



# The Voter

January 2012

League of Women Voters  
of Central New Mexico  
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## January Units: Voter and Election Issues

Is there a War on Voting?

Born from the Women's Suffrage Movement, the League has always been in the forefront to expand the franchise and knock down barriers to voting. We have made a concerted effort to fight actions to disenfranchise citizens. Although the challenges to voting have always been there, this past year a wave of anti-voter legislation has swept over the United States. More than a dozen states have passed new obstacles to voting.

Kansas and Alabama require new voters to provide proof of citizenship before registering. Florida has new laws that make it extremely difficult for groups like the League to register new voters and along with several other states has cut back the time for early voting. In 2011 seven new states passed photo ID laws, bringing the total to fifteen states that require voters show a photo ID in order to vote. The specifics vary but an alarming trend is evident. New rules are making it harder for Americans to access the voting box. If voting is the heart of our democracy, we may soon be on life support.

Come join fellow League members for the January units on voting rights, election laws and the challenges ahead.

**Evening Unit**, Tuesday, Jan. 10, 6 p.m., Towers Apartment Community Room, 5404 Montgomery. Laurie Weahkee, Executive Director Native American Voters Alliance (NAVA), will be addressing NAVA's work to organize an active and informed Native American electorate in New Mexico and the challenges more restrictive voting laws may have for Native American community.

**Luncheon Unit**, Thursday, Jan. 12, 11:45 a.m. MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul NE. Reservations are required. The speaker will be Daniel Ivey-Soto, a League member and a former Director of the Bureau of Elections in the Office of the Secretary of State. He will address "Upcoming Issues in Election Law and Process in New Mexico." After leaving the Secretary of State's Office, Ivey-Soto became the Legislative and Regulatory Representative of the County Clerks Affiliate of the New Mexico Association of Counties. Ivey-Soto has worked on bills that have amended, repealed and recompiled over 350 sections of The Election Code of the State of New Mexico. He regularly testifies before executive administrative bodies as well as before interim and regular committees of the State Legislature. He is also a member of the Drafting and Enactment Committees for the Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act, promulgated by the national Uniform Law Commission and drafted in cooperation with

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### January Calendar

Jan. 5	Board meeting, 5:30 p.m. (All members welcome.)
Jan. 5	Voter Deadline
Jan. 10	Evening Unit, 6 p.m.
Jan. 12	Luncheon Unit, 11:45 a.m.
Jan. 16	Midtown Unit, 1:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	LWVCNM Board retreat, 2 p.m.
Jan. 23	Northeast Heights Unit, 10 a.m.
Jan. 24	League Day at the Legislature
Jan. 26	Drug Policy Committee, 1 p.m.

**League of Women Voters of  
Central New Mexico  
Board Meeting  
1st Thursday of each month  
Offices of Satin, 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.

**League Day at Legislature  
set for Jan. 24**

League Day at the Legislature will start at the Capitol. Members can pick up their information packets from 7:30 a.m. on Jan. 24 at the LWV table in the West or East Lobby.

Members are encouraged to attend sessions in the House and Senate and/or committee hearings before 10:30 a.m. when everyone will head Garrett's Desert Inn, 311 Old Santa Fe Trail, to hear from:

\* Alicia Manzano, M.P.A, Outreach Director, New Mexico Voices for Children. Alicia is also the Director of the New Mexico Fairness Project that advocates for fairness in the New Mexico budget. She will speak on budget issues being considered in the session.

\* Marcela Diaz (B.A., Columbia University) is the Executive Director of Somos Un Pueblo Unido, a statewide immigrants' rights organization in New Mexico. She will be speaking on why we should be supporting driver's licenses for the undocumented.

Luncheon speaker is Denise Lamb, Director of the Elections Bureau for Santa Fe County. She will be speaking on: "Voting Issues

## Presidents' Corner

We wish you a VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR! The year 2011 was very eventful and productive for LWVCNM. Thank you for renewing your membership for 2012. We promise you an even more exciting and productive year in 2012.

