

THE VOTER

July 2008

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Albuquerque, NM 87110
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Diane Goldfarb
President

Aileen Gatterman
Voter Editor

GENERAL MEETING LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2008
Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel
2910 Yale SE
*Reservations Required**

Speaker: Patricia H. Kushlis, Ph.D.

**Topic: "The World's View of the United States: What's
Wrong and How It Can Be Fixed"**

Patricia H. Kushlis was a career United States Foreign Service Officer from 1970-1998 with a specialty in public diplomacy. She served with the U. S. Information Agency (USIA) in Europe, Asia, and at the Washington, D.C. headquarters where she handled international educational exchanges and cultural programs, oversaw United States cultural and information centers abroad, and represented our Embassy relations with the media.

Ms. Kushlis retired from the U.S. Information Agency in 1998 and moved to Albuquerque where she taught international and comparative politics, and Islam and politics at the University of New Mexico from 1999-2005.

Currently, she co-writes the foreign affairs/national security blog, Whirled View (www.whirledview.typepad.com), and, six years ago, was a co-founder of the Santa Fe World Affairs Forum. Ms. Kushlis also writes articles on foreign affairs and public diplomacy for *The Santa Fe New Mexican* and the *Foreign Service Journal*.

Ms. Kushlis has a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. She is a member of various foreign affairs organizations including the Albuquerque Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Washington, D.C.-based American Foreign Service Association and the Public Diplomacy Council.

*Cost of the luncheon is \$16, payable at the door. Call the League office at 884-8441 by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, July 7 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.

COMING EVENTS*

August 14: General Meeting Luncheon

August 26: Women's Equality Day

September 13: Membership Luncheon

October 7: **Voters' Guide** Publication Event

* Mark your calendar now for these events and look for more information in future *Voters*.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

With the June 3 primary election over and so many people going on vacation, it is time for LWVCNM to go to summer office hours for the remainder of June, and the months of July and August. The office will be open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Calls that come in on Tuesday and Thursday will not be ignored; the office manager will check the voice messaging and respond to any urgent matters. Beginning on September 1, we will go back to our Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to noon office schedule.

In August, we will have training sessions for the staff. Anyone who is interested in working in the LWVCNM office is asked to call JoAnne Ramponi, the Interim Office Manager, and sign up for the training. It is expected that, with the general election this fall, the office will be a busy place. Please join us in this service to our four-county area..

**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

Good things continue to go on with our League. In May we co-sponsored a forum with Health Action New Mexico for all the candidates in the First Congressional District race. Dick Mason, who was in charge of putting together this event, did an outstanding job. All went smoothly and the *Albuquerque Journal* said we had approximately 150 people in attendance. There is a possibility of co-sponsoring another forum before the fall general election.

And JoAnne Ramponi put together a good team of people to answer the phones for the June 3 primary. The volume of calls was not great for the primary, but we will be prepared for a greater number in November.

As this month's column is being written, some of us are preparing to attend the national convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States in Portland, Oregon. Four of us will attend as LWVCNM delegates this year—Josephine Porter, Marilyn Morgan, Jan Bray and myself. Because of our membership growth, that is one more delegate than we have had in the past. For the past month or so we have all been overwhelmed with e-mails from the LWVUS office and from fellow Leaguers around the country in preparation for this year's meeting. It should prove to be an interesting week.

One thing I would like to share with the membership is that LWVUS is requesting an increase of \$1.20 in the per member payment that we send to them in 2008-2009. Unfortunately, notification of this request came after our budget had already been drawn up. The LWVUS Board is also proposing an additional increase of \$1.20 for the following fiscal year. I mention this because as our costs increase, LWVCNM will have to seriously consider whether it must raise membership dues in the future. We will look at what alternatives are available to us.

Our local activities are temporarily slowing down, and the LWVCNM Board will not meet in July. However, we'll be getting in gear for the *Voters' Guide* and other projects that are right around the corner. League members, please enjoy your 4th of July celebrations and whatever you and your families may have planned for the rest of the summer.

Diane Goldfarb

IN MEMORY

The LWVCNM Education Fund has received a donation from Vivian Boyle in memory of Doris Johnston.

Reported by Betty Burnett

WITH SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to the family of former LWV/ABC member Margaret Voorhees who passed away on May 17, 2008. Margaret moved to Albuquerque after she retired in 1990.

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

Because our office was so busy on February 5 (Super Tuesday), we geared up for the same kind of interest on June 3, primary election day. We did not experience the usual number of calls that day. This may have been, in part, because the County Clerk’s Office had mailed cards to all registered voters giving the location of their polling place.

