



THE VOTER

June 2008

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

Diane Goldfarb
President

Aileen Gatterman
Voter Editor

GENERAL MEETING LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2008
Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel
2910 Yale SE
*Reservations Required**

Speaker: City Councilor Isaac Benton, District 3
**Topic: "City Council Basics" — or — "How Can I Best
Communicate With My City Councilor and the
Council?"**

Isaac Benton is a Bachelor of Architecture graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. He came to Albuquerque thirty-one years ago as a VISTA volunteer architect at UNM's Design and Planning Assistance Center. He worked for several Albuquerque firms and began his own practice in 1991. He is also a licensed contractor. His firm, Integrated Design & Architecture, focuses on library, mixed-use, educational, affordable housing and senior/community center projects and is committed to providing purposeful, sustainable design services to its clients.

In 2005, Isaac was elected to the City Council. His primary areas of interests, both in his private architectural practice and as a City Councilor, include redevelopment and infill projects that are sustainable and sensitive to existing neighborhood character, comprehensive transportation and transit planning, and the implementation of new city policies and zoning regulations that allow for healthier and more diverse patterns of the urban fabric.

The Advocacy Committee believes that this program will help us take more effective action to further League positions and help individuals with their issues as constituents. Knowing how the City Council is organized, what are its basic functions and what are its responsibilities is valuable information in order to take the best action on an issue. For example, the Albuquerque City Council works by a committee system. A review of the Councilor Benton's committee assignments, both to the Council's standing committees and to other committees or entities

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THE "AYES" HAVE IT! The vote at the May 3, 2008 Annual Meeting to change the name of our League was unanimous. Displaying a poster with the new name are LWV/ABC (now LWVCNM) President Diane Goldfarb (right) and League member Lois Sullivan from Los Lunas. The Annual Meeting vote completed the LWV process but the change to League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico in publications and materials will be phased in as we complete a number of legal and governmental requirements.

Photo by Cheryl Haaker

MORE JUNE EVENTS

Tuesday, June 3: Primary Election
League Office open 7 a.m. — 7 p.m.

Friday, June 13—Tuesday, June 17: LWVUS Convention
Portland, OR

Saturday, June 21: Calendar Planning
Clubhouse, 2403 San Mateo NE
9:30 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.
(See page three)

*Cost of the luncheon is \$16, payable at the door. Call the League office at 884-8441 by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 9 to make your reservations. If you prefer a fruit plate rather than the menu item, please let us know at the time you make your reservation.

**LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF
CENTRAL NEW MEXICO**

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

Drug Policy

Delores Watkins

Natural Resources

JoAnne Ramponi
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 Central New Mexico

President's Corner

Welcome to membership in the League of Women Voters of **Central New Mexico, Inc.** (LWVCNM), serving Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia Counties.

Yes, it became official on May 3, when the members present at Annual Meeting voted unanimously to amend the bylaws and give our organization its new name. One member said there has been talk of doing this for the past 15 years. Well, it's now a reality, and we're beginning the slow process of changing over. We'll take care of the official paperwork first and slowly use up the supplies with our old name, so LWV/ABC will not disappear for quite awhile. Meg Wentz has agreed to chair a committee to go through our positions and policies so that we can make sure they reflect our new name and boundaries. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this change possible.

A big thank you goes out to Lisa Franzen and Josephine Porter for overseeing the April garage sale. The weather was beautiful and we netted \$1,500 for the operating fund. We are greatly indebted to the pastor, staff and congregation of First Congregational United Church of Christ for the use of the church and parking lot for this event.

Another project that came right on the heels of the garage sale was the City of Albuquerque's Union Representation Election for Motorcoach Operators and Chauffeurs. The League conducted that election for the city's Labor Management Relations Board. Again, we have Jo Porter to thank for negotiating and making the arrangements for this election (what would we do without her?). It was a long day for many members, but this volunteer effort will also benefit the League's operating fund.

You all received a request for donations to the League's Education Fund in April. Please don't let it languish on your desk with all your other mail. Use that return envelope to send a check to the LWVCNM Education Fund today.

Diane Goldfarb

In Memoriam

Doris Johnston. Doris was active with the LWV/ABC Natural Resources Committee for many years. She was a woman of small stature but mighty conviction. Whenever she chose to take on an issue she did it to the maximum. She devoted her efforts to the League work in the establishment of Petroglyph National Monument until failing health ended her ability to participate in League activities. Those of us who knew Doris have greatly missed her these many years. Her contributions to the Natural Resources Committee are not forgotten.

