



# The Voter

March 2012

League of Women Voters  
of Central New Mexico  
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LVWCNM homepage: <http://www.lwvcnm.org>

## Put Sunshine in your government

*Sunshine Week March 11-17, 2012*

Sunshine Week is a national initiative to promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information.

Participants include news media, civic groups, libraries, non-profit and others interested in the public's right to know. Launched in March 2005, this nonpartisan and non-profit initiative is celebrated in mid-March to coincide with James Madison's birthday on March 16. Our league has participated every year since 2006.

We can all be a part of Sunshine Week. The only requirement is to engage in a discussion about its importance. People are playing more of a role in the actions that affect their communities. They are learning what information they have a right to see, where to get it, how to get it and what to do if someone tries to keep it from them. Now let's dialogue.

-- Marilyn Morgan

*Sunshine Week Coordinator*

The following are meetings times, dates and speakers for the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico units.

**Luncheon Unit**, March 8, 11:45 a.m.,

### Salute to New Mexico postponed

The LWVCNM fundraising gala, "New Mexico -- the First 100 Years and Beyond," scheduled for April 21, has been postponed due to unanticipated circumstances. We anticipate that it will be rescheduled later in the year. Sorry for the inconvenience.

MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul N.E.



*Gwyneth Doland  
Luncheon Speaker*

Speaker: Gwyneth Doland, executive director of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government (FOG). Before being named executive director of FOG, Doland was a public affairs producer and correspondent for New Mexico's PBS affiliate KNME. She also teaches multi-media journalism at the University of New Mexico. As the editor of *The New Mexico*

*Independent*, a start up online-only news site, she and her team accepted the 2010 First Amendment Award from ACLU of New Mexico for work that included

*(Continued on page 3)*

**See donor thank you on pages 4-5.**

### March Calendar

March 1	Board meeting, 5:30 p.m. (All members welcome.)
March 5	<i>Voter</i> Deadline
March 8	Luncheon Unit, 11:45 a.m.
March 11-17	Sunshine Week
March 13	Evening Unit, 6:00 p.m.
March 17	LWCNM Board Meeting
March 19	Midtown Unit, 1:30 p.m.
March 25	Theatre fundraiser, 2 p.m.
March 26	Northeast Heights Unit, 10 a.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

The month of March is Women's History Month. The 2012 National Women's History Month theme is Women's Education -- Women's Empowerment. Although women now outnumber men in colleges currently nationwide, this is a recent phenomenon. The struggle to learn was waged by many tenacious women, across years and across cultures, in the United States. After the American Revolution it was believed education is a safeguard for democracy and opportunities for girls became available to gain a basic education. The premise was that as mothers, they would nurture not only the bodies but also the minds of (male) citizens and leaders. This concept that educating women meant educating mothers lasted many decades, at all levels of education. Women who waged the war for women's education faced arguments from physicians and other "experts" that females were incapable of intellectual development equal to men. Women's supposed moral weakness was also used to argue against coeducation, which was presumed to be an assault on purity and femininity. Emma Willard, in her 1819 *Plan for Improving Female Education*, stated that women are "the companions, not the satellites of men" and women's education must "prepare them to be full partners in life's journey." The equal opportunity to learn, taken for granted by most of young women today, owes much to Title IX of the Education Codes of the Higher Education Act Amendments. This legislation, that was passed in 1972 and enacted in 1977, prohibited gender discrimination by federally-funded institutions. It transformed the educational landscape of the United States within the span of a generation.

LWVCNM will be celebrating the League of Women Voters' 92nd birthday at a reception following the *Anything Goes* musical at our Theatre Fundraiser March 25 at UNM's Rodey Theater. As most LWVCNM members are probably aware, the League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt during the last meeting of the National American Women Suffrage Association approximately six months before the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution gave women the right to vote. The goal was to help the newly-franchised women exercise their responsibilities as voters. Only women could join the league originally, but in 1973 the charter was modified to include men.