Many thanks to the following members and friends for helping in the office: Susan Walton, Andrea Targetta, Diane Goldfarb, Ellin Hewes, Jo Porter, Margaret Krahenbuhl, Susan McKinstry, Helen Wright, Ann Taylor, Judy Binder, Marilyn Hunter-Torburn, Barbara Shiller, and Anne Letherer. Thanks also to Cheryl Haaker for setting up the web site and showing us how to use it. In addition, Cheryl instructed us on how to go to other places to find information to help the public and showed us where to go to get information if one site was not working.

JoAnne Ramponi,
Interim Office Manager

A BIT OF HISTORY

In 1974 the Albuquerque League became county wide when a group outside the city in Tijeras and Cedar Crest expressed interest in forming a unit. The name then became the League of Women Voters of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County. It was incorporated as a non-profit group in 1979.

League of Women Voters New Mexico
State and Local Leagues, History and Program, p. 17
By LWVNM Historian Mariette Cunico, 1982

YOUR VOTERS’ GUIDE NEEDS YOU!

As we get closer to the 2008 General Election your LWVCNM is preparing up to publish its umpteenth *Voters’ Guide* and we need your help. Andrea Targetta and Josephine Porter will be your co-editors. Volunteers are needed for many tasks including:

- A Distribution Chair to organize calling the many distribution locations and to help organize the “Distribution Day” push to bring the *Guide* to the voters (August — September)
- Members to assist in mailing the questions and instructions out to the candidates (August)
- Proof readers to meet at our publisher, Automated Elections, in Rio Rancho (Middle to late September)
- Members to call the distribution locations to confirm that they will be a distribution place for our *Guide* (Late August — September)
- Distribution workers to deliver copies of the *Voters’ Guide* to distribution locations (Early October)

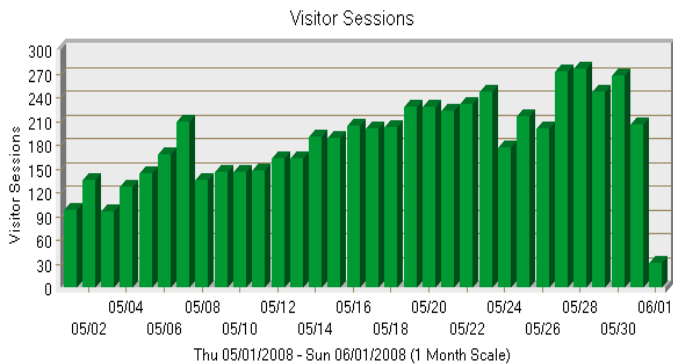
These are one-time projects in which everyone can participate. Please call the League office (844-8441) and volunteer to be a part of this great opportunity to provide information to our citizens.

Josephine Porter
LWVCNM 1st Vice President

WEB STATISTICS FOR MAY 2008

As expected, visitors to the site rose dramatically as the June 3rd primary approached (see graph at right). Interestingly, each weekend, visitors fell off, only to climb again on Monday (graphs are featured on the website at www.lwvcnm.org/stats/). The pages most accessed were the home page and election page; the files most downloaded were the *Who’s Who* and issues of the *Voter*.

Cheryl Haaker, Technology Chair



The 2010 Census

Section 141(f)(2) of the Census Act requires that not later than 2 years before the next census, the questions to be included on that census be submitted to Congress. The questions for the 2010 census were submitted in March of 2007.



2010 Questions. The basic census questions determine race, age, gender and Hispanic origin of our population. Questions on age and residency determine a person’s eligibility to vote, i.e., you must be old enough and you must have a physical residence in some precinct. Other questions determine your minority status: those on race, gender. Because our Hispanic population is so large, nationwide, there are specific questions on Hispanic origin. These questions are designed to prevent deliberate dilution of minority voting strength

Data Collection. Recruitment begins for local census jobs for early census operations in the fall of 2008. In the spring of 2009 census employees will go door-to-door to update address lists nationwide. In the fall of 2009, recruitment will begin for census takers needed for the peak workload in 2010. The timeline for 2010 is given below:

February – March 2010	Census Day
April 1, 2010	Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.
April – July 2010	Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.
December 2010	By law, Census Bureau delivers population counts to President for apportionment.

Reapportionment. At this point, reapportionment of congressional districts is done by Congress. State lines cannot be redrawn, so the process must be purely numerical. It 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. This calculation gives the number of congressional districts each state can have to allow a total of 435.

By law, the Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states, in March of 2011. This data is then used to do the actual redistricting.

