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of Central New Mexico
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The Voter

League of Women Voters of
Central New Mexico

April 2014

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

Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino To Speak at April 10 Luncheon Unit

State Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino, who represents District 12 in Bernalillo County, will be the guest speaker at the April 10 Luncheon Unit meeting of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico.

He will speak on the status of the Human Services Department's Medicaid funding cut-off of 15 behavioral services and treatment providers. He will also give his take on what a good mental health care system for an extremely rural, thinly populated and far-from-wealthy state would



Gerald Ortiz y Pino

look like.

Ortiz y Pino has been in the legislature since 2005. He is a social worker by profession and is vice-chair of the interim Health and Human Services Committee. He is also a member of the

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In this Voter

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 3, 2014

MCM Elegante Hotel
2020 Menaul N.E.

Speaker: Lee Reynis

Director Bureau of Business
and Economic Research

University of New Mexico

Topic: "State of the New Mexico
Economy and Why"

Registration: 9-9:30 a.m.

Business meeting: 9:30-11 a.m.

Brunch: 11 a.m.

Your Annual Meeting packet is included in this *Voter*. Please bring this *Voter* to the meeting. Please make your reservations by Monday, April 28 at 10 a.m.

April Calendar

- April 3 LWVCNM Board meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- April 5 *Voter* deadline
- April 8 Evening Unit, 6 p.m.
- April 10 Luncheon Unit, 11:45 a.m.
- April 28 Northeast Heights Unit, 10 a.m.
- May 3 Annual Meeting
- May 17 LWVNM Council.



LWVCNM Membership Chair Peggy Howell (left) presents Dorothy (Tooker) Walton with a certificate naming her a Life-Time League member at the March LWVCNM luncheon. Tooker has been a member of League for 50 years.

Presidents' Corner

By Andrea Targhetta

Call to Annual Meeting, Saturday, May 3, 2014. The Hotel Elegante will be headquarters for our annual wrap-up of the Fiscal Year. We will have registration 9-9:30 a.m. and begin our business meeting promptly at 9:30 a.m. This meeting will end at 11 a.m. and then we will enjoy our usual brunch and keynote speaker at that time. Be sure to bring this copy of the April Voter which holds the agenda for this meeting.

I am leaving my thank you's to say during the Annual Meeting. It is rather lengthy because there has been a flood of members who have done some great things. Needless to say, I am extremely grateful for the willingness of members to help, the support and the effort put forward by us all. We have had a great year and look forward to another.

See more in the Report Section of this *Voter*.

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.

Unit meetings

(Continued from page 1)

behavioral health sub-committee. During the session, he is chair of the Public Affairs Committee and a member of the Rules Committee.

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 April 7. The cost of lunch is \$15. To make a reservation, call the LWVCNM office at 884-8441 or email lunch@lwvcnm.org.

Evening Unit -- April 8 at 6 p.m.
at the Erna Fergusson Library Community Room, 3700 San Mateo N.E.

The speaker will be John Garcia, Deputy Assistant Secretary for U.S. Intergovernmental Affairs for the Department of Veteran Affairs. He will be speaking on "Serving the Mental Health Needs of Veterans."

Garcia oversees VA's Intergovernmental Tribal Government. He is responsible for developing, managing and

coordinating the department-wide intergovernmental and consumer affairs programs, while providing VA senior leadership with strategic advice, guidance and information by fostering partnerships and acting as a liaison between state, local, tribal and international governments. Prior to coming to the VA, he was appointed by Governor Bill Richardson in January of 2003 as the first Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services

NE Heights Unit -- April 28 at 10 a.m. at the La Vida Llena Retirement Community, 10501 Lagrima de Oro Rd. N.E.

The speaker at the North East Heights Unit meeting will be Mike Hamm, director of Encantada Traditional Living Services, an Open Skies Healthcare program (formerly Hogares). He will speaking on Open Skies Healthcare which offers a traditional living services program for young men ages 16 to 18 at Encantada, a home located in the north valley of Albuquerque. Each program participant has the support of a community support worker, a licensed therapist, as well as access to individual, group and family therapy (if appropriate). The services offered by Encantada help young men make positive changes in areas such as independent living, life choices, substance use, anger management, depression, anxiety, employment, education and juvenile justice. involvement.