Gladys Winblad. Word has been received that longtime League member Gladys Winblad passed away in Orofino, Idaho. Gladys was added to the Roll of Honor in 2000 for her many years of devotion to League. For many years it was Gladys who saw to it that letters of thanks were sent out to all who had sent in contributions to the memorial fund. After her husband's death Gladys moved in 2004 to Idaho to be closer to her family. For those who knew her she will always be remembered for her smile and her commitment to League.

Our Condolences to member Ruth Adams on the passing of her husband Harroll H. Adams.

General Meeting Luncheon *(Continued from page 1)*

on which he represents the Council, will give a brief glimpse into one aspect of Council function:

1. Council Standing Committees: Chair of Land Use, Planning and Zoning Committee; Vice-Chair of Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority.
2. Governing Entities with Council Participation: Mid-Region Council of Governments and Mid-Region Transit District.
3. Committees on which Councilors and Administration serve to govern the City: Alvarado Transportation Center Project Task Force.
4. Internal Operations Committee (works on matters related to facilities and operating budget).
5. Non-City Committees which include Council participation: Albuquerque-Bernalillo county Community Schools Partnership (a joint agreement with the Albuquerque Public Schools, Bernalillo County, the Albuquerque Business Education Compact and the City of Albuquerque).

Some questions to consider in preparing for action on the City level: What are the benefits and limitations of the committee system? What is the difference between the effect of a resolution, an ordinance and the City Charter? How do they impact each other? How is it decided whether amendments to ordinances or the City Charter needed or if different processes would resolve the issue? What are the Council's responsibilities for the budget, commission and board appointments, or land use issues?

CALENDAR PLANNING

**Saturday, June 21, 9:30 a.m.
Clubhouse at 2403 San Mateo NE**

The Clubhouse is at the east end of the complex that houses our office. Coffee will be served at 9:00 a.m. and the business meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. Our objective is to have the calendar planning completed by 11:00 a.m.

This is an opportunity for everyone to be involved in setting the schedule of what the local League will be doing in 2008-09. Your ideas are important and your input is what helps make us a vital part of our communities. Remember that we are now serving **CENTRAL NEW MEXICO**.

Please join us. All members of League are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

ROLL OF HONOR



Cheryl Haaker



Kathleen Kimler Altobelli

Photos provided by Cheryl Haaker

Cheryl Haaker — Cheryl holds undergraduate degrees in Physics and Geophysics with a Master's in Industrial Engineering. She has worked for Sandia Laboratories and for New Mexico Technet. She and her husband now have AQ Safety which does health physics and industrial hygiene. For the League, Cheryl serves as webmaster for both the state and local Leagues. She also volunteers for the League office, as timekeeper for forums and as sign and name tag designer. Cheryl chairs the LWVNM Fair Representation Study Group.

Kathleen Kimler Altobelli — Kathleen has undergraduate degrees in Mathematics/Behavioral Sciences and a Master's in Statistics. She has worked as a consultant for the Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology Department of Texico, Inc. in Houston. She has worked for Epidemiology and Cancer Control, Cancer Research and Treatment Center at UNM. Kathleen now owns K&S Computing Services. For the League, she has updated the office computer system and enabled us to connect to the LWVUS data base. She maintains the local League membership list, using programming which categorizes the list for different LWV requirements. Kathleen re-designed and edited the LWV/ABC 2008 Member Handbook.

Stan Orrell — Stan is not a local League member but he has, nevertheless, contributed a great deal to LWV/ABC. Stan was the founder and president of New Mexico Internet Access. He was responsible for providing both the local and state Leagues with internet access free of charge when we first went online. Stan sold his business a few years ago to Southwest Cyberport and he made sure that the new owners continued to provide service to us without charge. When we were investigating getting a DSL line for the computer so that our volunteers could look up

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polling places for voters while they were on the telephone, Stan did not want the League to have to pay for such service. Consequently, he had Southwest Cyberport employees install an antenna and a box on the roof so that we could have direct microwave — a type of wireless connection. He then spent countless hours upgrading the computer and getting it set up so we can better serve the public. He did this all without charge. In addition, he made certain that we do not get charged for the webstatistics that we get every month. As a not-for-profit organization trying to provide a service to the community, these contributions have been invaluable.

No photograph of Stan Orrell was available for this Voter — Ed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

At the May 3, 2008 Annual Meeting, the following LWV/CNM members were elected to the Board of Directors* and to the 2009 Nominating Committee:

Officers

Ann Kirkpatrick, 2nd Vice President, 2008-10, 1st Term

Ann recently rejoined the League, after a lapse of several years, to better understand some of the pressing concerns in this election year and in the future. Her previous League experience includes being a study chairman for mental health care in Massachusetts and serving as president of LWV in Naperville, IL. Ann is a counselor in private practice, lives in Corrales and is particularly interested in politics and social justice.