The week of March 11-17 has been declared 2012 Sunshine Week (promoting open and transparent government). Sunshine week was launched in 2005. The League of Women Voters has recognized and committed to open government and actively promotes transparency in all aspects of government operations. The unit meetings in March will focus on open government and transparency efforts.

-- Shelly Shepherd, Co-President, LWVCNM

## Theatre fundraiser March 25

Be sure to attend the Anything Goes LWVCNM fundraising theatre event on March 25 at the Rodey Theatre (next to Popejoy Hall) at UNM.

Landmark Musicals will present the musical *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.

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 and the names of the people who will be attending. Please RSVP by March 19. A parking structure is available for the event for a cost of \$7 (free with a handicap placard). 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.

## March Units

(Continued from page 1)

webcasting and liveblogging from the state legislature. Her work for two alternative weekly papers, the *Santa Fe Reporter* and *Weekly Alibi* also won several awards.

Reservations for the lunch must be called in to the office (884-8441) or emailed to [lunch@lwvcnm.org](mailto:lunch@lwvcnm.org) by 10 a.m. Monday, March 5. Specify if you want a vegetarian lunch.

**Evening Unit:** Tuesday, March 13, 6 p.m. Erna Fergusson Library Community Room, 3700 San Mateo N.E.

Speaker: Sandra Browne, co-president of LWVCNM. She will discuss the importance of open government and freedom of information.

**Midtown Unit:** Monday, March 19, 1:30 p.m., Manzano del Sol, Hobby Room (1st Floor), 5202 Roma Ave. N.E.

Speaker: Sandra Browne, co-president of LWVCNM. She will discuss the importance of open government and freedom of information.

**Northeast Heights Unit:** Monday, March 26, 10 a.m., La Vida Llena Retirement Community 10501 Lagrima de Oro N.E.

Speaker: Sandra Browne, co-president of LWVCNM. She will discuss the importance of open government and freedom of information.



*Michael Sandoval, Divisional Director of Traffic Safety, State of New Mexico speaks on traffic safety DWI laws at the February LWVCNM luncheon unit.. Sandoval has 19 years of experience in traffic safety DWI Laws.*

*(Photo by Cheryl Haaker)*

## Membership Committee Report

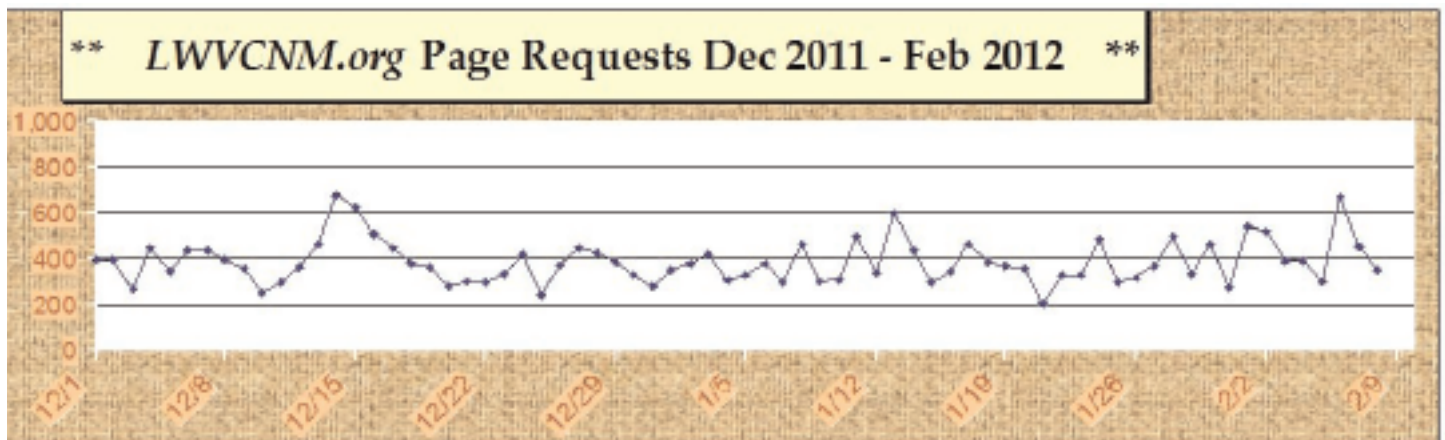
Welcome to our new and returning members:

