voters' Guide*, and we need your help. Andrea Targhetta and Josephine Porter will be your co-editors but we need lots of help at every step. Volunteers are needed for many specific tasks including:

* A Distribution Chair to organize calling the many distribution locations and help to organize the "Distribution Day" push to bring the Guide to the voters. (August-October)

* Mailing assistance to get the questions and instruction out to the candidates. (August)

* Proof readers to meet at our publisher Automated Elections in Rio Rancho. (Middle to

late September)

* Members to call the distribution locations to confirm they will be a distribution place for our Guide. (Late August-September)

* Distribution workers to deliver *Voters' Guides* (early October)

These are one-time projects in which everyone can participate. Please call the League office (848-8441) and leave a message with your phone number to volunteer.

July Calendar

July 5	<i>Voter</i> deadline
July 8	Luncheon meeting, 11:45 a.m.
July 22	Drug Policy Committee, 1 p.m.

**League of Women Voters of
Central New Mexico
Board Meeting
1st Thursday of each month
Offices of Sutin, Thayer & Brown,
6565 Americans Parkway NE**

Program Committees

Fair Representation Committee

Cheryl Haaker (298-7415)

Drug Policy

Delores Watkins (823-2308)

Natural Resources

Includes transportation, land use, air quality,
water, and energy

All League members are invited to all
unit meetings, committee and board meetings.

The *Voter* is published on partially
recycled paper each month by the League of
Women Voters of Central New Mexico.

Health Care Reform, Pain Management

The Health Care Reform Bill and Pain Management has three provisions to help people in pain.

1. Mandating a conference on pain to address key medical and policy issues affecting the delivery of quality pain care,

2. Establishing a training program to improve the skills of health care professionals to assess and treat pain and,

3. Enhancing the pain research agenda for the National Institutes of Health.

“As good as New Mexico's pain policy is, (B+), training in pain management is only recommended not mandated,” says Dee Watkins.

PAIN MYTH: Pain is something with which you have to try to live.

FACT: Most types of pain can be relieved. Left untreated, pain can weaken the immune system and slow recovery from disease or injury.

Leanne's Story: From the American Pain Foundation website, “*It took me nearly three years to find a doctor who was knowledgeable about my pain condition and was willing to work with me to treat it. And it took another three years to find the right treatment program. But I can tell you that the right medical professional and care makes all the difference. I am living proof that pain sufferers can find a way to control their pain and begin to lead a full life.*”

Presidents' Corner

The garage sale was very successful. We made over \$900 in one afternoon. Thanks go to Eileen Longsworth, who organized everything. We had quite a bit of jewelry and it sold very well. Thanks to all who donated, helped price and set up and who worked the sale.

We all had a good time at the Adobe Theater performance of the *Lion in Winter* and the birthday party. Thanks to all the board members who contributed food and wine. We sold all 50 tickets and made a good profit for the operating fund. Jo Porter and Diane Goldfarb generously donated a table and folding chairs to use in the conference room in the office. New member, Alice Brasfield, donated the money to buy a new computer so we are out of the electronic dark ages.

The spring solicitation for the Education Fund brought in \$7,000. If you haven't responded yet, there is still time.

We need people for the Questions Committee and to organize the delivery of the *Voters' Guide*. We can also use people to help deliver the *Voters' Guide*. We need someone or several someones to run the office. Thanks to Diane Goldfarb for stepping in while JoAnne was ill. If you are good at organizing and are interested, call me or Olin.

The board will be having a strategic planning retreat this summer. As always, we solicit your input on what your League should be concentrating on. What activities should be our priorities? Please let us know what activities you want to concentrate on – such as *Voters' Guide*, observing meetings of government bodies and reporting on them either in the *Voter*; on the website or both, advocating on established positions, new studies, unit programming, or creating content for our website and facebook page. Perhaps you would like to register voters. Let us know.

There will be several surveys on the website this summer. One will be on going electronic with the *Voter*. Would you like to be part of an electronic unit? We are investigating this possibility. AAUW has an electronic branch, so it can be done. A survey on preferences on unit time and location as well as activities and participation levels will also appear. We are attempting to contact each member individually.

We will report on the national convention in next month's *Voter*. Have a happy summer. Dick Mason has some great speakers for the luncheon general meetings. See you there. -- Jan and Olin Bray

League members reminisce about early days of League: Myra Lynch and Julia White share their memories

Editor's Note: This year the LWVCNM celebrates its 60th anniversary. In February Judith Binder put together a retrospective program presented at all Unit meetings that consisted of members sharing in their own words memories of League. This is the third in a series of articles that includes some of those memories.

Myra Lynch

"I first became active in the early 1970s, about a year after my third child was born. There was so much going on. Betty Weir introduced me to League, and my first project, when Nadyne Bicknell was president, was to study and produce a document called, 'Know Your Local Government.' We met weekly at Nadyne's, took time to visit the Albuquerque Metropolitan Flood Control Authority – somewhat boring, but publishing the booklet was fun!"

