



The Voter

February 2012

League of Women Voters
of Central New Mexico
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February Units: Why Can't We Fix This Problem?

In 2007 2.8 billion dollars was estimated to be the economic and human cost of alcohol abuse deaths. This is a 11 percent increase over the costs reported in 2006.

Background: One way to look at making changes is to consider where to focus: individuals, the environment or both? Public policy is an effective way to change the environment -- i.e. how people think and act. New Mexico has closed

drive-up windows, attempted to set norms through public ad slogans, free rides home, traffic stops, setting breath alcohol content limits and liquor license regulation. Prevention and treatment programs are limited and face many barriers.

Alcohol is a community concern. What can the League and you do to keep our streets safe and cut human and economic cost of alcohol? Please join us at the February unit meetings to expand your knowledge and give us some of your ideas. Hope to see you at a February meeting.

-- Delores Watkins, Drug Policy Committee Chair

Luncheon Unit, Feb. 9, 11:45 a.m., MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul N.E. Reservations are required.

Topic & Speaker: DWI Laws -- Action & Barriers. Evidence based prevention policies have been implemented in New Mexico. What else can be done? The speaker is Michael Sandoval, Divisional Director of Traffic Safety, State of New

Anything Goes fundraiser March 25

Anything Goes at LWVCNM theatre event. Our annual theatre fundraiser will be held Sunday, March 25 at the Rodey Theatre (next to Popejoy Hall) at UNM in Albuquerque. Landmark Musicals will present *Anything Goes* at the matinee performance from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m., followed by a reception for LWV attendees in the upstairs terrace. The reception will be provided by the LWVCNM Board.

Anything Goes is a musical with music and lyrics by Cole Porter. The story concerns madcap antics aboard an ocean liner bound from New York to London. The musical introduced such memorable songs as *Anything Goes*, *You're the Top*, *I Get a Kick Out of You*, *All Through the Night*, *You'd Be So Easy to Love* and *It's De-Loverly*.

To reserve your seat, mail a check to the LWVCNM office for \$28 per person with a notation that the check is for *Anything Goes* tickets. Please RSVP by March 19. A parking structure is available for the event. The tickets will be distributed at the event. The number of tickets is limited (and best in the house), so be sure to make your reservation early. You don't want to miss out on the fun!

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February Calendar

Feb. 2	Board meeting, 5:30 p.m. (All members welcome.)
Feb. 5	Voter Deadline
Feb. 9	Luncheon Unit, 11:45 a.m.
Feb. 14	Evening Unit, 6:30 p.m.
Feb. 20	Midtown Unit, 1:30 p.m.
Feb. 25	Voter Registration Strategic Planning, 10 a.m.
Feb. 27	Northeast Heights Unit, 10 a.m.
March 25	Theatre fundraiser, 2 p.m.

**League of Women Voters of
Central New Mexico
Board Meeting
1st Thursday of each month
Offices of Sutin, Thayer & Browne,
6565 Americas 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. It is also distributed via email.

Presidents' Corner

On Feb. 19, 1920 (92 years ago) the New Mexico legislature ratified the 19th Amendment. New Mexico was the 32nd state to ratify but not without a struggle. This is how it happened.

The first organized pressure groups for Women's Suffrage in New Mexico came during the Constitutional Convention in 1910. Before 1910, Hispanic and Anglo support was insufficient to make a real issue. In 1910, the National Women's Suffrage Association (NAWSA) had only two subscribers to its publication on suffrage. One name had "dead" scribbled after it, and the other person was in a Silver City sanatorium. This was hardly a base for an active women's movement.

A letter from Ada Morley to the Congressional Union reporting on the campaign to have the New Mexico delegation support passage of the Susan B. Anthony Women's Suffrage Amendment in Congress, together with other letters in the National Women's Party Papers in the Library of Congress, indicate the existence of an active women's movement in New Mexico during the early 20th century.

During the first decade of the 20th Century, several hundred New Mexico Women organized into nine clubs in which women could work together on civic, educational and cultural affairs. In 1909 women's clubs federated into a state organization. (Does this sound like an organization we know?) In 1910 the president of the federated organization presented a petition to delegates of the State Constitutional Convention in support of women's suffrage. Of three published memoirs, only two mention women's suffrage. One says "Members compromised on women's suffrage," while the other notes "The very nature of New Mexico's background was against giving women the voting privilege with men." The 1910 Constitution gave women the right to vote in school district elections and women eligible to hold office as superintendent, director or a local board of education. However, Article VII restricted the right of women to run for these offices if enough men objected. In addition, the constitutional compromise protected the elective franchise of men to make it nearly virtually impossible to amend the constitution to give women the right to vote. To amend the franchise provision, three quarters of the voters in each county had to approve.

