

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

Drug Misuse To Be Focus of February Unit Meetings

Drug misuse will be the focus of the February unit meetings.

Luncheon Unit -- Feb. 13 at 11:45 a.m. &

Evening Unit -- Feb. 11 at 6 p.m.

Dr. Megan Thompson, Director of Experiential Education and Associate Professor of Pharmacy at the University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy, and several of her students will dis-

cuss a prescription drug abuse education and prevention program they developed at both the Luncheon and Evening Unit meetings..

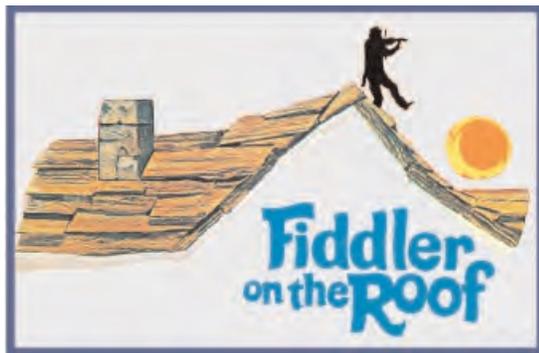
The program "Generation Rx" is designed to increase public awareness of prescription medication abuse and encourages health care providers, parents, children, teachers and others to actively work together to prevent it.T

Thompson has worked at the College of Pharmacy since December 2003 after practicing in a retail pharmacy setting for two-and-a-half years. During her time at UNM, Thompson's responsibilities have included oversight and management of all student and academic affairs for Doctor of Pharmacy students, experiential teaching and admissions.

In addition to her administrative duties, Thompson has recently received a national award for a grant from the Cardinal Health Foundation to develop materials for and educate the New Mexico community on preventing the misuse and abuse of prescription medication. The award, "Generation Rx Award of Excellence," is given annually to recognize a pharmacist who has demonstrated a commitment to the mission of substance abuse educa-

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Bring Your Friends, Neighbors, Family To Fiddler on the Roof



We are excited to announce that this year's annual LWVCNM Theater Event fundraiser will be held on Sunday, March 30 from 2-5 p.m. at the Rodey Theatre (next to Popejoy Hall) at UNM in Albuquerque.

The classic and beloved musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, will be presented by Landmark Musicals, followed by a reception and a belated League birthday celebration on the upstairs foyer.

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February Calendar

Feb. 5	Voter deadline
Feb. 6	Board meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	Evening Unit, 6 p.m.
Feb. 13	Luncheon Unit, 11.45 a.m.
Feb. 24	NE Heights Unit, 10 a.m.
March 30	Play Fundraiser, 2 p.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 distributed via email and can be accessed online at our website www.lwvcnm.org.

Voter Services Report

Voter Services Director Pam Harris reports several Voter Services activities for the month of January.

On Jan 8 she sent out a request for volunteers to do voter registration for some registration projects this winter and spring. She is planning a meeting of voter registrars in the near future.

There was a Naturalization Ceremony on Friday, Jan 31 at the Albuquerque Convention Center, East Complex. Judy Binder and Pam attended and handed out voter registration forms.

The Village of Corrales is putting on a candidate forum on Thursday, Feb 6 at 6 p.m. at the Old San Ysidro Church Building, 966 Old Church Rd. Corrales is having an election on March 4 with early voting starting on Feb 12. Candidates running for the offices of City Council Districts 1, 3 and 4 and for mayor will be on hand. The contact person is John Avila, Village Administrator, 897-0502, javila@corrales-mn.org. Diane Goldfarb is the moderator. She and her husband Donald will be sorting questions. Gayle Prinkey is time-keeper. Laura Stokes will greet people and recruit new members. There are also two women from Corrales who have volunteered to be assistants. They are Vicky Reder and Sandra Stevens (not League members).

Pam sent a notice to Megan Brown of VOTE411 for publication and promotion of the Corrales forum.