"A bunch of us -- Sally van Domilen, Nadyne and June Robertson; Karmen Van Dyke and Barbara Wasylenki -- visited city offices and meetings and wrote our booklet. The Unit I attended most of the time met at Libby Spiegel's house. Lindy Gold and Judy Lackner were also active members then. One year I had the chance to attend National Convention in San Francisco with Louise Dean and several other members from around the state."

"The League also was involved in the community with the city-county consolidation effort -- there was a lot of study and information gathering. We met many community people supportive of League. It was very inspirational. Always. Everyone did a lot of work, but consolidation didn't pass. There was more success with Judicial Reform. We did get the election of judges out of partisan politics and helped introduce election by retention."

"It's good to look back on these accomplishments. A lot was going on in a short time. In New Mexico, The Equal Rights Amendment to our State Constitution was passed. I went to Santa Fe to support the legislation with a group of women from a variety of organizations. Ann Bingaman was very active in getting the amendment on the ballot. At that time she was a professor at the UNM Law School, as was Pamela Minzer, who went on to become a Supreme Court Justice."

"When my youngest child went to kindergarten, I went to law school. I had become friends with Pauline Eisenstadt through the League and she encouraged me to take the LSAT because -- she (Pauline) had said modestly -- 'We're as smart as my husband.' There were 30 women in my law school class that year, while in previous years there were eight or fewer. All of my League friends were very supportive of my decision."

Julia White

"I arrived in Albuquerque in 1974, having lived with my family in Asia for 10 years where I observed the lives of women everywhere. It was depressing. Around that time I met Betty Weir who encouraged me to join the League. Taking an active part in government policy and being free of the Hatch Act -- it was like an explosion in my life."

"Women all over the United States had begun to work outside the home. Some entered politics; they ran for elective office in legislatures -- and won! Studies about those women found that about 50 percent had been leaders in the League of Women Voters; most of them had been former presidents! Betty Weir was the local League speaker on International Trade. We went out and talked to the Leagues all around the state, and Betty spoke about Economic Trade Balances between South America and United States."

"Another study showed that only 5 percent of the electorate in this country really have an interest in following politics -- or even making any impact on government, and THESE people were usually members of American Civil Liberties Union, American Association of University Women, Common Cause, and the League of Women Voters. These are the people, the 5 percent who were willing to commit politically -- to stick their necks out."

"The League has two distinct demands: First we study and teach ourselves and others the facts about major policy issues, and second, we "encourage informed and active participation in government," to take action. Both demands require

Julia White remembers

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the leadership of every member.”

“At that time we set up a series of training sessions with Ken Clark and Gene Goetz, who taught leadership. Gene said that working with the League was a great experiment in teaching and learning about government: How the NM Legislature works. The NM Constitution. Rules, and why we have them. We learned it was important to have disciplined meetings! If you haven’t done your homework, you kept your mouth shut. Stick to an agenda. Timing is also important. A certain amount of work can be completed in one hour. When shuffling begins, you know that the time is up.”

“League members observed the needs of our low-population state, and helped develop other League branches. We helped with traffic problems in Las Cruces; investigated air quality from increased use of energy; and promoted the idea of open space. We learned it was effective to work with the Legislature by attending and participating (when invited) in interim committee hearings, especially following the 1980 census when we went to all the court hearings on the reapportionment.”

“In 1982 I was the chair of the Reapportionment Committee. It did not go well for New Mexico. The state, unable to redistrict itself equitably and efficiently had spent well over a million dollars in legislative redistricting. We learned that states in which redistricting was done by boards or commissions were less tied up in litigation

than those done by state legislatures.”

“League members spent many hours at Legislative Education Study Committee; we lobbied the legislature for making TVI into a community college and we lobbied for School Based Health Clinics. That was when the teen pregnancy rate dropped.”

“Anne Hyde once said, ‘If you tell someone what is right, they will do it.’ But the trick is to find out what is needed. Like helping people in southern New Mexico get access to health care where many had no way to keep medical appointments. So we lobbied the Legislature for transportation laws to include van pooling to get people to health care facilities.”

“I can’t forget the candidate forums. We had an early excursion into television with KNME news anchor Hal Rhodes. For weeks League members prepared for the series. We did a lot of preplanning to prevent something from going wrong. We knew how to point out the rest rooms, adjust the heating and open windows. Hal set the rules for the program, and there was only one moment where I held my breath.”

“League also sponsored seven Regional Transportation mini-conferences. It is incredible that the LWV leadership is so sophisticated. When you look at members, all volunteers, and their busy lives, you can see the results: ‘expository’ learning for the members and hands on, solid programs.”

“I look about with pleasure and respect on the qualified leadership of the League today and admire the diversity of the issues it is dealing with.”