Amid the celebration of new statehood in 1912, a small group of women were dissatisfied with their disenfranchisement. Deane Lindsey, an active club member and former teacher from Portales, became State Chairman of the NAWSA, however their focus on suffrage referendums

President of New Mexico Tech to speak at Salute to New Mexico

Dan Lopez, President of New Mexico Tech, will be the main speaker at the fundraising gala of 2012, Salute to New Mexico -- First 100 Years and Beyond. The event, scheduled for April 16 at the Embassy Hotel and Suites in Albuquerque, is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico with support of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico. It will honor the centennial of New Mexico's statehood; New Mexico became a state on April 6, 1912.

Tickets will be \$80 a single seat and \$750 for a table.

At the event, the League will honor individuals who have contributed to their community or the state in one of four categories, including Education, Civic Engagement, Health and Human Services and Science/Technology.

Part of the fundraising event will be a silent auction and raffle. Tickets for the raffle will be available for purchase prior to the event. The drawing will take place at the dinner on April 21. (You need not be present to win.)

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February Units

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Mexico. Sandoval has 19 years of experience in traffic safety. He also worked for eight years worked with DWI issues.

Reservations for the lunch must be called in to the office (884-8441) by 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 6.

Evening Unit: (Note: Change in location.) Tuesday, Feb. 14, 6 p.m. Erna Fergusson Library Community Room, 3700 San Mateo N.E.

Topic & Speaker: A Culture of Alcohol -- Heavy Drinking and Binge Drinking. Data suggests these behaviors are more related to DWI than addiction. The speaker is Bob Mattucci, attorney, drug addict, recovering alcoholic and willing speaker.

Midtown Unit: Monday, Feb. 20, 1:30 p.m., Manzano del Sol, Hobby Room (1st Floor), 5202 Roan Ave. NE.

Topic & Speaker: Alcohol Issues within the Family Setting. The discussion will center around considerations when trying to balance the competing goals of protecting children and fostering parent growth and success. The speaker is Bob

Galliagan, supportive psychotherapist. Galliagan works with a variety of people and issues through court referrals and his private practice. He will share his knowledge in a question and answer format.

Northeast Heights Unit: Monday, Feb. 27. 10 a.m., La Vida Llena Retirement Community 10501 Lagrima de Oro N.E.

Topic & Speaker: Prevention and Treatment. There are many programs and many strategies but availability is scarce. A continuum of care has been suggested. For whom: all populations? groups particularly at risk? people who have shown some risky behaviors? The focus of the talk will be on underage drinking which is a concern of many health councils. The speaker is Jolene Aquilar with Partnership For Community Action and program manager of the Underage Drinking Committee.

Announcement: The Drug Policy Study Committee on Alcohol will meet Thursday, Feb. 23, 1-3 p.m. (Please note the location change: Erna Fergusson Library Community Room, 3700 San Mateo N.E.) During the meeting there will be a continuing discussion of drug courts.

Presidents' Corner

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proved inappropriate for New Mexico. More important than NAWSA for fueling the engine of women's discontent in New Mexico was the National Federation of Women's Clubs (NFWC), with which the New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs became affiliated in 1914. When the Congressional Union (CU) sent their first organizer to New Mexico in 1914, New Mexico Club Women were ready to act.

The women who rallied to the CU were not representative of various regions, ethnic groups, or classes. They were predominately Anglo elite centered in Santa Fe, Albuquerque and other northern cities. Ella St. Clair Thompson, CU organizer in 1915 made efforts to recruit daughters of Hispanic politicians. Thompson had leaflets printed in English and Spanish. Although the CU records mention only six Hispanic women, these six women were key players. If anyone could be credited as being the "Susan B. Anthony" of New Mexico, it would be Adelina Otero-Warren, 34-year-old widow

and niece of Solomon Luna, a powerful Hispanic politician of the time. Final victory in New Mexico resulted from coalition work by the National Women's Party (NWP) and Republican women. Otero-Warren swung into action in January, 1920, lining up Republican leaders behind the amendment. Suffragist women lined the Senate galleries on Feb. 19, 1920, and the Senate ratified the amendment 17 to 5. When the House balked at the Senate ratifying the amendment, Otero-Warren spent three hours in a Republican caucus. The House ratified the amendment 36 to 10.