Call to Annual Meeting 2014

League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico

Saturday, May 3, 2014

**MCM Elegante Hotel
2020 Menaul N.E.**

**Speaker: Lee Reynis
Director, Bureau of Business and Economic Research
University of New Mexico**

Topic: "State of the New Mexico Economy and Why"

Schedule of Events

Registration	9-9:30 a.m.
Business Meeting	9:30-11 a.m.
Brunch	11 a.m.

**The cost of the brunch is \$20. Reservations for the brunch must be called in to the office (884-8441) or emailed to lunch@lwvcnm.org by 10 a.m. Monday, April 28.*

Annual Meeting Agenda

Pledge of Allegiance
Adoption of Agenda
Recognition of Board and Committee Chairs
Adoption of Rules for Annual Meeting
Minutes of 2013 Annual Meeting
Appointment of Readers for 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Adoption of Program for 2014-2015
Bylaws Changes
Nominating Committee Report
Election of Officers and Directors
Other Business
Announcements

Rules for Annual Meeting

1. No person may speak twice to the same motion until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so.
2. Each speaker is limited to two minutes.
3. All motions must be made in writing and a copy given to the Secretary.
4. Only members in good standing will be allowed to speak on a motion.

Local Positions

Drug Policy

LWVCNM supports drug court programs; treatment for all persons with drug addiction; and syringe exchange programs in Bernalillo County. These programs should be prudently and appropriately funded.

LWVCNM supports pain management for all persons through:

Cooperation among consumers, health care professionals and regulatory agencies to promote pain relief and to decrease abuse, trafficking, and diversion of pain medications;

Education of consumers including: awareness that pain can be treated; the variety of therapies available and how to describe to health care professionals the levels and types of pain they are suffering;

Training of health care professionals and providers including: awareness that pain can be treated; how to identify and treat pain; and when to refer for specialized treatment; and

Research on more effective pain treatments and therapies and widespread dissemination of research results.

LWVCNM believes pain management is the process of providing care to alleviate or reduce acute and chronic pain, which can also cause secondary disease processes (e.g., high blood pressure). This care may include pain medications and a variety of therapies proven by research to be effective. (2002, Rev. 2003, 2007, 2008)

Education

Support of a requirement that functional competence in basic skills be demonstrated before a high school diploma is awarded.

Emphasis on basic skills that should include the fine arts (including music, art, and drama), STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and ongoing technological developments. Identification of children at risk should begin early in the educational process and continue through high school.

Remediation should be provided as early as possible.

An alternative path to a high school diploma should be available.

Support for community colleges that should offer certificates and associate degrees for a variety of careers. Such degrees could be terminal or transferable toward a four-year program.

Support for the protection of the First Amendment rights of public school students and library patrons.

Support for a selection policy for school and public libraries that allows for access to a wide variety of materials.

Support for a purchase and distribution system of instructional materials for public schools that is timely and cost effective.

Support for the selection of basic instructional materials for the public schools by a committee which consists of administrators, teachers, and parents and that represents a cross section of the ethnic, geographic and economic population of the community.

In addition, resource persons who have expertise in the subject under consideration will serve in an advisory capacity.

Support for a selection procedure that includes:

- a. A fair and thorough evaluation of materials;
- b. A method for public examination and input;
- c. A strong conflict of interest policy.

Support for a policy that allows for informal resolution of controversy and a systematic reconsideration procedure for textbook and library materials. (rev. 2009)

Health Care

LWVCNM supports comprehensive health care, mental health care, preventive and educational health programs, comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion, and home health care.

LWVCNM believes society has a responsibility to provide comprehensive health care for the indigent and supports mill levies as a means of funding such health care. (rev. 2009)

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Local Positions

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Housing

Local government has primary responsibility for making available, facilitating, and coordinating provision of affordable, decent, and safe housing using federal, state, county, or city funds. This may also be done by coordination with private builders, non-profit organizations, and/or foundations.

We support the following guidelines for government assisted housing:

- a. Assistance for private affordable housing projects under the following conditions:
 - 1. The surrounding neighborhood has been involved early in the planning for the project; and
 - 2. Regulatory variances which may be granted do not permit unsafe or unsightly conditions.
- b. Design review by a qualified panel.
- c. A variety of home ownership and rental opportunities in public or private affordable housing projects
- d. An adequate maintenance system in all affordable housing projects. This system should include education and training for residents in maintenance skills.
- e. Encouragement of the formation of tenant organizations.
- f. Long Range planning, accountability, and neighborhood involvement in expenditure of federal Community Development Block Grant funds for housing rehabilitation.
- g. Leadership in assistance for homeless programs which provide both shelter and services for targeted populations, particularly families and the mentally ill.
- h. Boarding houses as a way of meeting housing needs.
- i. Community-based residential care for the mentally ill. (rev. 2009)

