

THE VOTER

JULY 2007

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The Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) and the Legislature: Emerging Issues in New Mexico's K-12 Public Education System

Speaker: Dr. Pauline Rindone, LESL Director

Thursday, July 12 11:45 a.m. Luncheon Wyndham Hotel 2910 Yale Blvd. SE

At the May Convention the LWVNM agreed to review the LWVNM education position. Dr. Rindone's presentation will be a good kickoff event for the review of the position and will provide information on related issues of importance in the 2008 Legislative session.

The Legislative Education Study Committee was created in 1965 as a permanent committee of the New Mexico Legislature, authorized by statute to conduct a continuing study of all education in New Mexico, the laws governing such education and the policies and costs of the New Mexico educational system, recommend changes in laws relating to education, and make a full report of its findings and recommendations. The LESL is composed of 29 legislators (10 voting, 19 advisory) appointed to provide proportionate representation of both houses and political parties. Assisted by a permanent staff, the committee meets regularly during the interim between legislative sessions to study education

issues. To fulfill its statutory responsibilities, the LESL attempts to provide all legislators with objective information pertaining to New Mexico public schools as well as to state and national education trends.

Dr. Rindone has had 20 years of experience with the LESL. As director, she plans, develops, and coordinates the state's educational agenda, including public school finance for the LESL. She coordinates and oversees the Committee's continuing study of the laws and policies governing New Mexico's K-12 educational system and works with the committee in its development of recommendations of legislation to the New Mexico Legislature.

She holds a Ph.D. in Education Foundations, with emphasis on research and evaluation, from UNM. Her teaching and administrative experience in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education provided a wide range of expertise in developing state educational policy. *Richard Mason*

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, July 9. At that time, please tell us if you prefer a fruit plate.

City Council Candidate TV Forums

Friends and members of LWV/ABC are invited to participate in two live TV forums to introduce the candidates for Albuquerque City Council. The dates will be announced soon.

Admission is FREE; however, due to space limitations, tickets must be requested by September 1st.

The forums will be conducted and moderated by League members using League-approved principles and materials. Volunteers will be needed to collect questions and generally assist with the TV production. Television operations training is also available, although not required, to participate in the forums. Watch the *VOTER* for the future developments and contact the League office 884-8441 for details.

Judith Binder

"Fair Representation" Study Approved by LWVNM

The proposed two-year state-wide study of redistricting, voting systems, and representation, titled "Fair Representation," was approved at the LWVNM Convention in May.

Several more members have been added to the study committee, and we are planning a schedule of meetings for the next year. If you would like to join or just keep informed, please contact Cheryl Haaker at 298-7415. The Study has a web page at <http://www.lwvnm.org/representation.html>.

Cheryl Haaker, Chair

**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

Fifteen of us traveled to Las Cruces as LWV/ABC delegates to the State Convention May 18-20. The Las Cruces League did a wonderful job of putting on the convention, and everything went well. There were revisions made in state positions in health care, drug policy, legislative compensation and campaign finance and ethics reform. The convention adopted a position supporting the repeal of the death penalty and a statement saying that impacts on sustainability should be considered when adopting new positions. A new study on water supply and demand and a review of the state's education position were adopted. The Albuquerque League's proposed study on Fair Representation sailed through. A Budget Committee proposal to reduce the Per Member Payment to LWVNM by 1/3 was defeated by the assembly.

Our own program here at LWV/ABC will be affected by what was adopted at the state level, of course, so you can look forward to units on fair representation and water. The national organization has been conducting a study on immigration, and that will also be addressed this year in our units. Carolie Mullan, our regional liaison to the LWVUS Board, and leader of that study, attended the State Convention and delivered a report on it. In Directions to the Board it was requested that a program of revenue sharing from the state to the local Leagues be considered, and a committee is being appointed to do that.

Next month I will update you on the happenings at the LWVUS Council meeting in Washington, DC.

We've been doing a little work of our own in Albuquerque, and you should see the fruits of that labor in a few months. In the meantime, I hope you all enjoy the beautiful summer weather and whatever holidays you have planned. Our board will take a break in the month of July and be back at it again in August.

Diane Goldfarb

Board Highlights

LWV/ABC: ❖ Both a reception for new members and a salad luncheon aimed at recruiting new members are being planned. ❖ Board members are looking for a new meeting place for the west side unit. ❖ Cheryl Haaker will look into setting up e-mail aliases so that email can be forwarded to appropriate board members. ❖ LWV/ABC joined the New Mexico Coalition for Better Pain Management for educational purposes. We will not join in any advocacy activities of this group. ❖ LWV/ABC will act as a co-sponsor of health care forums in both Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties.

Membership Update

WELCOME, NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS!