Over the next few months we will be providing updates about our exciting New Mexico Centennial Dinner, the "Salute to New Mexico -- The First Hundred Years and Beyond" that will be held Saturday, April 21, 2012 at the Embassy Suites. On Jan. 6, 1912 New Mexico became the 47th state of the Union. We are preparing a program that will be the event of the year. Several fine art items have already been donated for the silent auction to be held at the event. There will also be a raffle. Wouldn't it be wonderful to win a diamond and gold pendant necklace? It could be a gift for yourself, your spouse, or any loved one. This will be the first prize. Tickets for the raffle will be available for purchase prior to the event. The drawing will take place at the dinner on April 21. You need not be present to win. Check the LWVCNM web site ([www.lwvcnm.org](http://www.lwvcnm.org)) or the LWVNM ([www.lwvnm.org](http://www.lwvnm.org)) web site for further information and updates.

Mark your calendar. League Day at the Legislature -- 2012 will be Jan. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Members can pick up their packets from 8:00 a.m. on, and are encouraged to attend sessions and/or committee hearings in the House and Senate. At 10:30 a.m. members will meet at the Desert Inn, 311 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe to hear from speakers on the budget and other key legislation. After lunch, members are encouraged to go to the Capitol to attend afternoon hearings or to meet with their legislators. The evening before, Jan. 23 at 5:30 p.m. there will be a panel discussion: "Voter Verification: Facts and Fallacies. Is Photo ID Essential?" This will also be held at the Desert Inn.

On March 25 we will celebrate LWVCNM's birthday with the annual Theater Party at the Rodeo Theatre. It will be a matinee performance of Cole Porter's *Anything Goes* presented by Landmark Musicals. A reception will follow. Further details will be in the February *Voter*.

-- Shelly Shepherd and Sandra Browne, Co-

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in New Mexico." There has been much publicity about problems with New Mexico's voting system. What is valid, what isn't? Lamb will address the issue.

Accommodations: Garrett's Desert Inn, which is located across the street from the Land Office at 311 Old Santa Fe Trail, offers a legislative rate of \$49 plus tax. Box lunches will be available at \$10 each payable at the event. Make reservations at [action@lwvnm.org](mailto:action@lwvnm.org) or by calling 505-884-8441.

## January Units (Continued from page 1)

the Pentagon.

**Midtown Unit**, Monday, Jan. 16, 1:30 p.m. Manzano del Sol, Hobby Room (1st Fl) 5202 Roma Ave. NE. Speaker Josephine Porter is a longtime League member. She has been a lobbyist for the state League for many years on election and voting issues. She is a past president of LWVC-NM, and has been editor or co-editor of the *LWVCNM Voters' Guide* since 1997. Porter will be discussing the current challenges to voting.

**Northeast Heights Unit**, Jan. 23, 10 a.m. La Vida Llena Retirement Community, 10501 Lagrima de Oro NE. Northeast Heights Unit speaker Paul Stokes spent most of his career at Sandia National Laboratories conducting research, development and analysis of technologies for arms control compliance verification and intelligence. He has been engaged in election integrity activities since the 2004 election, when he worked with national organizations to pursue a recount, followed by support for legal action to investigate the accuracy of voting machines. United Voters of New Mexico was formed to support these activities



*Mona Blaber, sitting at the computer, gives a tutorial on how to use the computer program Constant Contact to LWVNM Board members from the left Joe Keefe, Meredith Machen and Chris Burroughs at the Nov. 19 meeting in Santa Fe.*

*(Photo by Cheryl Haaker)*

and to work with the New Mexico Legislature to advance election reform legislation. Since that time, as coordinator for United Voters of New Mexico, Paul has continued to work with state election officials and the Legislature to bring the uniform use of paper ballots throughout the state, and risk-based audits to verify the accuracy of voting machines.