Initiative and Referendum

The LWVCNM supports the Initiative & Referendum process. However, we have reached a

consensus on the need for revision of four specific sections of the Albuquerque City Charter. We support the appointment of a Charter Revision Committee to study the process for qualifying Initiative and Referenda, with a view to revising Article III, Section 3 of the Albuquerque City Charter that would:

- a. Increase the number of initiators needed to start the process;
- b. Increase the number of signatures required to compel an election;
- c. Refine the process of reviewing the petition title and summary; and
- d. Eliminate the requirement that the election must be held within 90 days after the date of filing the petition with appropriate signatures. (rev. 2009)

Local Government

Support for the development of budgets that provide for long-range planning and evaluation programs.

Support for municipal and county officials providing the media and citizens' groups with simplified budget information. This should occur prior to public hearings as a means of preparing citizens for the budget process.

Support for assessing the cost and effectiveness of programs supported by federal funds.

Support for local governments to share in the New Mexico personal income tax as the most effective and equitable source of revenue.

Support of combined form of government for Albuquerque and Bernalillo County.

Support for coordinating village, city, and county government with joint use of records.

Support for nonpartisan local government elections.

Support for:

- a. The present Mayor/Council form of government for Albuquerque;
- b. A significant increase in the number of signatures

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Local Positions

(Continued from page 5)

required on a petition before a person can be placed on the ballot as a candidate for mayor for Albuquerque. Preferably, the number of signatures should be based on either percentage of voters having voted in the last mayoral election or of Registered voters, or of population of the city. (rev. 2009)

Land Use

Land use decisions must be made with consideration for economic, environmental and social factors. We believe that it is possible to incorporate the principles of conservation of resources, to relate the use of land to its inherent characteristics and carrying capacities and still achieve an optimum balance between economic and social needs and environmental quality.

Support of development that protects natural resources and promotes the equal right of all to an environment beneficial to life.

Support of land use policies and techniques that promote orderly growth. These shall include:

- a. Urban infill, to include residential building in downtown and midcity areas;
- b. Acquisition and appropriate use of open space;

- c. Preservation of agricultural lands as such;
- d. Utilization of mixed use in new development and in redevelopment;
- e. Revitalization of blighted sections of the community;
- f. Composition of neighborhoods to include a diversity of types of housing and of socioeconomic groups.

Support for coordinated city/ county and regional planning and zoning.

Support for coordinated regional land use and transportation planning. (rev. 2009)

Transportation

Support for coordinated regional land use and transportation planning. This planning shall include:

- a. Consideration of the impact of traffic congestion;
- b. The provision of viable transportation choices.

Support for a regional public transit system with a policy-making board that includes citizens with voting powers. (rev. 2009)

Water

Support for coordinated regional water planning.

Bylaws Committee Report

The 2014 Bylaws Committee recommends the following change to the LWVCNM Bylaws:

ARTICLE VIII, Nomination and Election.

Section 3, Election. ~~The election shall be by ballot, provided that when there is but one nominee for each office, the Secretary shall be instructed to cast the ballot for every nominee.~~ A majority vote of those qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Robert's Rules of Order does not provide for a secretary casting a ballot for nominees. However, an organization's bylaws take precedence over *Roberts' Rules*. Because elections at LWVCNM consist of voice vote or acclamation, we recommend removal of this clause. It would not preclude future contested elections from being handled by secret ballot.

LWVCNM Bylaws Committee: Diane Goldfarb, Chair; Gayle Prinkey; Jan Strand; Meg Went

Annual Meeting Reports

Presidents' Report

The year has been extremely busy and very fruitful. Right after last year's meeting, our League took part in a panel discussion about opportunities in which organizations can assist newly elected women to office. This was during the initial annual seminar called "Ready to Run" which was conducted at UNM.

This year, we initiated the Membership and Leadership Development Program, which LWVUS developed to assist local leagues recruit new members. You may hear us refer to it as MLD. We are striving to be much more focused on our exposure to the general public and particularly pointed in asking them to join our organization at every opportunity. This is an area that every single one of us can do.

