



The Voter

August 2011

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LWVCNM homepage: <http://www.lwvcnm.org>

Move the Mountain CEO to speak at August General Meeting

Scott Miller, CEO and co-founder of Move the Mountain Leadership Center, will speak Aug. 11 during the August LWVCNM General Meeting. The meeting will be held at 11:45 a.m. at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul NE. The lunch is \$15 for members and nonmembers. Reservations can be made by calling the League office (884-8441) by 10 a.m. Aug. 8.



Scott Miller

Move the Mountain Leadership Center was established in 1992 to develop and support leaders committed to ending poverty in the United States. Miller has worked with leaders across the country to build a network of communities focused on dismantling poverty.

Miller began his focus on poverty in the late 1970s as a volunteer for the Catholic Worker in Rochester, N.Y. Since then, he has initiated projects around the country that directly help families get out of poverty, as well as inviting the public to get involved in making the pathway easier and more successful for others.

Move the Mountain is currently working with leaders in 50 communities across the nation to develop and disseminate new approaches that combine the best efforts of government and human services with the best of private citizens to reduce poverty. The Circles™ Campaign is mobilizing families to each work with a small team of commu-

nity volunteers who will be their allies in lifting them out of poverty. Both the allies and the family join others as advocates for ending poverty in their community.

State Redistricting Hearings: Can You Attend?

It's all happening now. The Legislature will vote on new redistricting maps at a mid-September special session. Public hearings will take place throughout the state, all summer. League members from all over the state attended the first meeting of the state's Redistricting Committee on June 20, testifying and offering the League's assistance. As a result, Torrance County member Joseph Keefe will be attending all of the ten public meetings this summer and videotaping each one for the legislature at no charge. The League, as is customary, is stepping forward as part of the solution!

Moderators wanted! The League has also offered to assist legislators who want to hold their own redistricting town halls in areas which will not have formal meetings by the Redistricting

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August Calendar

Aug. 4	Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Aug. 5	Voter Deadline
Aug. 7	New Member reception, 2-4 p.m.
Aug. 11	General Meeting, 11:45 a.m.

**League of Women Voters of
Central New Mexico
Board Meeting
1st Thursday of each month
Offices of Sutin, Thayer & Browne,
6565 Americas Parkway NE**

Program Committees

Fair Representation Committee

Cheryl Haaker (298-7415)

Drug Policy

Delores Watkins (823-2308)

Natural Resources

Includes transportation, land use, air quality, water, and energy.

All League members are invited to all unit meetings, committee and board meetings.

The *Voter* is published on partially-recycled paper each month by the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico. It is also distributed via email.

Office Coordinator needed

LWVCNM is seeking an office coordinator to help facilitate the smooth operation of the office to support League programs and business, to orient volunteers to office activities and to serve as liaison with the public.

The coordinator trains volunteers but does not have to be at the office every day.

Specific duties include:

- * Adjusting and meeting office staffing requirements and keeping staff informed of any changes;
- * Maintaining paperwork and filing.
- * Developing office procedures which are kept in the Office Staff Notebook;
- * Assuring maintenance of office equipment;
- * Arranging for telephone coverage during elections;
- * Maintaining adequate supplies of League and other publications: *i.e.* legislative materials for member and outside requests.

Anyone interested should call Shelly Shepherd at 296-1238.

Presidents' Corner

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. Little over a month after President Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated on March 4, 1861, Southern guns opened fire on April 12, 1861 at Fort Sumter, near Charleston Harbor in South Carolina. As you are likely aware from your American history classes, conflict arose between the United States and 11 seceded Southern states organized as the Confederate States of America. The war ended in May, 1865, after Confederate President Jefferson Davis was taken prisoner near Irwingsville, Georgia, on May 10, 1865. The war, which at that time cost millions of dollars and had more casualties than any other in U.S. history, ruined and impoverished many Southern states and left a legacy of sectional and racial animosity. The war firmly established a strongly centralized federal government, brought about the abolition of slavery and accelerated the development of modern industrial America.

July 16-18 marked the grand opening of the African American Civil War Museum's new facility in Washington D.C. While I was visiting relatives in Jacksonville, Fla. on June 22 there was an article in *The Florida Times-Union* by Jesse J. Holland of the Associated Press, entitled "Unsung heroes: Slaves, freedmen spied on South during Civil War," which I found to be fascinating. I will share a bit of information with you. The new museum highlights some of these heroes. Hari Jones, curator of the African American Civil War Museum, and other experts are hoping the 150th anniversary of the Civil War will include some remembrance for these unsung heroes, some of whom are included in exhibits at the museum.