Dick Mason, 3rd Vice President, 2008-10, 2nd Term

Dick has been a political activist for over 40 years and a League member for more than 10 years. In Massachusetts, he worked with the Citizens for Participation in Political Action and helped found the Massachusetts Campaign for Single Payer Health Care. In New Mexico, Dick became a member of the LWVNM Board. He is Chair of the Health Care Committee and the LWVNM representative on the Steering Committee of the Health Care for All Campaign and on the NM Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty. He also sits on the Board of Health Action — New Mexico. In addition, Dick co-chairs the LWVNM Action Committee. He has been on the LWV/ABC Board for two years as 3rd Vice President and will be serving his second term.

Jon McCorkell, Treasurer, 2008-10, 1st Term

Jon is a CPA and has been a member of the League for about a year and a half. He is a former revenue agent with the IRS. He has served as treasurer of the Albuquerque Mountain Rescue Council and the New Mexico Emergency Services Council.

Elected Directors

Lisa Franzen, 2008-10, 1st Term

Lisa is currently a director finishing out an unexpired term as Unit Coordinator. Some of the many League activities that Lisa has been involved in are the very successful December 2007 Lobbying Workshop and the LWVNM Fair Representation Committee where she has participated in state-wide unit meetings and has written two reports. Lisa joined the League in Minnesota in 1971 and found the League again in Albuquerque two years ago.

Michelle MacDonald, 2008-10, 1st Term

Michelle holds a PhD in Public Administration and Research Design. In Connecticut, she led a section of the Medicaid Program that developed policy for the program. This included managing a staff which was responsible for writing regulations, conducting public hearings, working with the Attorney General's Office to insure legal sufficiency and bringing regulations before the Legislative Regulation Review Committee of the state legislature. Michelle has been a member of LWV/ABC for two years and is currently the Program Chair, filling an unexpired elected director's term.

Carolyn DeVore-Parks, 2008-10, 2nd Term

Carolyn was a six-term Town Representative in Massachusetts and was a Brookline LWV member. She is a former teacher and public health administrator. She is a member of the Albuquerque Press Women. Carolyn has been in Albuquerque and active in our League for the last three years. She will be serving her second term as the Public Relations Chair.

2009 Nominating Committee, 1 year terms

Helen Wright, Chair

Helen's League experience includes serving as secretary for both the local and state Leagues and working with the LWV/ABC Natural Resources and Membership Committees. On the Board of Directors, she has filled the post of Unit

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Coordinator and has served one term as the 2nd Vice President.

Jan Bandrofchak

Jan has been a League member for many years and served on one of the first Salute to Albuquerque committees. She has been active on many women's issues.

Eileen Longworth

Eileen is the retired Library Director for the City of Albuquerque and is a past president of the New Mexico Library Association. For the past year she has been a member of the LWV/ABC Drug Policy Committee. She attends the Sandoval County Unit

*Please note that the 4th Vice President and the Finance Chair positions remain open. The Board may make appointments to fill these positions as provided by the By-laws.

FAIR REPRESENTATION STUDY GROUP

In April, the study group concluded its first series of presentations to unit meetings, then met to decide on the next steps. Redistricting – the criteria used and who prepares the maps – will be the group's first priority, and the primary topic for consensus this fall.

To this end, the study group will be submitting future articles on redistricting criteria and on the decennial Census of the United States. The group's studies, and feedback from the units, indicate that the thoroughness and accuracy of the Census is crucial in making good redistricting plans, and that in this cycle, the Census may once again have problems with funding and staffing.

New Mexico is not the only state that feels it's time to address deficiencies in the League's current position on reapportionment and redistricting. As of this writing, at least two Leagues – Virginia and Oregon – are planning to submit Requests for Concurrence at the LWVUS Convention in June seeking to expand the LWVUS position. Each of their proposals is an improvement over the existing position, but each also has deficiencies.

The Fair Representation Study Group meets monthly on fourth Tuesdays, or more frequently as needed. The next meeting will be on June 18th at 1:00 p.m, to accommodate the LWVCNM calendar planning on June 21. For more information, see the web page www.lwvcnm.org/fair, join the listserv LWVNMFair@yahoogroups.com, or contact Cheryl Haaker at cheryl@haaker.org.