Darlene R. Allen
2516 Vermont NE 87110
H: 294-1059 W: 321-1974

Karen Q. McKinnon
PO Box 508
Sandia Park 87047

Jennice M. Fishburn
101 Montezuma Crest
Placitas 87043

Jane Ronca-Washburn
11805 La Charles Ave NE 87111
323-6162

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Kathryn H. Colbert
4517 Inspiration Dr SE 87108
232-8969

Hilda Feigelson
22219 SW 63rd Ave
Boca Raton, FL 33428

Jean M. Hansen
1002 King Arthur Dr Apt 115
Harlingen, TX 78550

New e-mail addresses are available from office or JoAnne for

Darlene R. Allen Kathryn H. Colbert Jane Ronca-Washburn

Kathleen Kimler Altobelli

A Message from the Drug Policy Study Committee

Next meeting: Thursday, July 26, 1-3 p.m.
Manzano del Sol, 6th floor lounge

The Drug Policy position on treatment was changed at the annual meetings of both LWV/ABC and LWVNM. The new statement separates the concept of drug dependency and addiction. (Drug dependency is not addiction.)

The advent of many new powerful drugs to treat pain and the fear of addiction by consumers and healthcare professionals make it essential that we talk about what we have thought to be true and what has changed. The "War on Pain" is affected by the "War on Drugs." Federal drug policy regulates these new drugs as well as those prescribed in the past. Consumers' access to their use can be restricted.

Precise language and rational discussion are needed in talking about drug policy. Rational discussion is critical to create good public policy.

At the next Drug Policy Study Committee meeting (July, 26), the scope of the study and development of consensus questions about pain management will be discussed.

You are always welcome to visit or join the committee.

Dee Watkins, Drug Policy Study Committee Chair

A Letter from Christina Little

Christina Little was added to the Roll of Honor
at the Annual Meeting.

A letter from her, dated May 9, 2007, says in part:

Dear League Members,

I want you to know that it meant a lot to me that you included me in the Roll of Honor.

I worked very hard (with a lot of other people) to help LWV/ABC function as well as possible. I got to be editor of several Voters' Guides.... I served as newsletter editor for several years.... I got to offer support to the following presidents: Nancy Swigger, Alice Mehlberg, Carol Pierce, Shelly Shepherd, Sandra Browne, Marilyn Morgan, and even Josephine Porter after I was in Las Cruces. I got to be president, too; but by then I had learned how to delegate and wouldn't have made it without incredible support from everyone.

I am proud of being there at the inception of the Salute to Albuquerque – of remembering that this was Mary Wilson's idea and that Diane Goldfarb and Carol Pierce were the first chairs and for attending each and every one of these festivities. William and I continue to arrange our calendars around this event.

I am especially grateful that in moving to Las Cruces, I just "moved down the street" and have not had to lose touch with many friends in the LWV/ABC League. I am also glad that sometimes you travel south to see me....

Thank you so much. You will keep seeing me.

With great affection,

Christina

MEMBERSHIP IN LWV/ABC

The membership year is October 1 through September 30, but join anytime. For those joining during the membership year, dues will be prorated at the October 1 renewal time. Dues are not tax-deductible. With membership in LWV/ABC you also belong to LWVNM and LWVUS. The first membership in a household costs \$50. Add \$25 for each additional membership in a household (all mail to the same address). Student memberships are \$25 each. Make your check payable to LWV/ABC and mail it with the form below to: Membership, LWV/ABC, 2403 San Mateo NE, Suite W-16C, Albuquerque NM 87110.

Prospective Members

Please tell us about prospective members you know. We will send them prospective member packets.

Name(s), addresses, phone numbers _____

Your name _____

Please Return This Form with Your Dues

Name(s) Address

City State Zip Code Home Phone Work Phone E-mail

Renewal _____ New _____ Student _____

Advocacy Corner

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

The state legislative interim committees are now setting their schedules and work plan. The date, times and location of the meetings and agendas can be found at <http://legis.state.nm.us/>. This is a good time to learn about needs and probable legislation to be proposed in the next session. Many Albuquerque senators and representatives are members or advisors to these committees. This information is also available at the website above. If you don't have web access, ask a neighbor, friend or league member to help.

"The New Mexico Legislature: the Session, the Interim, the Process," the excellent handout distributed at the April luncheon, is still available. Contact the Advocacy Chair.

A good idea from Sandy Hoover: "When you read about your representative or senator or other elected official --don't trust your memory--trust your scissors, or pen and paper. Make a simple note, two or three sentences, or clip the paragraph (and date them), to have a reminder of what they did or didn't do. When their next election comes, you don't need to wonder what their record was, you'll have written reminders. Make your representatives accountable, vote on their record and let them know how you vote." This was printed in the March, 2002, *VOTER*. P.S. Let them know when they vote to support your views. *Dee Watkins*, Advocacy Chair

Web Statistics for April and May, 2007

The number of accesses to the LWVABC.ORG website has been about the same for the last few months, averaging about 140 per day. For all the details, check out <http://www.lwvabc.org/stats/>.

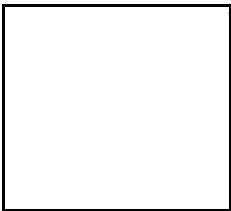
Cheryl Haaker, Technology Chair

- **Voters' Guide** for the October 2nd Municipal Election will be available in early September.

- **July Calendar**
 - July No board meeting
 - July 10 *VOTER* Deadline
 - July 12 Luncheon
 - July 26 Drug Policy

- **Membership**

You can join LWV any time of the year.
Contact JoAnne Ramponi, 298-2716.



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and active participatio
The League of Women