

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

Immigration Issues Topic of November Units

The immigration issue is one of the most contentious debates in America today. This month's discussion will focus on the immigration system as it exists today, the DREAMer movement, and the landscape for reform. Bring your questions and concerns to participate in this important and timely discussion.

Luncheon Unit -- Nov. 14 at 11:45 a.m.

The Luncheon Unit speaker is Michael Puccetti from Catholic Charities' Center for Immigration and Citizenship Legal Assistance. Puccetti has been the director of the Center for Citizenship and Immigration Legal Assistance at Catholic Charities since 2011. Prior to his service at

Catholic Charities, he served for more than 20 years in the State Department. Throughout his career in the Foreign Service, Puccetti completed numerous international postings including time as the Deputy Consul General at the United States Consulate in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. A native New Mexican, Puccetti received his MBA and bachelor's degrees from the University of New Mexico. During his talk, he will review the current state of proposals for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR), the effects of immigration policy locally in New Mexico and services and forms of relief available to immigrants under current and proposed law.

The meeting will be held at 11:45 a.m. at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul N.E. Reservations for the lunch must be made by 10 a.m. on Nov. 11. The cost of lunch is \$15. To make a reservation, please call the LWVCNM office at 884-8441 or email lunch@lwvcnm.org. Ask about

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Reception Draws Local Officials



LWVCNM President Andrea Taghetta greets Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry and the First Lady Maria Berry at the Oct. 15 reception for the mayor, members of the city council and county commissioners. Some 70 people attended the event, including 27 League members. (Photo by Karen Wentworth)

November Calendar

Nov. 5	Voter deadline
Nov. 7	Board meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 12	Evening Unit, 6 p.m.
Nov. 14	Luncheon Unit, 11.45 a.m.
Nov. 15	Naturalization Ceremony, 10 a.m.
Nov. 19	Special Election & District 7 Run-off
Nov. 25	NE Heights Unit, 10 a.m.
Dec. 7	Lobbying Workshop, 10 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

Mental Health Study

Jan Bray & Shelly Shepherd

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 and can be accessed online at our website www.lwvcnm.org.

Naturalization Ceremony Set

A Naturalization Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 15 from 10 a.m. to noon at the East Complex, Upper Level of the Albuquerque Convention Center. The presiding judge will be United States District Judge James O. Browning.

Membership Renewals

Membership renewals are coming in at a good pace. Thank you for responding and getting your 2014 dues into the office.

As of mid-October about 150 have been updated and entered into the computer. Several more have been received. If you have not sent your form with any changes in your contact information to the office, please do so. If there is something you do not want published, note that as well. Even Life Members should return their forms so we know their information is current. They just don't pay dues any more after being in the League of Women Voters for 50 years.

Peggy Howell

LWVCNM Doors Now Locked

The outside door at the LWVCNM office has been adjusted to lock whenever it closes. A doorbell is beside the door to ring for a staff person to open it, or you may call the office to speak to that person to come open it.

President's Corner

By Andrea Taghetta

Our CNM League is participating in the LWVUS "Membership and Leadership Development" (MLD) program. Four years ago our National League was gifted a very generous financial contribution to the LWVUS Education Fund. This gift was in honor of Ruth S. Shur, given by her husband, which has founded the Leadership Institute. This gift has enabled the Leadership Institute to develop a national coaching team. This national team is known as the Ruth S. Shur Fellows and strengthens emerging League leadership, membership enrollment and League visibility. Our own Mary Wilson is a Ruth S. Shur Fellow. Our CNM Board is focused on working to extend our membership, develop future leaders, and heighten awareness of our organization with the assistance of state MLD leaders. This MLD program helps our Board to view all our activities in the light of these three areas: membership, leadership, and visibility. The Board needs your help as well.

