

THE VOTER

DECEMBER 2007

2403 San Mateo NE, W-16C
Albuquerque, NM 87110
505-884-8441
FAX 505-884-8488
www.lwvabc.org

Diane Goldfarb
President
505-821-4229

Aileen Gatterman
Voter Editor
505-294-7728

LWV/ABC GENERAL MEETING LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 13, 11:45 a.m.
Wyndham Hotel, 2910 Yale Blvd SE

*Reservations Required**

Speaker: David J. Schmidly, President of UNM
Topic: Future Plans for UNM

Dr. Schmidly became the 20th President of The University of New Mexico on October 7, 2007. As President, he is responsible for UNM campuses in Gallup, Los Alamos, Taos, and Los Lunas as well as at the UNM Health Sciences Center, which includes the nationally renowned UNM Cancer Center.

Before coming to UNM Dr. Schmidly led Oklahoma State University as its system CEO and President. Previous to that position, he was President of Texas Tech University after having served as vice president for research, graduate studies, and technology transfer, and as dean of the graduate school. He also spent 25 years at Texas A&M University, including five years as CEO of the Galveston campus and six years as head of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences.

Dr. Schmidly is an internationally respected researcher and scientific author and has been inducted into the Texas Hall of Fame for Science, Mathematics, and Technology. A noted naturalist, he has authored nine natural history and conservation books and more than 100 scientific articles. In addition, Dr. Schmidly received a prestigious honor when a new species of mouse was named after him—*Peromyscus schmidlyi*.

David Schmidly earned a Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Illinois, after bachelor's and master's degrees at Texas Tech. He is a native of Levelland, Texas. He and his wife, Janet, have two grown children and two grandchildren.

*Cost of the luncheon is \$15, payable at the door. For reservations call the office at 884-8441 by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 10. If you prefer a fruit plate, please let us know. Due to a **new policy** at the Wyndham, there is an additional \$2 charge for each meal prepared for people who show up without reservations.

FIRST WEEK EVENTS: December 1-8, 2007

Saturday, December 1

Program Planning and Holiday Party

9:00 a.m. Coffee, 9:30 a.m. Program
La Vida Llana
10501 Lagrima de Oro NE

(More on Program and directions on page 2)

Sunday, December 2

LWV/ABC's Reception for Albuquerque City Councilors and Bernalillo County Commissioners

2-4 p.m.
At Home of Christine and Andrew Kamm
1618 Harvard Dr. NE

(More on page 3)

Saturday, December 8

LOBBYING WORKSHOP A Community Education Program of LWV/ABC*

9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Sandia Preparatory School
532 Osuna Road NE, Building 100

Presenters: Lupita Blea, Secretary of State's Office
Representative Larry Larrañaga
Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino
Linda Siegle, President, Resources for Change
Kathy Campbell, President, LWVNM

*Reservations required; See page 3 for further information.

**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

By the time you all read this, we will be finished with LWV/ABC's portion of the Immigration Consensus. It was an interesting experience and it will also be interesting to see the outcome when the process is completed by LWVUS in a few months. Thank you to all the facilitators—Josephine Porter, Dolores Waller, JoAnne Ramponi, Dee Watkins, Olin Bray, Dick Mason and Lisa Franzen—and to the recorders—Susanne Burks, Meg Wente and Therese Barts—who made it possible. This is a complex and emotional issue, and we will have to see if our national organization can arrive at a consensus on all the questions before us.

As you read this issue of the *Voter*, you will see that the first half of December is full of League activities. I hope that many of you will be able to participate in these activities, beginning with a true League weekend. Program Planning, the time when members have a chance to give their suggestions about League program, will take place on the morning of December 1 at La Vida Llena. It's also a social event with "goodies" to eat. The reception to be held on the afternoon of December 2 will provide an opportunity for our members who are residents of Bernalillo County to meet their city councilors and/or county commissioners. If all goes well, we will try to do the same kind of event again in a few months for our members who are residents of Sandoval County.

