

THE VOTER

JUNE 2007

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New Mexico Chief Justice (Ret.) Gene E. Franchini To Speak on The Status of Civil Liberties in New Mexico and the United States Thursday, June 14 11:45 a.m. Luncheon Wyndham Hotel 2910 Yale SE

Among the topics of this address by Chief Justice (Ret) Gene E. Franchini will be the changed status of civil liberties since September 11, 2001, and the implementation of the USA PATRIOT Act, and what he sees as the future of habeas corpus in the United States.

Chief Justice Franchini received his B.B.A. from UNM, a J.D. from Georgetown University and his L.L.M. from the University of Virginia. In his 47 years as a member of the bar, he spent 25 as a trial lawyer, six as a District Judge, and twelve as justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court. He was Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court in 1997-98. He was elected to the National Conferences of Chief Justices

as Second Vice-President. At the end of 2002, he retired from the Supreme Court. He lectures annually at the UNM School of Law and has been active in the New Mexico and Albuquerque Bar Associations. He was the first president of the New Mexico Trial Lawyers Association.

Chief Justice Franchini has received a number of awards including Albuquerque Outstanding Judge Award and the New Mexico Bar Pioneer Award. In 2003, he received the Seth Montgomery Distinguished Judicial Service Award from the State Bar of New Mexico and in 2004 the Golden Gavel Award from the National High School Mock Trial Championship. He is presently Chairman of the Client Protection Task Force of the New Mexico Bar Association.

Cost of the Luncheon is \$15, payable at the door. Reservations are required. To make your reservation, call the League office at 884-8441 by Monday, June 11. At that time, please tell us if you prefer a fruit plate.

Annual Calendar Planning June 16

**Courtyards at Cutler Clubhouse 2403 San Mateo NE
9:30 a.m. refreshments 10:00 a.m. meeting**

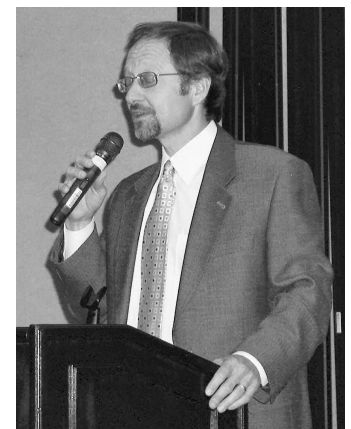
Purpose: to set the 2007-2008 LWV/ABC calendar. At the meeting members have an opportunity to find out what League plans and to contribute their suggestions. All committees are asked to bring their requests for dates on the calendar. Remember: the 2008 New Mexico legislative session will be a short (money) one and the LWVUS Convention will be held in 2008. Questions? Contact JoAnne Ramponi at 298-2716.

Action Committee Becomes Advocacy Committee

**Next meeting: Wednesday, June 6 1:00-3:00 p.m.
LWV/ABC Office, 2403 San Mateo NE, W-16C**

The name change, authorized by the LWV/ABC Board, emphasizes the purposes of influencing public policy through both education and action. The need for community education was very clear at the Annual Meeting. Attorney James Scarantino explained the many reporting errors and misunderstandings about the voter ID issue. That resulted in the amendment to the Albuquerque Election Code requiring a current photo ID for those voting in person in a municipal election, but not requiring that for those voting absentee.

Interim NM Legislative Committees begin meeting in the summer. Join the legislative observers group.
Dee Watkins, Advocacy Chair 823-2308



Attorney James Scarantino speaking on "Voter ID: the Inside Story" at the Annual Meeting

**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
823-2308

Drug Policy

Delores Watkins
823-2308

Natural Resources

JoAnne Ramponi
298-2716
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

We have begun a new year. What's up? Following are a few items that will help you know what to expect in the year to come.

Josephine Porter, Andrea Targhetta and I had a fruitful discussion with new Bernalillo County Clerk Maggie Toulouse and members of her staff. We talked about voter registration, voter identification requirements and distribution of the *Voters' Guide*. We look forward to continuing a good working relationship with the Clerk's office. Elsewhere in this *Voter* is a description of the public forum that Ms. Toulouse also held.

During the past year I wrote a couple of articles regarding a possible name change for LWV/ABC. We have discussed the topic for some time. At its final meeting of the 2006-2007 year the Board of Directors voted to initiate action to change the name of LWV/ABC. The Board felt that the name of our organization should better reflect the makeup of its membership. The new Board, for example, now includes some residents of Sandoval County. The Executive Committee (officers of the Board) will take responsibility for recommending a new name and for following the process mandated by LWVUS for such a change. That process includes presentation to the membership at unit meetings, approval by LWVNM, approval by LWVUS, and a change in the bylaws after approval by our membership. Our goal is to take it to the membership for a vote by May 2008. In the meantime, the Executive Committee will toss around some of the ideas for names and will prepare to present their recommendation to you.