On Aug. 15, 1920, the 19th Amendment of the United States was ratified, and New Mexico Women finally had the right to vote and run for office; or did they? Pauline Eisenstadt's new book, *A Woman in Both Houses*, published by University of New Mexico Press, tells "the rest of the story." I was unaware that it took the passage of an amendment to Section 2 of Article VII of the state constitution in a special election Sept. 20, 1921 so that women of New Mexico were able to run for all public offices in New Mexico.

-- Shelly Shepherd, Co-President

December 2011 Program Planning Revised Draft Report

Editor's Note: Karen Wentworth provides the following report on the December 2011 LWVCNM Program Planning meeting.

National Positions

Election Process

The group decided to ask Dick Mason if he would take our concern about the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United decision to the LWVNM. We would like to ask the state league to support the LWV of Washington and LWV of Massachusetts in a recommendation to the LWCUS to support a constitutional amendment to clarify limits on campaign spending.

Natural Resources

It is a matter of concern to the LWVCNM that the proposal to build the Keystone Pipeline to bring synthetic crude oil and diluted bitumen from Canada to the refineries in the Gulf State is now before the U.S. Congress. The LWVCNM is concerned that the proposal does not make economic sense and questions whether the risk to the environment is too great. The program planning group decided to ask the state board to take the issue to the LWVNM Convention.

Economic Development

Olin and Jan Bray and Sandra Browne will meet informally to explore whether the LWVCNM wants to ask the LWVUS to begin a study into the underlying causes of economic inequity in the U.S. and the impact on economic development. Olin volunteered to write an article for the *Voter*.

Local Positions

Drug Policy

It was decided to continue the work of the Drug Policy Study Committee for another year. The committee should be extended and should continue working on issues that include prevention strategies such as increasing the excise tax on liquor, parent awareness publications, creating safer drinking envi-

ronments and control of the physical availability of alcohol.

Education

Jan Bray will write an article for the *Voter* to try to draw enough interest from people that could be channeled into a study. Judy Binder will assist her. The goal is to put together a committee that will look at why some schools are unexpectedly successful and to plan an educational forum. Jan volunteered to write an article for the *Voter* in an effort to attract interest among members who might be interested in participating in a study.

Health Care

Cheryl Haaker will review the study that led to the current local position on health care and may suggest some changes to the current league position on health care.

Initiative and Referendum

Sandra Browne will review the study underlying the policy on Initiative and Referendum and will look at reconciling it with current city ordinances. She will also look at the possibility of broadening the position.

Local Government

Fair Representation

Cheryl Haaker and the Fair Representation Committee will look at the possibility of pursuing an amendment to the New Mexico constitution that would set up an independent bipartisan commission to do the redistricting rather than the New Mexico Legislature. They will begin to research what might be needed to accomplish that.

Bernalillo County Transparency

The program planning group will allow the Bernalillo County Transparency Study Group to continue to examine the way county government works and interacts with citizens and whether they are operating in a transparent manner.

Could You be a 50-Year Member?

The League of Women Voters honors those individuals who have been a member for 50 years. These Life Members do not have to pay yearly dues. To become a Life Member, an individual can have been a member in several states combined, and it does not have to be consecutive years. Our Member Handbook 2012 has a list of those persons who are Life Members. Please take a look at the

list and congratulate those who have been consistently interested in better government.

If you have been a member of the League for a long time, please look back on when you first became affiliated and note if you are eligible to have a Life Membership. You may call or email Membership Chair Andrea Targhetta at 280-8892 or atarghetta@com cast.net to let us know if you may be a Life Member.



Ivey-Soto addresses Luncheon Unit

Daniel Ivey-Soto, a League member and a former Director of the Bureau of Elections in the Office of the Secretary of State, addressed "Upcoming Issues in Election Law and Process in New Mexico" to the LWVCNM Luncheon Unit Jan. 12. It was a full house.