Redistricting. By the authority of the NM Constitution, the Legislature is tasked with the redistricting of Legislative, Public Regulatory Commission, State Board of Education, and selected magistrate courts. The Legislature is free to choose the method by which the redistricting is done. Counties and cities are responsible for the redistricting of commission and council districts.

Fair representation means giving an equal voice to all members of our multicultural population in compliance with the Voting Rights Act as well as the 14th and 15th Amendments. This task begins with the Census and ends with legislative redistricting. We can volunteer as Census workers in the fall of 2008 or 2009; that’s easy. Lobbying for fair representation in legislative redistricting is a bit harder, but we have time. Let’s use it well.

Barbara Goedecke, Fair Representation Study Group

FAIR REPRESENTATION STUDY GROUP UNIT SUPPLEMENT**SAMPLE REDISTRICTING CRITERIA**

The basic requirement for re-drawing representative districts (“redistricting”) is that each district be the same size, in order to assure that one person’s vote counts the same as any other person’s, regardless of where each lives. Additional constraints are imposed by statute, such as the Federal Voting Rights Act. Of course, state regulations on redistricting state legislatures and other elected bodies can vary significantly. Katherine Campbell has researched some of the additional criteria that have been or are currently being used to make redistricting decisions, as well as which criteria are banned in some states. This is her report. (ckh)

Contiguity and compactness (most states)

All legislative and congressional districts will be composed of contiguous and reasonably compact geography. (Alabama)

Areas which meet at the points of adjoining corners are not contiguous. (Georgia)

As a first level of inquiry, a district's compactness may be determined by considering its appearance and the area of dispersal of the district. (South Carolina)

Preservation of counties and/or other political subdivisions (most states)

Each Representative District shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory and shall cross political subdivision lines the least number of times necessary to establish as nearly as practicable equally populated districts. (Iowa)

The geographical integrity of any city, county, or city and county, or of any geographical region shall be respected to the extent possible without violating the requirements of any other subdivision of this section. (Alabama)

Compliance with Section 2 of the VRA (specified in about half of the states)

The redistricting committees will not consider a plan which shows evidence of packing minority districts (“packing” is drawing district boundary lines so that the members of a minority group are concentrated, or “packed,” into as few districts as possible). The redistricting committees also will not consider a plan which shows evidence of fracturing minority districts (“fracturing” is drawing district lines so that the minority population is broken up among several districts to deprive the minority population of its voting strength in a single district). (Nevada)

The districts must not dilute the voting strength of racial or language minority populations. Where a concentration of a racial or language minority population makes it possible, the districts must increase the probability that members of the minority will be elected. (Minnesota)

Preservation of communities of interest (about 40% of states)

Social, cultural, racial, ethnic, and economic interests common to the population of the area, which are probably subjects of legislative action (generally termed “communities of interest”) should be considered. (Kansas)

When possible, communities of interest should be preserved. Communities of interest include trade areas; areas linked by common communication and transportation systems; and areas that have similarities of interests, such as social, cultural, and economic interests common to the population of the area. (Montana)

...communities of interest, including ethnic, cultural, economic, trade area, geographic, and demographic factors, shall be preserved within a single district wherever possible. (Colorado)

Where possible, legislative and congressional districts should attempt to preserve communities of interest, including without limitation municipalities and concentrations of blacks and other ethnic minorities, where such efforts do not violate the other stated criteria. (Alabama)

Preservation of cores of prior districts (less than 25% of states)

Efforts will be made to preserve cores of existing districts where such efforts are consistent with and do not violate the other criteria stated herein. (Alabama)

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Consideration of incumbency (forbidden in 11 states, allowed in 7)

It is permissible to consider existing districts and incumbency. (Virginia)

The committees acknowledge a preference for continuity of representation. (Arkansas)

Districts may not be drawn for the purpose of favoring a political party or to protect or defeat an incumbent legislator. (Montana)

District boundaries shall not be established with the intention of protecting or defeating any incumbent, or with the intention of discriminating against any political party that is legally recognized by the State of Nebraska and qualified to nominate candidates for public office at the time of redistricting plan in question is adopted by the Legislature. (Nebraska)

Other

The commission shall exercise its powers to provide fair and effective representation and to encourage electoral competition. (Washington)

Each district, as nearly as practicable, shall...be connected by transportation links. (Oregon)

Due regard should be given to natural boundaries. (Maryland)

In establishing districts, no use shall be made of any of the following data:

Addresses of incumbent legislators or members of Congress.

Political affiliations of registered voters.