We had timekeeper training as part of Voter Services for anyone interested in working with our forums. There were numerous occasions in which we registered eligible voters -- sometimes at farmers' markets, neighborhood rallies, La Vida Llena, schools, and hospital picnics. We also conducted registration agent training for anyone, non-members included. As part of our Voter Services, we helped to usher in new American citizens at Naturalization ceremonies. These newly-sworn United States citizens were given a voter registration form and made aware they were now eligible to apply to vote in elections.

Central New Mexico is taking part in a new state study on Behavioral Health Care Services and enlisted committee members from the other leagues in the state. It is on-going and always accepting new members. You can contribute any time. It's a fantastic educational tool for us all.

We conducted three candidate forums this year, one for the City Council District 7 here in Albuquerque, one for the Village of Corrales, and one for the Democratic Party's gubernatorial race. This league assisted KNME TV in their Mayoral Forum by enlisting the help of our members to for-

mulate questions to be asked of the candidates. We also assisted KOAT TV in their Mayoral Forum with our excellent timekeeping for the event.

-- *Andrea Targhetta*

Technology Report

This year, a Contribution Page was added to the LWVCNM.ORG website, which allows people to contribute to either the Operations Fund or the Education Fund via Paypal. The secure Paypal interface allows for contributions via any credit card or Paypal account. The page went up, barely in time for Ed Fund contributions to support the *Voters' Guide* and collected about \$1,330 from members and the public.

Contributions to the Operations Fund are always rare, but a new Membership page ("Join Us!") was added so that new members and renewing members could pay their dues online (to the Operations Fund) via Paypal. Again, this feature was phased in late, but so far, 18 members have signed up using it. As an added experiment, the page was used to sell 4 tickets to the 2014 Theater Party.

The other major technology platform, the LWVCNM Topics mailing list, has continued its usefulness. There are currently 203 members on the list, and messages are posted to the list daily. Members are reminded that there are two additional lists they can join, which are maintained by the State League: LWVNM Topics and LWVNM Action. LWVNM Topics covers issues of statewide interest. You can join by sending an email to LWVNMTopics-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. LWVNM Action covers the Legislature and statewide lobbying activities: send an email to LWVNMAction-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to be added.

-- *Cheryl Haaker*

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LWVCNM Operating Fund Budget

	05/01/14 to 04/30/15	05/01/15 to 04/30/16
Income:		
Dues	10,710	11,880
Contributions:	3,000	3,000
LWVNM Use of Office	600	600
Fund Raiser	1,600	1,600
Interest Income	20	20
Consulting	1,000	1,000
Miscellaneous	535	535
Allocation from Ed Fund	7,212	5,876
Total Income	24,677	24,511
Expenses		
State and National Dues		
National Dues (75%)	4,150	4,752
State Dues	2,321	2,574
Total Dues	6,471	7,326
Operating:		
Equipment Maint.	0	0
Insurance	525	525
Postage	140	140
Bulk Mail Permit	200	200
Bulk mailings	300	300
Rent	5,700	5,700
Supplies	300	300
Printing/Copying	250	250
Telephone	1,080	1,080
Miscellaneous	0	0
& Total Operating	8,495	8,495
Administration:		
President	150	150
Board of Directors	200	200
Committee Expenses	100	100
& Total Administration	450	450
Administrative Coordinator	4,576	4,576
Fund Raising Expenses	1,000	1,000
Voter		
Printing	360	360
Voter mailing	292	292
* Total Voter	652	652
Conventions:		
LWVUS Convention Regis.	0	1,340
LWVUS Convention Exp.	2,000	0
LWVNM Convention Regis	0	500
LWVNM Council Regis	70	0
* Total Conventions	2,070	1,840
* Advocacy	100	100
* Technology	200	200

* Member Handbook Printing	550	550
Total Expenses	24,564	25,189
Credit/Withdrawal from Account	113	-678
Net Income (Expense)	0	0

LWVCNM Education Fund Budget

	05/01/14 to 04/30/15	05/01/15 to 04/30/16
Income:		
Contributions:	18,000	16,000
Grants	0	0
Interest Income	20	20
Fundraising Event	0	0
Total Income	18,020	16,020
Expenses:		
Fundraising Expenses		
Events	0	0
Solicitations	0	0
Miscellaneous	300	300
Publications:		
* Voter's Guide	10,000	3,000
* Who's Who	1,900	1,900
* Voter Service/Education		
* Forums/Meetings		
* Election Reform		
* General	150	150
* Special Projects	100	100
Allowable 25% PMP Natl	1,383	1,569
Allocation to Ops Fund	7,212	5,876
Total Expenses	21,045	12,895
Withdrawal/Credit from Account	-3,025	3,125
Net Income (Expense)	0	