Photo by Cheryl Haaker

Roberta Cooper Ramo, noted attorney and the first woman to be elected president of the American Bar Association, addressed the League at the Annual Meeting. Mrs. Ramo discussed the importance of maintaining an independent judiciary. She also related some of her experiences in teaching about the U.S. judicial system in China and in the newly independent Ukraine.

PROGRAM ADOPTED

Members at the Annual Meeting voted to add the proposed statement on pain management, as presented in the Call to Annual Meeting, to the Drug Policy position. Continuation of the Drug Policy Study was approved. Continuing the Public School Governance Study was approved and the current local League positions as published in the Call to Annual Meeting were also adopted.

VALENCIA COUNTY MEETING

Special thanks to Los Lunas member Lois Sullivan for organizing and hosting a meeting of interested citizens of Valencia County at the library in Los Lunas on Saturday, April 26. President Diane Goldfarb, Unit Coordinator Lisa Franzen and Membership Chair JoAnne Ramponi presented information on League and how we could be of help to the communities. Fifteen individuals from Los Lunas, Belen, Tome and Peralta attended. Plans are moving forward for the next League sponsored event in Valencia County. It will be announced in the *VOTER* and in Valencia County media.

JoAnne Ramponi

LEAGUE CONDUCTS UNION ELECTION

In accordance with the Order of the City of Albuquerque Labor Management Relations Board the League of Women Voters of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County conducted the representation election on Friday, April 25 to determine the exclusive bargaining representative for the Motorcoach Operators and Chauffeurs. We had conducted a representation election for this group of city employees two years ago, and again, the election went well. This year the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) petitioned to replace the current union, the New Mexico Transportation Union. The election was controversial and heated but you would be proud of your League as we organized and conducted an election process that all involved respected.

The election had two polling locations and was held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. so we needed many volunteers. Counting by the League continued at the City Clerk's office downtown. We expect to raise \$4,000 operating fund money for this intensive effort. Diane Goldfarb and Dolores Waller, our imminent presiding judges, along with Don Goldfarb who oversaw the count, worked from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. when the counting was completed and the results locked into the vault. Many thanks go out to all the other League members who volunteered at both the election sites and the counting: Andrea Targhetta, Dick Mason, Helen Wright, JoAnne Ramponi, Susan Walton, Meg Wente, Jan Bray, Marge Swartz, Mary Mulvany, Therese Barts, Dee Watkins, Lisa Franzen, Karen Wentworth and Cheryl Haaker.

GARAGE SALE GIANT SUCCESS

The League's Garage Sale at First Congregational Church on April 17 was a terrific success, raising over \$1,500 for the operating fund. The work began days before with League volunteers bringing in their items and helping to sort and price. Bright and early on a sunny and pleasant Saturday morning, the League members were at the Church, moving out tables and organizing under the watchful eyes of "early birds". At 8 o'clock sharp the stampede of buyers was on and Don Goldfarb and JoAnne Ramponi were busy ringing up the sales. By noon most of the donations had been sold and when we closed up an hour later, many members stayed on to box up the few left items for our ever-hardworking Dick Mason to take to a charity.

Thank you to all who donated so many interesting and salable items. Special thanks to the following volunteers, and apologies if I have left anyone out: Lisa Franzen,

Diane and Don Goldfarb, Andrea Targhetta, Jan Bray, Dick Mason, Barbara Shiller, Mary Mulvany, Marge Swartz, Sharon Moynahan, Donna Hill, Dede and Wayne Eckles, Susan McKinstry, Sandra Browne, Dee Watkins, Susan and Tooker Walton, Meg Wente, Carolyn Lindberg, JoAnne Ramponi, Karen Douglas, Anne Letherer, Anne Nokes,Carolyn DeVore-Parks and Janet Espinosa.
Josephine Porter

DRUG POLICY HAPPENINGS

One objective for the committee during the next year is building relationships with community organizations. We plan, also, to increase contact and provide information to all state League members.

The April conference call meeting provided background information on the many issues of drug policy and current LWV positions. Reena Szczepanski, Director of the Drug Alliance Office in New Mexico, provided an interesting handout with facts about how the New Mexico Medical Cannabis Program works. Other handouts explained their recent successes, ongoing projects, and future projects, many of which coincide with League members' interests.

The Drug Alliance listed successes as:

- the 911 Good Samaritan program "...which grants limited immunity from drug possession charges when a witness or a victim of a drug-related overdose seeks medical assistance for an overdose victim...";
- Medicaid coverage of Substance Abuse Treatment;
- Felon Voting Rights Revisions.