It has been a few years since LWV/ABC has put on a lobbying workshop, and great interest has been expressed in the one scheduled for December 8. It is part of our Community Education Series, a series aimed at providing educational programs for the community at large. The general meeting on December 13 will feature Dr. David Schmidly, the new president of the University of New Mexico, speaking on the future of our state's largest educational institution.

I hope there is enough going on in December to satisfy our membership. Your fellow members have worked hard. Please join us for any or all of these events, and best wishes to you all for the holiday season.

Diane

December 1 Program Planning — What is Program Planning?

According to the LWVUS handbook, *In League*, "program" is the League's "reason for being." It is the basis for both education and action. League program consists of those governmental issues that League members have chosen for concerted study and action. It includes both adopted positions on which action is taken and issues for study that may lead to a position and action.

On December 1st we will review our local program. Committee chairs will make recommendations and we will discuss ideas that local members have for League program. If you want to recommend a specific study, you should also be prepared to provide leadership for that study.

Remember to bring your Member Handbook which has current national, state and local positions and the list of League Principles which provide authorization for adoption of program. Third Vice-President Dick Mason will lead the discussion.

Change in Program Planning Meeting Place: This year Program Planning will take place at La Vida Llena, 10501 Lagrima de Oro NE.

Directions: East on Montgomery, turn left (north) at the traffic light on Morris. The second street on the right is Lagrima de Oro. Turn right. La Vida Llena is up the street on the left-hand side. Turn into the La Vida Llena drive and make an immediate left; follow the road to the back (north side) of the building. There is limited parking along the building in the back. Enter through Door 23, which opens directly to the meeting room. If you choose instead to park in the front of the building and enter through the main door, someone will direct you to the room.

COME AND BRING A FRIEND!

Don't miss this great opportunity to meet your Albuquerque City Councilors and Bernalillo County Commissioners at LWV/ABC's December 2nd reception. Directions to the location of the reception, 1618 Harvard Dr. NE, are as follows: from I-40, take the Carlisle exit and go South on Carlisle; turn right (west) onto Indian School; after the light at Girard, take the 3rd left onto Harvard; 1618 is the third house on the left. For help, call 266-2081 or 453-1564.

LOBBYING WORKSHOP

Reservations for the December 8 Lobbying Workshop may be made by calling the League office, 884-8441. The workshop is free for members and \$10 for nonmembers (scholarships are available). Space is limited so make your reservations right away. If you need more information, call Donna Hill at 797-4690.

SOME PLAIN FACTS ABOUT PAIN

- 76.2 million people are in pain; up from 50 million (1)
- More Americans are affected by pain than are affected by diabetes, heart disease and cancer combined (1)
- Uncontrolled pain is a leading cause of disability, not to mention diminished quality of life (1)
- Under-treated pain is estimated to cost \$100 billion annually in healthcare expenses, lost income and lost productivity, extending length of hospital stays, as well as increasing emergency room trips and unplanned clinic visits. (2)
- More than half of all hospitalized patients experienced pain in the last days of their lives. (3)

References noted are:

1. National Center Health Statistics, Health, United States, 2006 With Chartbook on Trends in the Health of Americans; www.cdc.gov/nchs/
2. National Institutes of Health. NIH Guide: New Directions in Pain Research!, September 4, 1998. Available from <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-102.html>.
3. SUPPORT Principal Investigators. A controlled trial to improve care for seriously ill hospitalized patients. The study to understand prognoses and preferences for outcomes and risks of treatments (SUPPORT). JAMA. 1995; 274:1591-1598.

Progress has been made in New Mexico through legislative action. Specifics of the steps by year will be available soon on the lwvabc.org website.

Presently there are two bills in Congress to raise awareness and "tackle barriers to pain management." In February you will have an opportunity to indicate your views on reducing the barriers to pain management.