Previous election results.

Demographic information, other than population head counts, except as required by the Constitution and the laws of the United States. (Iowa)

“Compactness does not refer to geometric shapes but to the ability of citizens to relate to each other and their representatives and to the ability of representatives to relate effectively to their constituency. Further it speaks to relationships that are facilitated by shared interests and by membership in a political community including a county or a city.” Federal court ruling in a California case.

Katherine Campbell, LWVNM President, April 15, 2008

Fair Representation Study Group

The Study Group reported at the May 3, 2008 Annual Meeting that two other state Leagues, Virginia and Oregon, have submitted proposed updates to the LWVUS position on reapportionment and redistricting. These positions were discussed further at LWVNM Council on May 17. At this time, the Virginia and Oregon Leagues have submitted a single joint proposal, and the California League is on record as opposing any change to the National position, for fear it would disrupt their lobbying efforts. Two members of our study group will be attending LWVUS Convention.

The Study Group met with Brian Sanderoff, the head of Research & Polling. Research and Polling is the organization which has developed New Mexico’s redistricting plans for at least 40 years. Mr. Sanderoff discussed the redistricting process, legal constraints, and how redistricting has actually been done for the last three Census cycles. He observed that the public hasn’t shown enough interest, and encouraged the League to educate New Mexicans and help them to get involved.

The Fair Representation Study Group meets monthly on fourth Tuesdays, sometimes more frequently, as needed. The next meeting will be July 22nd. For more information, see the web page www.lwvnm.org/fair, join the listserv LWVNMFair@yahoogroups.com, or contact Cheryl Haaker, cheryl@haaker.org.

Cheryl Haaker, Chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Paul E. Bolduc
1501 June Street NE 87112

Shirley B. Kondo
509 Keleher Ave NW 87102

Nara S. Thacher
PO Box 95126 87199-5126

James Dudley
2628 Granada Rd SW 87105

Stepanie Kruse
1301 Claire Ct NW 87104

Donna Wink
2 Señorita Court
Los Lunas 87031

Leah M. Ingraham
1916 San Pedro Dr NE 87110

Leslie Phinney
9836 Lagrima de Oro Rd NE 87111

Address Changes
Darlene Allen:
PO Box 21055, 87154-1055
Marilynn Cooper:
3310 La Sala del Este NE, 87111

Martha Johnson
3100 La Mancha Dr NW 87104

Rita Nadine Scala
PO Box 25166 87125

Email addresses available from League office or JoAnne Ramponi for Paul E. Bolduc, Martha Johnson, Shirley B. Kondo, Leslie Phinney, Nadine Scala, Donna Wink

Membership Report by Kathleen Kimler Altobelli, June 9, 2008

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES

NEW COMMITTEE

Have you ever attended a Naturalization Ceremony? Can you answer the questions that each of the applicants must know before they can become citizens? Were you lucky enough to be born in the United States and not have to wonder what it is like to come from another country where freedom is not available to you?

LWVCNM is forming a committee of interested members who will represent the League at Naturalization Ceremonies. If this is something that you think you would like to do, please contact JoAnne Ramponi. We will set up a meeting time at the League office in the near future.

VOTER HEADINGS

No doubt everyone has noticed that we are still using the title "LWV/ABC VOTER.." You may be assured that this will be changed as soon as possible. We will, however, need to wait until the LWVCNM name has gone through all the proper channels and has been approved. Please be patient. — Ed.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS: June 5, 2008

LWVCNM

- LWVCNM will host the 2009 LWVNM Convention
- Appointment of 2008-09 Budget Committee approved: Dick Mason, Chair; members Therese Quinn and Carolyn Lindberg
- Appointment of Board members to 2008-09 Nominating Committee approved: Delores Watkins and Geta Gatterman
- Memorandum of Understanding between LWVCNM and LWVNM for use of the League office approved

LWVCNM Education Fund

- Revised Education Fund Bylaws approved
- Technology Chair Cheryl Haaker will begin the process of adding a contribution button to the Education Fund on the lwvcnm.org website

July Calendar

- 3 Deadline for August, 2008 *Voter*
 (There is no Board Meeting in July)
- 4 Independence Day
 (Office closed)
- 10 General Meeting Luncheon
 11:45 a.m., Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel, 2910 Yale SE*
- 22 Fair Representation Study Group

*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, July 7. 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 Luncheon, Midtown, Evening and Sandoval County Units is omitted from this *Voter* because these Units will not meet in July and August.

Membership

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

Non Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
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 Albuquerque, NM
 Permit No. 443

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.