President's Corner

By Andrea Taghetta

This month we observe the founding of our national League in the year 1920. It seems appropriate that February 14 is the birthday of the League of Women Voters and also a day to give loved ones a gift. What better gift than an organization which will stand up for our rights, advocate to make our communities a better place to live and educate ourselves and the public concerning common issues. During these 94 years, the League's focus has changed from women's suffrage to ensuring that all eligible voters have the opportunity to vote and that they have information with which to make an informed decision. Through these changes, the League's principal concept of study, consensus, and advocacy has remained steady. Our particular League started around 1924 as the League of Women Voters of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County. In 2008, during Diane Goldfarb's presidency, we changed our name to League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico to better represent our focus on the surrounding communities.

To secure the right to vote, we at CNM have pounced upon every voter registration event we can. Many of our registrars take advantage of the Farmers' Markets in town to set up a table. Our Voter Services Director, Pam Harris, is planning voter registration opportunities for what will be this year's sizeable local election. We will target eligible high school students as part of this emphasis. If you are interested in becoming a registrar, call Pam to obtain training. We have a great deal of work ahead to mobilize voters, so please volunteer your help. We will also be moderating a forum for the March 4 Corrales Village Municipal election. The forum will be held, Feb. 6. Anyone interested in assisting with this debate is urged to call Pam to volunteer. This is a good setting to learn how we conduct a forum and become familiar with the process.

We here in Albuquerque will be celebrating the League's 94th birthday with our usual fund raiser a bit later than the actual date, but it is the thought behind the tradition that is important. Please come with your neighbors, friends, and relatives to an afternoon of fun, entertainment, birthday cake, and plenty of great music on Sunday, March 30 to enjoy one of the most popular musicals. *Fiddler on the Roof* is funny, yet warm and honest in its portrayal of tradition. Details are further into this month's *Voter*.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US ALL!

February Units

(Continued from page 1)

tion., awareness about the issue of prescription drug misuse, abuse and overdose and to to encourage action in communities across the country.

UNM pharmacy students presenting with Thompson will be Arika Mike, David Garcia, Joanna H. Lee, Rachel Lacey and Ana Lisa Acosta.

The Luncheon Unit 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 Feb. 10. The cost of lunch is \$15. To make a reservation, please call the LWVC-NM office at 884-8441 or email lunch@lwvcnm.org. Ask about your menu options.

The Evening Unit will meet at 6 p.m. at the Erna Fergusson Library, 3700 San Mateo Blvd.N.E.

North East Heights Unit -- Feb. 24 at 10 a.m. :

Speakers are Larry Loring and Bobby Padilla who will talk about "Prescription Drug Abuse Trends in New Mexico and What Can Be Done to Address These."

Loring is a licensed pharmacist with over 35 years experience in retail, institutional, consulting and pharmacy settings. In 1990 he joined the New Mexico Board of Pharmacy where he was employed as a drug inspector and in 1992 became a certified police officer. He is executive director/chief inspector for the New Mexico Board of Pharmacy.

Padilla is a drug inspector with the New Mexico Board of Pharmacy and a certified law enforcement officer.

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

Summary of UNM College of Pharmacy - Generation Rx Initiative

Prescription medications have many beneficial effects. When used under proper medical supervision, they can help us live longer and healthier lives, but any medication can produce adverse effects – especially when misused or abused.

Prescription Drug Abuse Facts:

- * New Mexico has one of the highest rates of prescription drug overdose deaths in the nation.

- * 26 of the 33 counties in NM are considered rural areas; data show that people in rural areas are nearly twice as likely to overdose on prescription painkillers as people in larger cities.

- * Many believe that abusing prescription medications is safer than abusing street drugs.

- * The majority of teens report that prescription drugs are easier to get than illegal drugs.

- * Over 50 per cent of teens say that they get their prescription medicines for free from a relative or friend.