Membership: As members of this League, we are asking you to take every opportunity to speak to your friends, family, and co-workers about what the League does, invite them to all our events, and ask them to "join us." We really enjoy sharing what we do with the public. It's an excellent way to spread our philosophy and positions. Many already know us from our *Voters' Guide* and *Who's Who* and could benefit from the many speakers at unit meetings.

Leadership: We all have character traits which can be applied to further this League. I have always said that I see a great wealth of talent and experience whenever we are assembled. We are also asking you to comment on anyone in whom you detect leadership abilities. You may even wish to offer your own services in a particular area. It can be on a one-time project or for a couple of years on the Board. The League of Women Voters is well-known in offering opportunities to develop skill sets which can correlate into the business arena.

Visibility: We need your help in looking at everything we do to see how we can maximize our contact with the public. Word of mouth is always good, but consider getting more exposure with other organizations in which you belong. Like our League, these organizations most likely email information to you. You might send an email to them announcing our unit meetings, the speaker and subject, especially if it coincides with something relevant to their needs. We are publicizing our events in print wherever we can. We present them on our website and Face Book page.

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November Units

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your menu options.

Evening Unit -- Nov. 12 at 6 p.m.

The speaker, Jennifer Landau, is the Executive Director and co-founder of the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center. Landau has been involved in immigration and refugee issues, providing direct services and advocacy, since 1999. In 2007 she was awarded a two-year Equal Justice Works Fellowship to work with the El Paso-based Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services, Inc. on improving access to justice for New Mexican immigrants in deportation proceedings. She was also presented the 2009 Justice Pamela B. Minzer Outstanding Advocacy for Women award by the State Bar of New Mexico's Committee on Women and the Legal Profession. Landau has often taught immigration courses as an adjunct faculty at the University of New Mexico School of Law. The meeting will be at 6 p.m. at the Erna Fergusson

Library, 3700 San Mateo Blvd.N.E.

North East Unit -- Nov. 25 at 10 a.m. :

Dorianne Mason, staff attorney New Mexico Center on Law & Poverty, will discuss "Immigrant Access to Health Care." Most of the recent progress in health care has not improved immigrant access to health care. The New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty has been one of the leading organizations advocating for immigrant access to health care and health care coverage.

The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. at the La Vida Llena Retirement Community, 10501 Lagrima De Oro Rd N.E.

We welcome Joyce Greer as the new Luncheon Unit Leader. She is taking over for Marilyn Morgan who has done a fantastic job as the leader of this unit for many years. We will miss Marilyn as "Mistress of Ceremonies" and thank her for being a great host and leader. Thank you, Marilyn!

Book Report: *A Twenty-first Century U. S. Water Policy*

Editor's Note: Book Review -- This review of an important public policy book is a regular feature in the Voter. by Olin Bray, Author of ebook, *Political Incompetence: What's Wrong With Our System and How To Fix It*

A Twenty-first Century U. S. Water Policy by Juliet Christian-Smith, Peter Gleick, et al, 2012, Oxford University Press, HC, 334 pages.

This book provides a good overview of water policy issues and suggests a number of ways to improve them. Given the League's interest in water policy this book provides some useful background many of our members will appreciate.

This book addresses many aspects of U.S. water policy and suggests a number of ways to improve and modernize it. One of the problems is that we do not have good estimates for actual water availability and use. Part of the problem is insufficient data collection and monitoring and part of it is the difficulty in making good projections of future water use requirements. Post 1980 water withdrawal estimates have gone down dramatically to less than half of the pre 1980 estimates. Per capita water use peaked in 1975 at almost 2,000 gallons per day and have since declined to less than 1500 in 2005. Total U.S.

water use also peaked in 1975 at about 600 cubic Km per year and have remained level or declined slightly through 2005 in spite of significant population and GDP growth from about \$5 trillion to over \$12 trillion. This change has come from more efficient and effective water use, such as the leveling off of water use for thermoelectric power and irrigation. Municipal water use (i.e. for residential and industrial use) has followed the same pattern, peaking in about 1975 and then declining through 2005 from about 350 billion gallons per day to about 300. The water withdrawal rate by sector in 2005 was 49 percent for thermoelectric power, 32 percent for agriculture, and 19 percent for municipal.