The unsung Civil War heroes were often successful because Confederate leaders didn't regard blacks living among them would become a major tactical weakness. Allan Pinkerton, head of the Union Intelligence Service at the onset of the Civil War, recruited black spies. In Pinkerton's autobiography, he detailed his recruitment and included a couple of successful missions and extractions of valuable papers from a Union defector. Among the unsung heroes are three remarkable individuals: John Scobell, Harriet Tubman and Mary Elizabeth Bowser.

In Confederate circles, John Scobell was considered just another Mississippi slave, illiterate and ignorant of the Civil War going on around him. To Confederate officers he was invisible, and officers left important documents where Scobell could see them, and discussed troop movements in front of him. However, Scobell was not a slave at all, but a spy sent by the Union army.

Harriet Tubman repeatedly would sneak down South to

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Redistricting

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Committee. The Legislative Services Committee will provide information packets and handouts. We have offered to moderate and facilitate the discussion in the evenhanded, nonpartisan manner that the League is famous for. If you have experience in moderating or timekeeping, please send an email to redistricting@lwvnm.org. We need you!

Attendees Wanted! There will be public meetings at Acoma Pueblo (Aug. 3), Gallup (Aug. 4), and Farmington (Aug. 5). Then there's a crucial set that are closer to home: Albuquerque (Aug. 15) and Rio Rancho (Aug. 16). The meetings will conclude with Las Vegas (Aug. 30) and Santa Fe (Aug. 31).

We would like as many League members as possible to attend, wearing League buttons and possibly speaking up as individuals. The Fair Representation committee has produced a flyer which outlines basic principles of redistricting and how citizens can take action. It's posted on the webpage, lwvnm.org/representation.html, and we will have copies at each public Redistricting Committee meeting and at our Unit Meetings. Please check it out and pass it around!

Try the Mapping Software! The League is also encouraging individuals to try the District Builder software, to experiment with drawing their own district lines. Coded by the Public Mapping Project of George Mason University, this free software has the New Mexico Census data and past election results loaded and ready to go. Most of the information you need to get started is at publicmapping.org; moreover, the State League has set up a website running the software which you can use, so you don't have to go through the difficulty of setting it up yourself. For information on how to access the LWVNM District Builder site, please email redistricting@lwvnm.org.

How to Keep Up: Most information is exchanged using the LWVNM Fair list serve. Sign up! The State League maintains a Redistricting web page, lwvnm.org/representation.html, which is generally more up to date than the State Legislature's page -- check it out! The committee's meetings are held by teleconference, so you can participate from the convenience of your own home.

For more information, email redistricting@lwvnm.org.

-- Cheryl Haaker, Fair Representation Chair
(See flyer on next two pages.)

Presidents' Corner

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gather intelligence for the Union army. Tubman led runaway slaves to freedom through the Underground Railroad. Disguised as a field hand or poor farm wife, she led missions into South Carolina while directing others from Union lines.

Mary Elizabeth Bowser was born a slave to the Van Lew Family in Richmond, Virginia. The Van Lew family freed her and provided Bowser with an education. When Bowser returned from school, Elizabeth Van Lew was running a sophisticated spy ring. Van Lew got Bowser a job inside the Confederate White House. Bowser was able to sneak classified information out from under Jefferson Davis's nose. Bowser reportedly had a photographic mind and could repeat everything she saw word for word. A book about Van Lew was written by Elizabeth Varon, which suggests Bowser's true name was Mary Richards; she survived the war and married a man named Garvin. General Robert E. Lee was late

in recognizing the role of blacks during the war, stating in May 1863, "The chief source of information to the enemy is through our Negroes." These unsung heroes deserve acknowledgment during the event of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Many black operatives quietly gathered information in a high-stakes game of cat-and-mouse with Confederate spycatchers and slave masters who could kill them on the spot.

-- Shelly Shepherd, Co-President

Thank You League

The 2011 Spring fundraising letter that Jan and Olin Bray sent was a huge success. A total of \$5,630 was raised for the LWVCNM Education Fund. Your contributions will enable us to continue to provide important voter services and educational materials to the residents of Central New Mexico, such as the upcoming *Voters' Guide* and *Who's Who*. It is through your support that we are able to provide these services in the community. Thank you for your assistance with our efforts. It is truly appreciated.

-- Shelly Shepherd and Sandra Browne

What is Redistricting?

Redistricting is the process of redrawing the boundaries of election districts: your congressman, state senator, representative, etc. This is done every ten years, right after the census data has been collected, to ensure that each district has equal population. When districts have equal population, your vote counts the same as everyone else's vote.

Who Does This?

In New Mexico, the Legislature is responsible for developing and approving the plans, by majority vote of both the House and Senate. Then the governor must sign, in order for the new plans to be enacted into law.

What Does It Mean for You?

Redistricting affects

- * the education your children get
- * the taxes you pay
- * the condition of the roads
- * whether or not there is public transportation
- * whether your same senator or representative continues to run unopposed or if you get a choice in the next election.