- * Americans consume 80 per cent of the

world's opiate supply, and 99 percent of the world's hydrocodone supply, but only make up 4.6 percent of the world's population.

In response to these startling statistics, the UNM College of Pharmacy has developed a prescription drug abuse education and prevention program to help combat this epidemic that plagues our state. The program, entitled "Generation Rx," is an educational program designed to increase public awareness of prescription medication abuse and encourages health care providers, parents, children, teachers and others to actively work together to prevent abuse.

The UNM College of Pharmacy has developed live, interactive presentations for all age groups and provides information on common drugs of abuse, signs and symptoms of abuse, the science behind prescription drug abuse, as well as tips on safe medication disposal.

Book Report -- *White Collar Government: The Hidden Role of Class in Economic Policy Making*

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*

White Collar Government: The Hidden Role of Class in Economic Policy Making by Nicholas Carnes, 2013m University of Chicago Press, paperback, 188 pages.

Carnes addresses two important questions. First, is Congress (and government in general) a good representation of the overall country? Second, if not, does it make a difference in terms of economic policy, laws and regulations? Since the country's founding there has been a school of thought that assumes that most elected officials would be upper class economically, but that it doesn't matter because once elected they would represent their constituencies. Analyzing the data since World War II, the author shows that while the first part of the assumption is true, the latter part is false. Congress is not really representative of the country's population. However, once elected officials continue to think like and represent their economic class rather than the constituency that elected them.

The author identifies nine occupational groups and puts them into three categories – managerial and technical professionals in for-profit organizations, managerial and technical professionals in non-profits, and workers (primarily blue collar occupations). Of the 783 people who served in Congress between 1999 and 2008 only 13 had spent at least a quarter of their pre-congressional work in blue collar jobs. These 13 included four Republicans and nine Democrats. Going back to the late 1940s, he finds a similar lack of representativeness, although not quite as dramatic.

This imbalance has a major impact on legislation and policy. Based on votes on economic issues, Carnes shows members' rankings on three liberal-conservative scales – one developed by political scientists, one by the AFL-CIO, and one by the Chambers of Commerce. The member's rankings are the same on all three scales – workers were the most liberal, for-profit professionals were the most conservative, and the non-profit professionals were in between. This conservative to liberal correlation with class applies not only to the decade he

focused on (1999-2008), but also in data going back to the 1940s. Furthermore, this pattern holds with little change over an official's career. They do not change much the longer they are in Congress. (Statistically it would take 17 terms for the difference to disappear.) Carnes analyzes the liberal-conservative differences and finds an average difference between a former blue collar worker and technical professional was 10 points. For comparison, the difference between male and female officials was only one point, the difference between white and black officials was only four points, the difference between members who received the most union contributions and those who received none was only 11 points, the difference between legislators representing the most conservative and the most liberal districts was only 13 points, and the average difference between Democrats and Republicans was 28.

Finally, he looked at some specific economic legislation to see what would happen if Congress were truly representative of the US population. He did this by weighting each member's vote depending on their class to match that class in the population. There was a significant difference in most of the legislation and a number of bills that did pass would have failed, including both of the Bush tax cuts, the corporate tax overhaul, and the Wall Street bailout. Also some of the legislation that passed in both case would probably have been significantly different.

He refutes the argument that blue collar workers don't have the necessary expertise. First, when blue collar workers run, they have a reasonable chance of being elected. The problem is that very few run. Second, many of the members with blue collar experience progressed into other professional and/or management jobs later in their careers before being elected to Congress so their expertise may be comparable with those members without any blue collar experience. While the percent of professionals who follow public affairs and who don't think politics is too complicated is higher than for workers, since there are so many more workers than professionals in the population there are actually more workers than professionals in those categories, which is the potential pool of candidates.

This is a fascinating book and raises a number of important issues.