DRUG POLICY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IMPROVING ACCESS AND TREATMENT EFFECTIVENESS THROUGH EDUCATION

Background Information:

1. Federal drug policy has had the unintentional consequence of restricting patients' access to pain treatment. The federal Controlled Substances Act regulates the use of most effective and sometimes the only effective medications for the treatment of some pain. New Mexico law also regulates the use of controlled substances. State law can be more restrictive.
2. The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) interprets the Controlled Substances Act. This interpretation has resulted in fear of prosecution and lack of adequate patient treatment through misunderstandings and different points of view. New Mexico has been able to regulate/legislate standards of pain treatment not yet considered by the DEA. Understanding the protective aspects for prescribing providers is incomplete.
3. Improving this understanding in 2008 is a project of the New Mexico Pain Initiative Group, a coalition of local people and organizations including LWV/ABC.

The real work of change begins locally with each of us. In the next two months, check out your understanding of pain management options and how to get what you need through the Drug Policy Study Committee.

Next Drug Policy Study Committee Meeting:

Date: Thursday, December 27, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Location: Manzano del Sol
5201 Roma NE

Topics:

1. Facts about marijuana and methamphetamine
2. Updating on funding legislation in 2008

Dee Watkins, Chair

Luncheon Unit Consensus

League members at the October 13 Luncheon Unit prepare for taking consensus on the Immigration Study by the League of Women Voters of the United States. From left to right: LWV/ABC President Diane Goldfarb, Susanne Burks, Donna Hill, Marilyn Morgan and Josephine Porter.



Photo by Cheryl Haaker

COMMUNICATIONS 101: Educating the Community and Attracting Members.

Very few Americans—except for League members—know that we, the public, own the airwaves, and that by a contract with the City of Albuquerque, Comcast Cable is required to provide free community access.

Recently, on local Channel 27, our present and former presidents Diane Goldfarb and Josephine Porter moderated live and on camera City Council District Election Forums. Cheryl Haaker was timekeeper. Many thanks go to the gracious volunteers who ushered and assisted with attendance and audience questions: Don Goldfarb, Marilyn Morgan, JoAnne Ramponi, Barbara Shiller, Mary Smith, Dolores Waller, Karen and Steve Wentworth, and Helen Wright.

Not many Albuquerqueans know that anyone who lives in our fair city can become a TV producer. It is simple. LWV/ABC could produce our own TV programs featur-

ing the number of well-informed specialists-in-their-field drawn to our general meetings. Even our units, with the permission of those present, could be videotaped and edited [or not] for redistribution across the community. This is a no-cost way to reach more voters.

Studio training is available at \$65 per person for three evening sessions. However, should a team of LWV/ABC members want to become activists, host, and produce programs, a discount may be requested. Airtime and equipment are available at no additional cost.

Field training should also be explored. Once training is completed, the member may borrow videotaping equipment on a first-request, first-served schedule to record any of the League's meetings or forums where information from prominent speakers can be shared with the larger audience. Full or half hour, live or taped programs may be scheduled weekly, monthly, and even bimonthly. Reader, please call Judith Binder at 265-4336 for details.

BUY ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS THROUGH DECEMBER 14

Time is running out, but it is not too late to purchase 2008 Entertainment Books at the League Office. The \$35.00 price of each book brings you over 700 savings possibilities — for carry-out food (buy one, freeze one), fine dining, dry cleaning, detailing specials for your car, lowest prices for hotel stays, car rentals and more!

Guests for the holidays? Lend them your book for admissions to museums for both adults and children. Included are coupons for restaurants that appeal to kids. If the visitors live in New Mexico, give them their own Entertainment Book.

Every Book purchased is also your holiday gift to your local League. When sales reach 40 books, 20% profit on each sale adds dollars to the Operating Fund. That is \$7.00 on each book sold. Please don't wait to come in. Books not sold by December 14 will be shipped back to the distributor. Pick up your Books at the League office, 2403 San Mateo NE, W-16C, during morning office hours. If you need additional information, call Donna Hill at 797-4690.