* Changes in district lines can impact how interested my representatives are in my concerns and the concerns of my community.

For example

My small city has a total population less than one district, but it's split among two or more districts. When community problems come up, we have to contact two or more state representatives and some of them live out of town.

I live in the country but my district is part of a big city urban district. My voice is drowned out by the city folks. My community has existed for 400 years, but is being split across district lines so its voice is lost among the newcomers.

Redistricting Principles

Districts should be drawn to these criteria

- * equal population
 - * protect minority voting rights
 - * be contiguous (all parts should touch)
 - * be compact
 - * protect communities of interest
- 'A "community of interest" is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.' From California Proposition 20: "Voters FIRST Act"

How You Can Make a Difference

- * Know and map your local communities.
- * Does the community want to be kept together or divided into more than one district for added impact?
 - * If divided, where should the splits occur?
 - * Attend hearings and present your maps.
 - * Educate your representatives.
 - * Educate the media.
 - * Insist that the public be able to review all map concepts before they are voted on in order to weigh in.

Questions To Ask

- * How did you arrive at this plan? What factors did you take into account?
 - * Where are the city and county boundaries? Are boundaries kept intact, or divided? Why? Where are the ethnic, racial, or language communities, relative to the district lines? Why were the lines drawn that way?
 - * Where do the incumbents live, and where do their main challengers live? Were boundaries moved to favor one or the other?
 - * What is the political balance in each district, based on past election results? Were districts drawn to give one party or the other an advantage?

Redistricting Matters

“The way the lines are drawn can keep a community together or split it apart, leaving it without a representative who feels responsible for its concerns. The way the lines are drawn can change who wins an election. Ultimately, the way the lines are drawn can change who controls the legislature, and which laws get passed.”

(from “*A Citizen's Guide to Redistricting*” by Justin Levitt, published by the Brennan Center for Justice)



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NEW MEXICO

References

League of Women Voters of New Mexico's Redistricting resource page:

lwvnm.org/representation.html

NM Legislature's redistricting page:

nmlegis.gov/lcs/redcensus/

Contact Information:

You are encouraged to fill these in to use for your own future reference!

League of Women Voters of New Mexico
505.884.8441

Your county _____ Precinct _____

Your New Mexico Representative
(District _____)

Name _____ Phone: _____

Your New Mexico Senator
(District _____)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Your Congressman
(District _____)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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September LWVCNM unit meetings to highlight land use issues

The LWVNM Natural Resources Committee is launching a fresh examination of land use which will culminate in a draft policy for our members to consider in 2012 or 2013. In September, the LWVCNM will have experts in this field share their perspectives on a variety of land use topics.

* Sept. 6 (Evening Unit) -- Several board members of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District will discuss the current challenges and future outlook for the MRGCD.

* Sept. 8 (Luncheon) -- State Land

Commissioner Ray Powell will share the role and responsibilities of the State Land Office in ensuring a sustainable future for our state public lands and New Mexico schools.

* Sept. 19 (Midtown Unit) -- Albuquerque Senior Planner Carol Toffaleti will educate us on the city's growth and development plans and future forecast for land use planning in this area.

* Sept. 26 (NE Heights Unit) -- LWVNM Natural Resources Director Lora Lucero will provide a historic timeline of state land use laws which impact local decision-making.

Dan Rudolph joins LWVCNM board

Dan Rudolph, retired Operations Officer for Public Works Department for the City of Albuquerque, was named Fourth Vice President of the LWVCNM Board of Directors at the July board meeting.

During his 27-years with the City of Albuquerque, he held several positions, including accounting supervisor, fiscal officer and management analysis and contract manager.



Dan Rudolph

Rudolph served on the LWVABC (as it was then called) as finance chair. In

his position he successfully directed several Salute to Albuquerque fundraising dinners as well as other fundraising activities such as selling the Entertainment Book and various raffles.

Rudolph was a delegate to LWVUS in both Boston and Washington, D.C. and was a League representative to the Campaign Reform Coalition. He has also served on the LWVNM Board and lobbied with the Action Committee for campaign reform.

Rudolph has been a political activist for many years and has served as chairman of the Bernalillo County Democratic Party and chairman of Commissioners for the State Housing Authority.

Hear about new climate change exhibit

Eileen Everett, climate change educator at the Natural History Museum, will discuss a newly opened exhibit on climate change at the museum on Thursday, Aug. 11 from 9:30-11 a.m. She will discuss the design and interpretation of the exhibit. There will also be a special guided tour of the exhibit.

New member reception

All new members who joined since last year will receive invitations to a reception set for Aug. 7 from 2-4 p.m. They will have the opportunity to meet the Board of Directors. The reception will be at the home of Carol Trelease. Also invited are other members who weren't able to attend a Board of Directors' reception in the past two years. For more information call Andrea Targhetta (280-8892).



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