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## Drug Policy Study Committee Report Part II

*Editor's Note: The following is the second part of a history of the Drug Policy Study Committee written by Dee Watkins, chair of the committee, with help from Isobel Davis, Marilyn Morgan and Jan Bray. The first article ran in the November Voter.*

**2000-2001:** The state and local drug policy position has three parts: syringe-exchange, drug courts and jail-based treatment of addiction. Legislation is monitored and supported as needed.

**2001-2008:** A new issue was identified by a member of the committee through her contacts with medical organizations. Drug policy appeared to be a barrier to providing effective care of patients enduring pain, especially in the final stage of their lives. Statewide interest and proposed legislation to change the availability of treatment options suggested the time was right to explore pain treatment and the uses the medication often considered by some to be dangerously addictive. This study was adopted by LWV-ABC in 2003. The two-year study resulted in two changes. One change was to the state position on treatment of addiction by including all addicted persons rather than just those incarcerated. The second

change in 2007 included the DWI position as a part of the drug policy position. The LWVABC study then developed a comprehensive pain management position.

**2009-2011:** The Drug Policy study also clarified that both legal and illegal drugs have a significant impact on the lives of people in our community. In 2009 LWVCNM Drug Policy study group proposed studying the legal drug alcohol as a devastating cause of deaths and damage to communities. Then in 2010 LWVNM adopted a study of the best ways to decrease alcohol abuse in New Mexico.

### **What's next?**

The committee has learned the importance of ongoing monitoring of the media and legislation; establishing and maintaining relationships with allied organizations and the interrelationship of local, state and national positions. An example is the rider to the federal budget proposed in 2010 to disallow funding to states for syringe exchange programs. The Drug Policy Alliance provided this information and was able to lobby effectively at the federal level to defeat

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League of Women Voters

**SALUTE TO NEW MEXICO  
THE FIRST 100 YEARS AND BEYOND  
Celebrating the Centennial Anniversary of NM**

Honoring those who have made major contributions to the State of New Mexico in the areas of Education, Civic Engagement, Health and Human Services and Science/Technology.

Dinner, Program, Silent Auction, Raffle  
Saturday, April 21, 2012, 6:00PM  
Embassy Suites  
1000 Woodward Place NE, Albuquerque, NM  
(505) 245-7100

Please save April 21, 2012 on your calendar now!  
Your invitation will be mailed in March.  
For More Information, See [www.lwvnm.org/salute](http://www.lwvnm.org/salute)

## **Drug Policy Study Committee**

*(Continued from page 3)*

this effort.

The complexity and pervasiveness of the impact of drugs on our lives continues. This truly is a national issue since so much of drug control is federally legislated and supervised. Some changes in the way we manage legal and illegal drugs are occurring. Examples are: movement toward more equal conviction penalties for two types of cocaine use, ongoing discussion of the best ways to manage legal and illegal drugs, small changes in the amounts of money spent for prevention and interdiction and allowing the use of marijuana for medical treatment in 14 states.

This study as a social policy reflects the LWVUS goal to "Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans." We need to continue education and advocacy activities as our positions allow and to support improved management of drugs.

The next Drug Policy Study Committee meeting is Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012; 1-3 p.m. at the League Office.

-- Dee Watkins, Chair

## **Membership Meeting set**

There will be a Membership Committee meeting on Jan. 6 at 10 a.m. in the League office. We will be discussing our yearly plan, and anyone interested is encouraged to attend.

## **Member Handbook**

All members should have received their 2012 Member Handbook. If you have not received the handbook by Jan. 15, please call Andrea Targhetta at 792-1148.