Donna Hill has agreed to serve as the Chair of the Voter Education Series for 2007-2008. The first of this series took place last fall with a forum on the proposed quality-of-life tax. Now that we have a leader, we can look forward to more in this series of events designed to provide public education on a variety of issues. I am personally quite excited about the potential for this project and hope that we can put on at least a couple of forums each year. Those of you who would like to help with these events, please give Donna Hill or me a call. And keep an eye out for news of the coming attractions.

The Membership Committee will have new activities this year to help increase our membership. While Leagues around the country have declined in membership, we have stayed steady and actually have one of the larger Leagues in the nation. This is thanks to the efforts of JoAnne Ramponi and those who have helped her. Why don't we all make a little extra effort so that this can be a year of growth in our membership? Why don't we each bring a friend to a unit meeting? Or give someone one of our brochures? Also, there will be a fall membership event to which you be encouraged to bring a friend. Stay tuned for further news

So we're still working, and with assistance from our membership, this will be another good year.
Diane Goldfarb

Board Highlights

LWV/ABC: ❖ A Memorandum of Understanding for use of the office by LWVNM from May 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008 was approved. ❖ The Board voted to initiate action for a name change for LWV/ABC. ❖ Our liaison to the LWVUS Board will lead an orientation for the LWV/ABC Board in August. ❖ The Action Committee will now be called the Advocacy Committee. Their project will be called Constituent Contacts with Legislators and will focus on State Senate districts. ❖ A new member social will be held in July so that new members can meet the Board. ❖ The Natural Resources Committee is on hiatus.

LWV/ABC Education Fund: ❖ Non-Event donations are coming in slowly. ❖ Diane Goldfarb and Josephine Porter reported on their meeting with the Bernalillo County Clerk.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS. Immediately after the Annual Meeting, the LWV/ABC Board of Directors met and approved the following appointments: **Appointed Directors 2007-2008:** Donna Hill, JoAnne Ramponi, Delores Watkins, Lynette Zimmerman; **Board Members, 2007-2008 Nominating Committee:** Josephine Porter, Dorothy Reynolds; **2007-2008 Budget Committee:** Dixie Prowell, Chair, Ellen Evans, Dick Mason.

Membership Update

WELCOME, NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS!

Frances P. (Pati) Brummett

13328 Desert Flower Pl. 87111
H: 293-8817 W: 841-6941

Billie Schuler

1715 Ross Place SE 87108
256-4822

Shelly Sherman

8616 Monitor Dr NE 87109

Kelly White

2217 New York Ave SW 87104
248-0592

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Barbara M. Rosnagle

10500 Academy Rd NE #100 87111

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Available from the office or JoAnne:
Shay Rose and Shelly Sherman

Forum: A Review of Election and Voting Processes

On April 21st Maggie Toulouse, the Bernalillo County Clerk, held the first of what may turn out to be a number of public forums. Her idea is to involve as many citizens in election and voting processes as wish to participate. The Saturday morning meeting was well attended by poll workers from several past elections along with representatives from voter advocacy organizations and political parties. Some attendees had monitored the polls on Election Day or had been present to challenge the ballots being hand counted.

The open forum allowed those attending to share their experiences and concerns and to offer suggestions to ensure accuracy, fairness, integrity, and efficiency in future elections.

General Observations/Suggestions:

Several poll workers complained of insufficient paper ballots and great delays in obtaining same, causing many voters to be turned away. Some polls did not have enough voting

booths to accommodate a steady flow of voters.

A need for more public education about the candidates was suggested.

More public education is needed to explain how to use paper ballots.

Hire others to "set up" the precincts. [or find younger poll workers!]

Voter confusion over "provisional" ballots.

The provisional ballots might not include all candidates' names for local positions.

Not enough voters used the Auto Mark, a ballot-marking system designed to provide privacy and accessibility to voters who have vision or physical impairments that would make it difficult or impossible to mark a ballot in the usual way. Reason/excuse—might not want to appear handicapped, or were afraid the Auto Mark wouldn't count their ballot properly. [The Auto Mark does not count ballots; it marks the ballot and even accepts write-ins where appropriate.]

County Clerk's Help Lines were not readily available.

There is a need for efficient/sufficient supervision to maintain security of all materials.