Alliance ongoing projects:

- Methamphetamine Education and Prevention Project.
- Alliance future projects:
 - Treatment instead of incarceration which "...proposes appropriate community-based treatment...for first and second-time non-violent drug possession arrestees...";
 - Women's Treatment Pilot Project "...to secure funding for the opiate replacement...for female inmates with heroin addictions...";
 - Re-Entry Services "...individuals recently released from jail or prison desperately need comprehensive reentry services...(including) substance abuse treatment..."

Summer meetings of the Drug Policy Committee will be mostly subcommittee meetings and will vary as to time and location. Committee members will be learning while preparing materials to share with League members and other organizations. JOIN US! Call Dee Watkins for the details or if you would like copies of any of the materials mentioned above.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sallie Andrade-Cervera
13118 Pinehurst NE 87111

William H. Wiese
7707 Rio Grande Blvd NW 87107

Email address available from League office or JoAnne Ramponi for Sallie Andrade-Cervera

Hilaire Valiquette
P.O. Box 849
Isleta 87022

Submitted by Kathleen Kimler Altobelli
April 30, 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, June 3 is primary election day. Have you signed up to help in the office? We will be working from **7 a.m. to 7 p.m.** Call the office at 884-8441 and sign up for one of the three hour shifts.

We will be using the national League website Vote 411 to find the voting sites for individuals and you can help. We will have two phone lines working and need two people for each line. Come and join us. It is a chance to meet people, serve the community, serve League and learn something new.

On **Wednesday, May 28, at 2:00 p.m.**, Cheryl Haaker and Josephine Porter will hold training sessions on accessing the LWVUS website Vote 411. If you have volunteered for a shift on election day, please plan to attend the training session.

If you have any questions about this voter service project or the training, please give me a call.

JoAnne Ramponi
Temporary Office Manager

NOTICE: CHANGE IN FAX NUMBER

The League office no longer has a separate FAX number. If you wish to send a FAX, use the 884-8441 number. If the FAX is to be sent during office hours, please call first.

HEALTH CARE FORUM

Reports have been received to the effect that the May 8 Health Care Forum was a great success. These reports say that it was an outstanding forum and was conducted in the best League manner. Congratulations and "Well Done!" to the LWV members who organized and conducted the forum.
— Ed.

VOTER REGISTRARS NEEDED

On **Sunday, June 15, 2008**, the Susan G. Komen, Race for the Cure will be held at the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Park. Over 5000 participants are expected!

Organizers have requested that the League provide voter registration services after the race. Registrars are needed between approximately **7:45 a.m. and 12:00 noon**.

If you can volunteer for an hour or two — or even four — it will be much appreciated. Please call me if you can provide registrar services so we can make arrangements

Dolores Waller
(505)884-8441

NEW WEBSITE NAME

The website can now be accessed at www.lwvnm.org, a new domain name to correspond with the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico. There are no immediate plans to drop the lwvabc.org domain; you can use either to access the site. Statistics can be found at lwvnm.org/stats/.

Cheryl Haaker, Technology Chair

ADVOCACY CORNER

HELP WANTED: persons interested in advocacy topics to follow happenings via internet @ THOMAS.gov, reading background material and watching Channel 16 City Council meetings. The focus topics are:

VOTER ID; FAIR PAY RESTORATION ACT; and CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM.

NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: Wednesday, June 4, 1-3 p.m. at the League office. Agenda items: NM legislative interim committee meetings, constituent contacts, contacts with legislators and update on issues.

June Calendar

- 3 Primary Election; LWV office open 7 a.m. — 7 p.m.
- 4 Advocacy Committee
- 5 LWV/ABC Board Meeting
- 5 July Voter Deadline
- 12 General Meeting Luncheon
11:45 a.m., Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel, 2910 Yale SE*
- 13 — 17 LWVUS Convention (Portland, OR)
- 18 Fair Representation Study Group
- 21 Calendar Planning

*Cost of the luncheon is \$16, payable at the door. Reservations are required. Call the office at 884-8441 by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 9. If you prefer a fruit plate rather than the menu item, please let us know at the time you make your reservations.

Note Information on the times, locations and contacts for our Midtown, Evening and Sandoval County Units is omitted from this *Voter* because these Units do not meet in June. Additionally, these Units will not meet in July and August.

Luncheon Unit

Leader: Marilyn Morgan
Membership: Vivian Boyle

Membership

You can join LWV anytime of the year. Contact JoAnne Ramponi at 884-8441.

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League of Women Voters
Albuquerque/Bernalillo County
2403 San Mateo NE, W-16C
Albuquerque, NM 87110
Return service requested



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 influences public policy through education and advocacy.