-- Photo by Cheryl Haaker

Redistricting Update

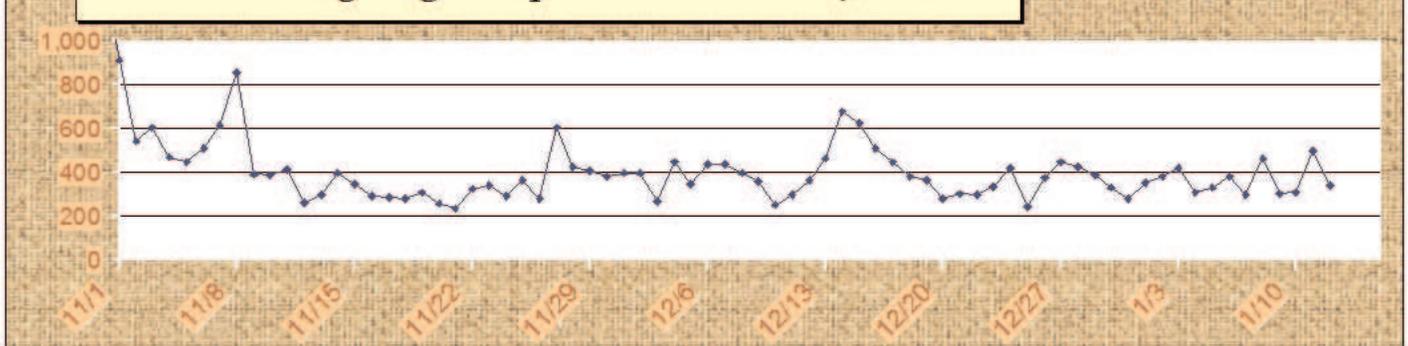
Because the ongoing legislative session is only 30 days long and the fallout from the state's redistricting effort is still being determined, the Fair Representation Committee will concentrate on studying independent redistricting commissions in other states. They will specifically look at how well or badly they worked formulating criteria for a successful and effective independent commissions attuned to New Mexico's unique character. The committee will possibly draft sample legislation addressing failures of the 2011 state redistricting efforts and build support for change by exploring ways to educate the public. Now that redistricting

is in the news, its problems are being discussed, and the immediate consequences will start becoming noticeable

Fair Representation has prepared a position sheet that's available online on the LWVNM Redistricting page at www.lwvnm.org/representation.html. This was distributed at League Day at the Legislature. Check it out! Send copies to your legislators. Email it to your politically-active friends. If you'd like to get involved, send an email to LWVNMFair-subscribe@yahoo.com. This will subscribe you to the Fair Representation listserv.

-- Cheryl Haaker

*** LWVCNM.org Page Requests Nov 2011 - Jan 2012 ***



Membership Committee Report

Welcome to our new and returning members:

Paula Fernald, 6216 Pueblo Verde NE 87111, H: 332-3626; **Sterling Fluharty**, 5801 Haines Ave NE, Apt 62 87110, H: 948-2919, **David & Tanner Gay**, 900 Sierra Place SE 87108. H: 232-0992; **Elene Gusch**, 622 Espanola St NE 87108, W: 255-0373; **Elizabeth Hamm**, One Civic Plaza NW, Rm 6011 87102; **Summers & Norty Kalishman**, 1043 Columbia Dr NE 87106 H: 266-381, New address for **Julia C. White** is 5201 Roma Ave NE, Apt 116, 87108

The listing for **Shirley Rawls** in the January *Voter* was incorrect; her street address is 12133 Apache Ave NE 87112

Directory changes: Please remove home phone number for **Christine Burroughs**.

Information on **Sandra P. and Clifford E. Richardson, III** were accidentally omitted from the 2012 Membership Handbook. It is PO Box 91195 Albuquerque, NM 87199-1195, H: (505) 821-1347, W: 846-4633 (CR), sprichardson@comcast.net clifford.richardson.ctr@kirtland.af.mil

2012 Voter Registration Strategic Planning

The 2012 Voter Registration Strategic Planning will be Saturday, Feb. 25 from 10 a.m.-noon. All registrars are requested to attend. The planning session will take place in the Towers Apartments Community Room, 5404 Montgomery Blvd. NE. The contact is Gayle Prinkey, Voter Services, 872-3933 or gayle333@aol.com.

The Towers Apartments are a "high rise" on the south side of Montgomery between San Mateo and San Pedro. We meet in A building, 5404. This is the one closer to and perpendicular to Montgomery. Someone will be in the lobby to let you in. Please try to arrive a bit before 10 a.m.

-- Gayle Prinkey



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Return Service Requested