Membership Committee Report

The Membership Handbook is finished and in the mail. It includes names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for a total of 200 members. This compares to 209 members included in last year's book. Unlike last year, all those listed have paid except one. Though we have over 20 new members and several returning members, we lost about 30 members -- some moved away, some didn't rejoin because they no longer can get to meetings and/or would rather contribute their money to the Education Fund. There are four husbands of members who did not rejoin this year.

We developed a new application for LWVCNM this year which was well received. The reception for the council and commission brought out a number of members who do not attend a regular unit meetings as well as several new and prospective members. We hope that the reception on election years becomes a tradition. We have a list of attendees at that event who will be or have been invited to join us. We will be including them in our next social event. LWVCNM's work with the coalition to defeat the city initiative on late-term abortions attracted some of our former members back and the attention was positive for non-members too.

Several of the new members and some returning members are on the west side, and the membership committee is exploring a west side unit. We plan to have a social event for new mem-

bers and include our members on the west, hoping to determine a best time and place for the unit. If you live in that area and might attend or know persons there who are interested in LWV, please let me know. We are also looking for a place to have such a unit; Taylor Ranch and a new library in Rio Rancho have been suggested. There is a restaurant at Taylor Ranch which has been suggested. The new librarian at Rio Rancho is a LWV member from Las Cruces who is planning to transfer her membership, we hear.

-- Peggy Howell, Membership Committee Chair

Welcome New Members

George Richmond
152 Juniper Hill Rd
ABQ 87122
GeomRich1@comcast.net

Marjorie Swartz
813 Country Club Dr
Rio Rancho 87124

Sally-Alice Thompson
1519 Anderson Place SE
Albuquerque 87108
sally-aliceanddon@juno.com

Fiddler

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Fiddler, often called the most beloved musical of all time, is a celebration of life and its challenges. Set in 1905 in a small Jewish village in Russia, it is the story of dairyman, Tevye, and his attempts to preserve his family's traditions in a changing world. Trying to balance life - like a fiddler on a roof - Tevye is forced to choose between his family's happiness and his culture's beloved traditions. *Fiddler on the Roof* first appeared on Broadway in 1964 and swept the Tony's with nine "Best" awards.

To reserve your seat, mail a check to the LWVCNM office for \$30 per person with a nota-

tion that the check is for *Fiddler* tickets. Please RSVP no later than March 17. As the tickets are for specific seats, please attach a note with your check if you have any special seating requirements. Your actual tickets will be available before the performance at the LWV table just outside Rodey Theater. Tickets for the event may not be purchased at the door, so be sure to order your tickets now.

The parking structure next to Popejoy Hall is available, and there is no charge when a handicap placard is presented to the attendant. The number of tickets is limited (and best in the house), so be sure to make your reservation early. Last year's theater event was enjoyed by many and raised over \$600 for the Operating Fund. So don't miss out on the fun!

February 2014

LWVCNM Board Meeting Highlights

The LWVCNM Board of Directors met on Jan. 2. The following occurred at the meeting.

* Unit Coordinator Judith Binder reported there were 32 attendees plus the speaker at the luncheon meeting in December. She gave a big thank you to Meg Wentte for taking over the leadership of the La Vida Llena unit.

* President Andrea Targhetta reported that only 10 percent of the people who were sent the December fund raising letter responded to the letter. The board said that they may need to review letter recipients and figure out the best time to send it out. Cheryl Haaker suggested it be sent out around the time of the election. That is the time LWVCNM has a lot of visibility due to the Voter being available.

* Voter Services Chair Pam Harris said the League will concentrate on registering high school students this year.

* Margaret Magee reported she did an extensive inventory of the contents of the League office's filing cabinets. This took a great deal of time, and the board expressed its appreciation to her. Josephine Porter and Meg Wentte, who are experienced at this, will look the report over and decide what should be kept and archived at the Zimmerman Library and what should be thrown out. The board should review it as well and give their input.

* President Andrea Targhetta said she hopes LWVCNM has 200 members by Jan. 31 because it affects the number of delegates go to the national convention.