A HISTORY OF REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING IN NEW MEXICO

Submitted by the LWVNM Fair Representation Committee

Redistricting in the United States comes from authority in Article 1, Section 2 of the US Constitution and Section 2 of the Fourteenth Amendment. The Constitution specifies that the decennial Census shall provide the statistical basis for state-drawn congressional district lines. These formulas will allow states to set local redistricting measures and many allocations of state revenues and federal funds.

In April 2010, the US Department of Commerce and its Census Bureau will begin the census, which must be completed within nine months and reported to the President by December 31 of the census year. Starting with **435** Representatives and each state being guaranteed at least one, the remaining 385 seats are reapportioned among the states. This is accomplished through the use of a mathematical formula provided by federal statute known as the “method of equal proportions,” which is recalculated every ten years following the federal census. Based on census results and this mathematical formula, New Mexico’s population did not increase sufficiently in proportion to other states between 1990 and 2000 to warrant the addition of a fourth congressional district, but it may by 2010.

By April 1, 2011, the US Census Bureau will release the 2010 census of the population of New Mexico and the New Mexico Legislature will be faced with the task of redistricting its own house and senate seats along with districts for the Public Regulation Commission, the State Board of Education, selected magistrate courts, and, of course, the state’s congressional districts.

Shifts in population may see residents moved into new districts: some sections of the state may lose political control and the power of the legislature may move from one party to another or from one political philosophy to another.

Redistricting means redrawing the boundaries of voting districts to reflect population changes. Unlike reapportionment—a mathematical process—redistricting is a political process in which there is discretion as to where new boundaries are placed.

Since 1962 the US Supreme Court has ruled that legislative and congressional redistricting cases are subject to review by the Courts. Over time, this review has focused on two major areas, the population of districts and the dilution of voter strength in minority districts. These actions are meant to protect the concept of one person-one vote, meaning that, as nearly as is practical, one voter’s choice is equal to any other.

While the population of congressional districts must be as nearly equal as possible, more lenient standards exist for state legislative redistricting, with the Court ruling that state legislative districts need not be precisely equal in population. In the New Mexico Legislature, each of the 70 representatives and 42 senators should represent as nearly as possible the same number of citizens, ideally with no more than a 5% difference between the largest district and the smallest.

To protect the one person-one vote concept, it is critical that state redistricting officials develop a nonpartisan plan for reporting census tabulations. This requirement may seem non-controversial, but significant controversy has often emerged. Issues in the 1960’s over ethnic and racial discrimination led Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965, yet as late as in the 1990 and 2000 census, complaints were filed, involving undercounted minority populations and the use of statistical sampling techniques.

New Mexico entered the Union in 1912 with a well-apportioned Legislature but did not reapportion itself following the 1920, 1930 and 1940 censuses, resulting in an unbalanced state legislature. A 1949 constitutional amendment deleted the authority of the legislature to apportion itself and gave authority to the counties. In 1955 another constitutional amendment increased the size of the House to 66 members apportioned by population except that each county, no matter how small, was to receive at least one representative. The result was

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

that 14% of the state's population could elect a Senate majority and 27%, a House majority; 11 of the 32 counties had populations under 10,000 but each had its own senator and representative. In 1960, the New Mexico Senate was the fourth most mal-apportioned in the country and the New Mexico House, the eighth most mal-apportioned. In 1976, the people of New Mexico adopted amendments that included the language "The Legislature may by statute reapportion its membership (Art. IV, Sec. 3, D).

New Mexico has caught the eye of Congress with our constitutional provisions being declared unconstitutional and in violation of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. To address Native American and Hispanic issues, Congressional amendments were passed in 1975 which expanded the scope of the law beyond race and color to include members of language minority groups in jurisdictions in which more than 5 percent of the voting age citizens belonged to a single language minority and in which printed election materials were available only in the English language.