The authors distinguish between what they call the hard path and soft path for water policy. The hard path is the traditional path involving centralized decision-making, major large infrastructure projects, and a focus on delivering more water. In contrast, the soft path involves decentralized decision-making, smaller distributed infrastructure projects (although there will still be some large projects), and a focus on delivering products and services to consumers that use water more efficiently. Greater efficiency is possible in most areas, but there are

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U. S. Water Policy

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few incentives with subsidized, cheap water. More efficient water use will be driven by paying the real costs of water, with subsidies only for those unable to pay for essential water. Municipal water and wastewater systems are deteriorating from lack of maintenance. In 1980 only 10 percent were rated as poor, very poor or lifetime exceeded, but by 2000 the percentage had increased to 23, and the estimate for 2020 is 45 percent. The funding for this infrastructure is 90 percent local, 4 percent state, and 6 percent federal.

The book has chapters on U.S. freshwater availability and use, the legal and institutional framework for water policy, environmental justice, water quality, protecting freshwater ecosystems, municipal water use,

President's Corner

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What else can we do? You might have the answer. Please let us know. By being intentionally focused on these three functions, this is your opportunity to continue your support. Your ideas are fully appreciated and we look forward to hearing from you. Email office@lwvnm.org with suggestions.

LWVNM 2013 Lobbying Workshop: Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to noon

By Dick Mason

The annual League of Women Voters of New Mexico Lobbying Workshop is set for Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to noon at Sandia Prep School, 532 Osuna Road NE in Albuquerque.

The goal of this workshop is to learn how to be effective in advocating for our interests as individual citizens or as members of civic organizations or other groups in interacting with the New Mexico Legislature. Handouts and discussion will also provide information on the legislative process, on lobbyist regulation and on the tools available on the legislative web site.

The workshop is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is not required, but please arrive before 10 a.m. in order to sign up and collect handouts, so that we can start promptly at 10 a.m..

Speakers:

Senator Peter Wirth was elected to the New Mexico House of Representatives in 2004, re-elected in 2006 and since 2008 he has represented Senate District 25 in Santa Fe. He is vice chair of the Senate

water and agriculture, water and energy, water and climate, international water policy and recommendations.

Some of their recommendations include: combine and coordinate fragmented federal water agencies and programs; revive river basin commissions and require planning with water budgets and priorities; improve understanding of water supply, use, and flows; use innovative economic strategies to encourage sustainable water practices; integrate the risks of climate change into water facility planning, design, and operation; update federal water laws and expand monitoring and enforcement; develop federal policies to encourage demand management and alternative approaches to expanding water supplies; integrate water policy with other federal resource policies; and apply environmental justice principles to federal water policies.

Save the Date

Frank and I invite all LWVNM members and your guest to our Open House on Sunday, December 8, 2013 from 3-6 p.m. No speeches, no agenda, just good friends celebrating the beginning of the holiday season. This is an excellent opportunity for us to enjoy each others' company. Instructions to our house will be in the December Voter. We are looking forward to seeing you at 8101 Rancho Lindo CT NW, ABQ (Westside).

-- Andrea Targhetta

Rules Committee, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and co-chairs the interim Courts, Corrections & Justice Committee. The senator received a B.A. from Stanford University in economics and Spanish before moving to New Mexico, where he graduated from the UNM Law School in 1990. Worth recently won Common Cause's "Best in Government Award" because of his ability to work across the aisles and get things done.

Representative Jimmie Hall has served in the New Mexico House of Representatives since 2004, representing House District 28 in Bernalillo County. He is a member of the Education Committee and the Appropriations and Finance Committee in the House and also of the permanent Legislative Education Study Committee. The representative was born in Texas and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from West Texas State University. He has worked in the agricultural credit business, and since 1999 he has been the executive director of the New Mexico 4-H Youth Development Foundation.