**Karen Driscoll**, 8716 Rio Grande Blvd NW, Los Ranchos 87114, H: 890-1751 / C: 321-9128

**Norma Murchison**, 5415 Overlook Dr NE 87111, H: 503-8490

**Aleatha M. Scholer**, 10408 Ridgecircle Dr NW 87114, H: 897-8665

New address for **Kathryn Jones**: 1620 Indian School Rd NE, Apt 204 87102



# Thank you to our 2011 donors

The League depends on the generosity of many people to support its programs and operations. We thank all of you who contributed to LWVCNM in 2011. We are grateful for your help in making 2011 a success.

## Operating Fund

Barbara Adkins	Jean & Joe Harris	Gayle Thompson
Anonymous	Donna & John Hill	& William Prinkey
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Cheryl & Richard Haaker		

In addition we thank all of you who purchased tickets to the Adobe Theater fundraiser and sponsorships in the Member Handbook.

Contributions to the Operating Fund enable LWVCNM to maintain an office, to advance its advocacy efforts and to support member programs.

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## Education Fund

Barbara Adkins	Joan Chism	Diane & Donald Goldfarb
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**May Tokuda**  
Sei Tokuda

**Hermann Wenthe**  
Shelly & Gary Shepherd

Donations to the LWVCNM Education Fund support community education projects, primarily the annual *Voters' Guide*, Who's Who: A Political Directory and public forums.

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

**Volunteers and In-Kind Donors**

As an all-volunteer organization LWVCNM depends on each of you who gives your time and energy or who has provided goods and services at your own expense. Whether you paid for something that benefited the League, chaired a committee, helped with an event, brought food, gathered information, proofread a publication, distributed the *Voters' Guide* or did any of a multitude of tasks in 2011, please accept our heartfelt thanks.

**WE SALUTE ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS AND BENEFACTORS.  
YOU MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE.**

## Our *Patchwork Nation* book review

*Editor's Note: Book Review -- This review begins what we hope will become a regular feature in the Voter, a review of an important public policy book.*

*Our Patchwork Nation: The Surprising Truth About the Real America: The 12 Community Types That Make Up Our Nation*, Dante Chinni and James Gimpel, 2010, Gotham Books.

Someone once said that a problem should be reduced to its simplest form, but no simpler. Obviously, the red state/blue state distinction is far too simple. This book addresses that problem very effectively. First, the state level is far too aggregated, so it looks at data from each county. Second, two distinctions -- red and blue -- are not nearly enough for any real analysis. Using a statistical analysis method called factor analysis, the authors analyzed data from all of the counties in the US and came up with 12 different types of communities: boom towns (384 counties, 59 million population), campus and careers (71, 13), emptying nests

(250, 12), evangelical epicenters (468, 14), immigration nation (204, 20), industrial metropolis (41, 54), military bastions (55, 8), minority central (364, 13), monied burbs (286, 69) -- Los Alamos is the example they use for this type, Mormon outpost (44, 2), service worker centers (663, 31) and tractor country (311, 2). The types of census and survey data they used include education, race and ethnicity, religion, culture, age and length of residence, occupation and employment and income. The first part of the book is a discussion of each of the 12 types in both a narrative and analytical form, since the authors are a reporter and a political geographer. The second part integrates the discussion of the types with chapters addressing the economy, politics, culture, and conclusions. The Patchwork Nation Project is a collaboration among *The Christian Science Monitor* and the PBS Newshour and was funded by the Knight Foundation. There is additional information at their website, [www.patchworknation.org](http://www.patchworknation.org). -- Olin Bray



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