## **Membership Committee**

Welcome to our new and returning members (see Handbook for information if not given below):

**Rebecca Belletto**, 210 Walter St NE 87102; **Mary Anne Giangola**; **Shirley Rawls**, 12133 87112-3408; **Belle Roberts**, PO Box 6 Edgewood, NM 87015-0006, H: 281-5975; **Emilee Stone**; **Robert L. Williams**, 1309 Los Arboles Ave NW 87107, H: 344-7596; **Iris S. Weinstein**, 1101 Washington St NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110-6255, H: 266-1266. -- Kathleen Kimler Altobelli

# Salute Silent Auction Form

Below is the donation form for the "Salute to New Mexico the First 100 Years and Beyond" silent auction. Please fill it out and turn it in with the item to be included in the auction closer to the

April 21 banquet date. Make copies of the form if you will be donating more than one item.

Your donations will help make the silent auction a success.

<b>League of Women Voters SALUTE TO NEW MEXICO THE FIRST 100 YEARS AND BEYOND Silent Auction Donation Information Form</b>	
Donated by: _____	Phone: _____
Mailing address of provider: (for thank you) _____	
Item Description: _____	
Estimated value: \$ _____	
Minimum bid: \$ _____	
Donation benefits: <input type="checkbox"/> LWVCNM (ABQ) <input type="checkbox"/> LWVGLC (Las Cruces)	
<input type="checkbox"/> LWVLA (Los Alamos) <input type="checkbox"/> LWVSFC (Santa Fe)	

## SALUTE TO NEW MEXICO AWARDS 2012

This form is to be used to nominate an individual or organization for the Salute to New Mexico First Hundred Years and Beyond Award to be given by the League of Women Voters' across the state. The year 2012 marks the Centennial of New Mexico's statehood. Four awards will be presented at the Salute to New Mexico dinner on April 21, 2012. Individuals living in New Mexico or organizations operating within New Mexico are eligible for the awards. Awards will be given to individuals or organizations that have made major contributions to the state of New Mexico in the areas of Education, Civic Engagement, Health and Human Services and Science/Technology. Persons currently holding elective office or persons who have announced their candidacy for elective office are NOT eligible for these awards.

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number/e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by (organization or individual): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone/e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questions in no more than two typewritten pages and include a brief biographical sketch of your nominee.

1. If the nominee is an organization, state the nature and extent of the organization's activities in New Mexico.
2. Describe the relevant activities which the nominee undertook and how these activities impacted New Mexico.
3. List any civic organizations or activities in which the nominee has participated.

Please return to: Carol Tucker Trelease and Daniel Rudolph, Co-Chairs  
Salute to New Mexico First Hundred Years and Beyond  
League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico  
2315 San Pedro, N.E., F-6, Albuquerque, N.M. 87110

DEADLINE: NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 29, 2012.

# Leagues across the country sign on to national study on public education

More than 400 local Leagues across the country have signed on to the National Study: "Role of the Federal Government in Public Education."

League members nostalgically recall the days of studying history, math, science, language and the fine arts, but we are also aware that public education has been a political football among politicians and the business world. It ought to be common sense that the value of a broad, fair and equal access to the knowledge accumulated by society far outweighs the rhetoric pouring from our newspapers, radio, television, and even the internet. For years, improvement in math and science has been a driving force, but we also need to improve education in general.

Although LWV/CNM is late to join the National Study, there is no reason to delay finding a local perspective; therefore, the Education Committee is being reconstituted. We welcome your interest and participation, and we'll

start by choosing to focus on one or more but not limited to these suggested topics:

\* Is the New Mexico education funding formula still adequate? Would federal support dictate policies?

\* Are public school administrative functions too heavy?

\* Should the League take an active part in determining state standards, assessment, and accountability?

\* Should the League take a role in promoting studies in our democratic form of government?

We plan to meet in early January, perhaps before or following our regularly scheduled Units (NE Evening at the Towers, or following our regular luncheon meeting). The location and time will be convenient for the majority of those who will join us. Please call Judy at 265-4336 with your preferences. Thank you.

-- Jan Bray & Judith Binder



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