Membership Committee Report

Welcome to new and returning members:

Virginia L & William M Valigura
12804 Desert Sky Ave NE 87111
858-3423

Judy Marston
10623 Brookline Place NW 87114

Member address changes:

Barbara Allender
1820 Dartmouth Dr NE 87106
(Same phone: 255-7140)

Drug Policy Committee

The Drug Policy Study Committee will continue to meet during the summer on the fourth Thursday of each month from 1-3 p.m.

The location may change because of special needs or events. The committee will meet on July 22 at the Palo Druo Senior Center.

The July 22 meeting will focus on reviewing and discussing the issues of alcohol abuse in New Mexico. Visitors are always welcome.

Call Dee Watkins for directions and content information each month. -- *Dee Watkins, Chair*

Highlights of 2010 LWVUS Convention

Editor's Note: The following are partial highlights of last month's national convention written by Kathy Campbell, LWVNM state president. The convention was held in Atlanta.

Motion to adopt the LWVUS Board recommended study of the Federal Role in Public Education. The study would focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government. The scope will be dependent on available resources, including committee and LWVUS staff time.

Motion #597-633, LWVUS Board.

Motion APPROVED.

Motion to adopt the non-recommended item on Privatization: the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector.

Motion #118-993, LWV of Seattle, WA.

Motion APPROVED. Card Vote: Yes = 308, No = 274, Invalid = 3.

Motion to adopt concurrence with the LWVMD & LWVME position on Marriage Equality to be added to the Equality of Opportunity position: The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved.

Motion #935-474, LWV of Saratoga County, NY.

Motion APPROVED.

Motion to adopt concurrence, that the following words be added as the third sentence to the LWVUS position on selection of the president: "We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished"

Motion #534-573, LWV of Arizona.

Motion APPROVED.

Motion to support the Florida resolution that the LWVUS support lifting the travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba.

Motion # 537-622, LWV of Florida.

Motion APPROVED.

Motion to adopt a resolution in support of safe drilling and mining for energy resources: Be it therefore resolved that we, representatives at the 2010 National Convention of the League of Women Voters, call upon the Board to use the resources of the League to support and lobby for significant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources. This strengthening should include elimination from national legislation of the exemptions for drilling and mining, as well as additional legislation requiring the federal agencies to regulate drilling and mining in a manner consistent with the preservation of a healthy environment. We also call on the Board to communicate with the President and the Congress putting them on notice that Leagues across the country are deeply concerned about this issue.

Motion #705-348, LWV of Tompkins County, NY.

Motion APPROVED.

Motion to adopt the following resolution: Be it resolved that the League of Women Voters call upon the Senate to change its rules to limit the use of the filibuster.

Motion #567-032, LWV of Kalamazoo Area, MI.

Motion APPROVED.

Motion to adopt the following resolution: Therefore, be it resolved that we, the representatives of local and state Leagues assembled at the 2010 LWVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for all.

Motion #549-473, LWV of Bloomington-Monroe, IN.

Motion APPROVED.

LWVUS PMP

Motion to adopt a PMP rate of \$29.60 for FY2010-2011.

Motion #936-779, LWVUS Board.

Motion to amend Motion 936-779 to adopt a PMP rate of \$29.70 for FY2010-2011.

Motion #879-346, LWV of Pennsylvania.

Motion APPROVED.

Motion 936-779 APPROVED as Amended

Motion to adopt a PMP rate of \$30.00 for FY 2011-2012.

Motion #816-698, LWVUS Board.

Motion to amend Motion 816-698 to strike the rate of \$30.00 and substitute \$30.30, so the motion now reads "I move to adopt a PMP rate of \$30.30 for FY2011-2012."

Motion #292-240, LWV of Shaker Heights, OH.

Motion DEFEATED.

Motion #816-698 APPROVED.

Electronic Voter Survey

The LWVCNM Board of Directors is studying the possibility of converting the *Voter* to electronic format only. This means that those of you who have email would receive it in your email box. If you don't have email, you can read the *Voter* on-line on the LWVCNM website. The board's decision will be based on members' preferences, ability of members to use on-line services and cost analysis. Please see the Co-Presidents Corner in the June issue of the *Voter* for more details.

We encourage you to take part in the following survey to help the Board make a decision on this important matter. If you have questions, please call me at 822-9852 or email me. Send your survey answers to: Chris Burroughs, 6011 Knollwood NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109 or email at coburroughs@cybermesa.com.

-- Chris Burroughs, *Voter* Editor

Please circle the answer(s) that applies to you.

1. Do you have email?

Yes

No

2. Will you read the *Voter* if it comes to you in email?

Yes

No

3. If you have access to email, would you read the *Voter* on the LWVCNM list serve?

Yes

No

4. If you don't have email, will you read the *Voter* on the LWVCNM website?

Yes

No

5. Will you pay a \$5 subscription fee to have the *Voter* mailed to your house/business?

Yes

No

6. How often do you read the *Voter*?

Always

Occasionally

Never

7. What do you like best about the *Voter*?

(Select as many as desired)

Meeting Notices

Presidents' Column

"Memory" Stories

General League

Information

Other _____

Non Profit
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