Suggestions for Election Day:

All Precinct Judges should count and record the contents of their ballot boxes at time of pick-up from the County Clerk's warehouse.

Judges should contact their election day "team" well before Election Day.

Challengers should be respectful of the voting space.

Suggestions for Counting Paper Ballots:

The counting of ballots should cease at a reasonable hour each night— perhaps 10 pm.

Two teams should count each ballot box. If a discrepancy occurs, a third team shall count the ballots.

Efficient and sufficient supervision is necessary to maintain high level of security of all materials.

The County Clerk will accept public comment any time. She can be contacted by FAX: 768-4151 Email: clerk@bemco.gov WEBSITE: www.bemco.gov/clerk MAIL: Election Process Review County Clerk One Civic Plaza NW, 6th Floor Albuquerque NM 87102

Lisa Franzen

Congratulations to Our Members

Three of our members recently received special recognition.

Julia Seligman was presented the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award by the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women. Among the community contributions for which Julia was recognized was her help in founding the Albuquerque Museum and her work in successfully lobbying for the NM Equal Rights Amendment with the League in the early 1970's.

Jane Flax was also honored by the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women with the Governor's Award for Outstanding New Mexico Women. Jane was a founding member of Albuquerque's Explora! Science Center and Children's Museum.

Diane Albert, a May graduate of the UNM School of Law, was recognized on May 11 by The Ohio State University College of Engineering at their first STEMS event, which honors women who have obtained doctorates in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM). Diane earned a bachelor's degree at Ohio State, then she earned both master's and doctorate in engineering at Carnegie Mellon University.

"One-Time" Non-Event Volunteers

Thanks to those Friday afternoon volunteers who stuffed envelopes with invitations to the LWV/ABC's 2007 Non Event: Penni Adrian, Susanne Burks, Donna Hill, Marilyn Hunter-Torburn, Susan McKinstry, Jo Porter (first-rate organizer), Shelly Shepherd and Roy Torburn. In 1 ½ hours they compiled over 450 requests for contributions to the Education Fund. Louise Prowell prepared the bulk mailing. Money raised through this non-event supports the *Voters' Guide*, *Who's Who*, candidate forums and voter education projects.

Donna Hill

Save Now for League Garage Sale in the Fall

When you spring clean and reorganize your life for the summer, keep in mind that the League will hold our biennial Garage Sale in the early Fall. Start a "Garage Sale" box or designate a corner in a closet for items, small and large, to contribute to this sale. More details later.

In Memoriam Alice F. Boynton and Lov S. Siegenthaler

Memorial Gifts to the Education Fund

In memory of **Josie Hillman** from Julia Carson White

In memory of **James Walton** from Shelley Roberts

June Calendar

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|----|-----------------------|
| 6 | Advocacy |
| 7 | LWV/ABC Board Meeting |
| 10 | July VOTER deadline |
| 14 | Luncheon |
| 16 | Calendar Planning |

LWV/ABC ROLL OF HONOR

At our Annual Meeting we added two distinguished women to our Roll of Honor: Marilynn Cooper and Christina Little.

Marilynn Cooper, a member of the LWV for many years, has participated in local and state government and many other organizations. She also has been a successful general contractor here for more than 40 years. Marilynn spearheaded legislation to create zoning for condominiums in New Mexico and built the first condos and townhouses in the state. She has worked to promote city infill, and pioneered innovative and environmentally sound building techniques utilizing solar and other alternative technologies.

For years Marilynn opened her holiday-decorated home to our members for the December Program Planning. In later years LWV/ABC has held Program Planning in the Homes by Marilynn offices on Yale SE and LWVNM has used that office for board meetings. As a hostess Marilynn has been there not only for League, but also for other organizations and causes.

Christina Little first joined the LWV in Harford County, Maryland, in the 1970's. After the family moved to Texas, Christina served as local League secretary, treasurer, vice president, president, and newsletter editor. Focusing on voter services, she produced voters' guides and supported candidates forums and voter registration services. William said that, while she was president, for their wedding anniversary she gave him a membership in the League and that, "I have been a reasonably active member ever since."

They moved to Albuquerque in 1988 and Christina became active in LWV/ABC. She served as president, secretary, and editor of the *LWV/ABC Voters' Guide* and editor of *La Palabra* for LWVNM. A job transfer took them to Las Cruces where for the past six years Christina has been editor of that League's newsletter. For LWVNM she has helped produce the *Voters' Key* and has served as vice-president and president.

We are honored to have these women as part of our history. *JoAnne Ramponi*



Diane Goldfarb and Marilynn Cooper



JoAnne Ramponi, Diane Goldfarb and Christina Little