In the 1980s, a "votes cast" formula, based on estimated population derived from the vote for governor at the previous general election, showed significant differences with census figures, violating the one person-one vote principle, and great effort was required to remedy this concept. In the 1990s, due to extensive preparation, public hearings, participation in the Census Bureau's census redistricting data program, and setting and carefully following redistricting guidelines, New Mexico conducted its decennial redistricting without any involvement in litigation for the first time in over 30 years. Preparation for the 2000 census began in 1995 to allow census data supplied to the state to match actual precincts being used for redistricting.

We highly recommend two interesting articles that discuss redistricting in New Mexico in more detail. [A Guide to State and Congressional Redistricting in New Mexico 2001](http://legis.state.nm.us/LCS/lcsdocs/reddocs/134250.pdf), prepared by the New Mexico Legislative Council Service, is available at <http://legis.state.nm.us/LCS/lcsdocs/reddocs/134250.pdf> and also linked on the League's Fair Representation web page, <http://www.lwvabc.org/fair/>. [New Mexico Reapportionment, 1982](#) by Hain, Garcia and Anderson is on the League's Fair Representation page. These sources were used in preparing this article.

The League's two- year study is just underway. Look for a growing body of information that will help us understand "the Big Picture" and to advocate for approaches which will continue to help eliminate costly and time consuming litigation while representing all New Mexicans fairly.

Lisa Franzen, Fair Representation Study Group

Fair Representation Study Group Update

The study group met October 23rd to plan in greater detail the series of reports which will appear in *La Palabra* and the local *Voters*, and will lead up to the 2008 spring Unit meetings. Be sure to check out (printed above) the first in the series, "A Brief History of Redistricting in New Mexico" by Lisa Franzen!

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 18 at 1:00 p.m. Contact Cheryl Haaker (270-8438) for more details. Meeting information will also be posted on the study group's listserve, LWVNMFair@yahoo.com and its webpage, www.lwvabc.org/fair/.

New members are more than welcome! Each meeting will be teleconferenced, so if you do not live in Albuquerque, you are encouraged to join in by phone.

Submitted by Cheryl Haaker, Chair

Fair Representation Trivia Question

Under which voting systems does the voter get to rank candidates in order of his/her preference? (Choose as many as apply)

- IRV (Instant Run-off Voting)
- Borda count
- Condorcet system
- Approval voting

Answer on page 7

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Liz Davenport
1305 Van Cleave NW 87107
345-1153

Richele Keller
12705 Desert Sky Ave. NE 87111
821-1660

Changes of address:
Kathryn H. Colbert
P.O. Box 1432 87103

Herbert M. and Diane D. Denish
2604 Morrow Road NE 87106
W: 842-6461

Claiborne M. O'Connor
7915 Bosque Street NW 87114
898-2025

Carol Schwartz
1000 S. Hope St, Apt 407
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Violet Foley
8619 Tia Christina Drive NW 87114
890-8533

Heather Ramponi
1521 Muriel NE 87112
298-2716

Burleigh W. Shepard
7410 Montgomery Blvd NE, Ste 103
87111

Ida Humphrey
7625 Vista del Arroyo NE 87109

Clare C. Wilson
10501 Lagrima de Oro, #4103 87111

New email addresses available from office or JoAnne for Jan Bandrofchak, Liz Davenport, Herbert M. and Diane D. Denish, Violet Foley, Therese Goetz, Ida Humphrey, Clare C. Wilson.