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Lobbying Workshop

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Julianna Koob is a lobbyist and is reclaiming the word and profession as positive and ethical. She is particularly proud of her work to pass a Title IX reporting bill, the Fair Pay for Women Act, and a budget item that increased services to sexual assault victims.

Koob has fought to advance the rights of women and children for the past 20 years, beginning as an advocate for victims of domestic violence and currently as a policy advocate fighting for the rights of girls and women to make their own healthcare decisions without government intrusion, for equality in education and sports opportunities, and for fair pay to women. Koob has earned a master's degree in social work and a law degree, but credits domestic and sexual violence survivors with her education on women's rights and systems change.



Peter Fawcett, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of New Mexico, talks about possible future climate changes at the October LWVCNM Luncheon meeting.

(Photo by Cheryl Haaker)

LWVUS -- A History of Backing Women's Decisions

By Judith Binder

Editor's Note: This very brief overview includes excerpts from an article by Gretchen Knell, LWVUS. I encourage you to read the original at <http://www.lwv.org/content/public-policy-reproductive-choices>

I was present when the 1982 LWVUS Convention voted to develop a League position on Reproductive Choice. It wasn't easy. There must have been eight to ten votes before it was agreed that the method would be to concur with the statement derived from positions reached by the New Jersey and Massachusetts Leagues. It was further determined that each state and/or local League could make the autonomous decision to take on the concurrence. As I recall, more than 90 percent of Leagues across the country decided to use concurrence, and almost 100 percent of those voted yes.

The League's position on Public Policy on Reproductive Choices was announced by the National Board in January 1983: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Also in 1983, the LWVUS successfully lobbied to defeat S.J. Res. 3, a proposed constitutional amendment that would have overturned *Roe v. Wade*. "The League joined as an amicus in two successful lawsuits challenging proposed regulations by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, thus thwarting attempts to implement regulations requiring parental notification by federally funded family planning centers that provide prescription contraceptives to teenagers."

Throughout the 1980s, the League fought "for the right of privacy in reproductive choices, to protect the tax-exempt status of agencies that performed abortions, and urged congressional committees to report an appropriations bill for the District of Columbia without amendments limiting abortion funding." The League supported legislation that would have restored Medicaid funding for abortions in cases of rape or incest.

In the 90s, LWVUS joined the national Pro-Choice Coalition in support of the Freedom of Choice Act, designed to place into federal law the principles of *Roe v. Wade*. Vital issues dealt with the right of privacy in reproductive choices, domestic and international

Women's Decisions

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family planning, reproductive health care, and amendments denying Medicaid funding for abortions for victims of rape and incest.

LWVUS has “supported the International Family Planning Act, which would have reversed U.S. policy denying family planning funds to foreign organizations that provide abortion services or information. It opposed the Department of Defense policy prohibiting military personnel from obtaining abortions at military hospitals overseas and supported the right of the District of Columbia to use its own revenues to provide Medicaid abortions for low-income women.”

In 2012, the League responded to attempts to allow any employer or provider who claimed an ill-defined “religious or moral” objection to a health care service, such as reproductive health care, to be exempted from providing such coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

The League opposed this exemption as it would undermine the very premise of the ACA that all persons, regardless of gender, should be eligible for health services under the Affordable Care Act, and that failure to do so is discrimination based on sex.

In 2013, Albuquerqueans have a vote.

November 2013

Speaking for myself, I urge every League member to take a friend and “Vote NO” on Nov. 19.

Don't forget to vote on Nov. 19 in the Runoff and Special Election. Albuquerque registered voters will decide a direct legislative issue brought forth by an interest group wishing to add a city ordinance called the “Pain Capable Unborn Child Ordinance.” District 7 voters will also vote in the runoff for City Councilor.

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