Submitted by Kathleen Kimler Altobelli

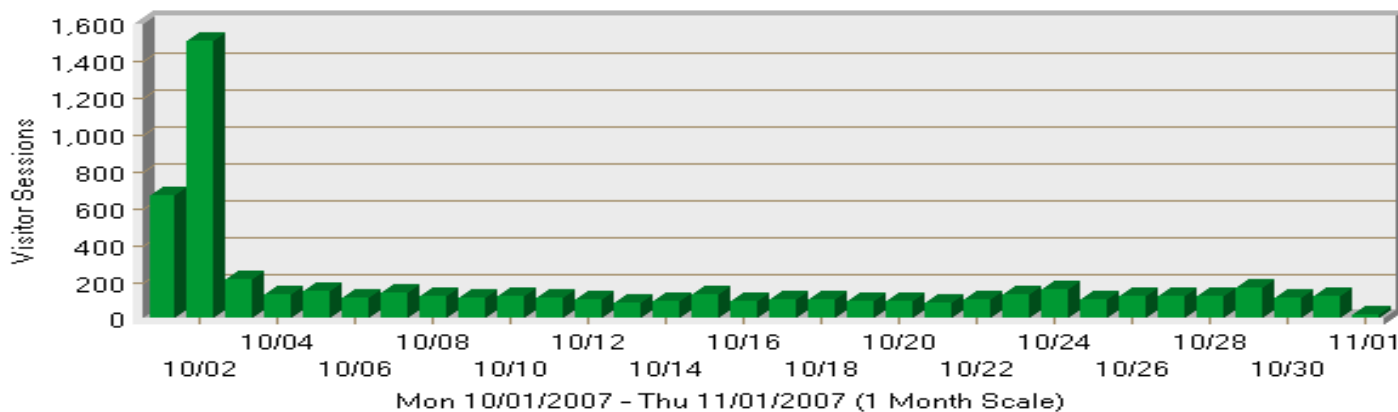
2008 MEMBER HANDBOOK NOTICE

The 2008 MEMBER HANDBOOK should be arriving in your mailbox in December—look for a bright yellow cover. Be sure to check your individual information in the Member Directory section. If a correction is needed, please notify JoAnne Ramponi at 298-2716. Corrections will appear in upcoming *Voters*.

WEB STATS FOR OCTOBER

Following the October 2 municipal election, the number of visitors to our website crashed to normal levels, as indicated in the graph below. As the election approached, the pages most accessed were the online *Voters' Guide* and the Propositions page. For all the details see www.lwvabc.org/stats.

Visitor Sessions



Submitted by Cheryl Haaker, Technology Chair

ANNOUNCEMENT

The December 5 meeting of the LWV/ABC Advocacy Committee has been cancelled. The Committee will not meet in December.

Dee Watkins, Chair

Answer to Fair Representation

Trivia Question: a, b, and c.
Voters can rank candidates in IRV, Borda Count and Condorcet

UNIT	LOCATION	LEADER	MEMBERSHIP
Luncheon 2nd Thursday 11:45 a.m.	Wyndham Hotel 2910 Yale SE Reservations required \$15*	Marilyn Morgan 266-5131	Vivian Boyle 266-1417
Midtown 3rd Monday 1:30 p.m.	Manzano del Sol 5201 Roma NE Hobby Room (on first floor)	JoAnne Ramponi 298-2716	Lois Reed 235-9722
Evening 3rd Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	Cherry Hills Library 6901 Barstow NE Optional dinner after meeting	Jan Bray 292-7270	Delores Watkins 823-2308
Sandoval County 3rd Wednesday 12 noon	Corrales Community Center Meeting Room 4234 Corrales Road Brown Bag Lunch	Mary Mulvany 792-9287	Carolyn Lindberg 344-8990

* Luncheon Unit reservations: call the League office (884-8441) by 10:00 a.m. the preceding Monday. If you do not attend and have not cancelled by the deadline, you will be billed for the cost. Also, due to a new policy at the Wyndham, there will be an additional \$2.00 charge for each meal prepared for people who show up without reservations.

December Calendar

- 1 LWW/ABC Program Planning
- 2 LWW/ABC Reception
- 6 LWW/ABC Board
- 6 Voter Deadline
- 8 LWW/ABC Lobbying Workshop
- 13 LWW/ABC General Meeting Luncheon
- 18 Fair Representation Study Group
- 27 Drug Policy Study Committee.

Membership

You can join LWW anytime of the year. Contact JoAnne Ramponi 298-2716.

Entertainment Books

December 14: deadline for purchases to benefit the League; see page 4.

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League of Women Voters
 Albuquerque/Bernalillo County
 2403 San Mateo NE, W-16C
 Albuquerque, NM 87110
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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence policy through education and advocacy.