 *Activities included in base for determining proper operating + administrative cost allocations

Basis for Allocation:				
Activity cost-member functions	2,920	19%	2,690	34%
Activity cost - Edu Functions1	2,150	81%	5,150	66%
Total	15,070		7,840	

&Cost to be Allocated:	8,945		8,945	
(Ops: Ops+admin)				
Calculate: Ed Fund's % O&A Expenses	7,212		5,876	

Nominating Committee Report

Editor's Note: The following is the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates for 2014-2016. The committee consisted of Sandra Brown (chair), Helen Wright and Pati Brummett.

3rd Vice President -- Olin Bray

Treasurer -- Cheryl Haaker

Judith Binder - Director/Unit Coordinator

Nominating Committee

Alice Brasfield -- Chair

Helen Wright

Marilyn Fifield

Bios of Board, Officer Nominees

Editor's Note: The following are bios on the nominees for officer and board positions.

First Vice President -- Olin Bray

Olin Bray has been a long-time League member in several states. He is a past co-president of LWVCNM and has been on both the local and state boards. He was chair of the state study on economic development. He does the book review column in the *Voter*, which evolved from his ebook *Political Incompetence: What's Wrong With Our System and How to Fix It*. He retired from Sandia National Laboratories, where he worked in information systems, technology planning and intelligence analysis. His career has included work in both the private sector and the public sector, including health care, national security and law enforcement. He has a BS in physics, an MA in political science and has done graduate work at what is now the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School. He also has an MBA in information systems.

Treasurer -- Cheryl Haaker

Cheryl Haaker has served as treasurer for LWVNM since 2009. She has managed the books for her family's S-corporation, AQ Safety, since 2003. In these roles, she has become familiar with on-line payment and reporting of payroll, franchise, and gross receipts taxes and various other reports that are

required by for-profit and non-profit businesses. Cheryl uses Quickbooks exclusively (although she really knows how to make a spreadsheet do tricks) and keeps up-to-date by upgrading her software regularly, buying books for the latest versions and taking a course every now and then.

Judith Binder -- Director/Unit Coordinator

Judith Binder has been a League member since 1968 and was shortly appointed editor of *Voters' Guide* for Eastern Montgomery County, Penn. Since arriving in New Mexico in 1979, she has served on boards at the local and state levels, including public relations, *La Palabra* editor and assisted with our LWVCNM *Voters' Guide*. She has conducted "Skills for Democracy" workshops for New Mexico Teachers Summer Institute (1998, 1999, 2000), and has been a guest lecturer at Central New Mexico Community College and Santa Fe Community College, as well as for numerous citizenship classes. She has moderated and kept time at voters' forums. For many years Judith was producer of the Community Access television program, "We The People," a bimonthly series of one-hour interview programs on public access television. It featured a live TV forum with the candidates for the Congressional Primary Election. She was the founder and advisor to the UNM Student LWV Unit from 1993 until 1998 when she retired from UNM as a technical editor.

Reports

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First Vice President Report

The portfolios under the First Vice President involve outreach and education of the community. The publication of our *Who's Who* and the *Voters' Guide* provide the League's primary contact with the community and are the services for which we are most identified. Our Voter Services activities also reach out to a broad spectrum of our service area, providing the electorate with voter registration, candidate forums, election information and speakers for groups. Voter education is also a key element of the First Vice President's portfolio.

-- Carol Tucker Trelease

Member Handbook

The 2014 LWVCNM Handbook was mailed in mid-January 2014. Thanks to Helen Wright, Terry Quinn, Andrea Targhetta and Peggy Howell for helping with the proofing. Peggy Howell spent many hours processing memberships and updating the Directory. Terry Quinn and Frank and Andrea Targhetta collaborated on the mailing. And as always, Kathy Altobelli's computer knowledge and eye for detail was really essential in getting the Handbook completed. Business Printing Service did the printing. Thanks to Leonard Baca at Business Printing for allowing us to use their big screen to correct typos at the last minute in order to save time. The printing cost was \$538.39 and thanks to our loyal Handbook sponsors, their contributions of \$400.00 reduced the price to \$138.39.

-- Laura Stokes

Community Education

Jan Bray gave talks on the alcohol study to three civic groups as a representative of the League. She brought copies of *Who's Who* to each group. She is actively looking for other venues.

-- Jan Bray

Voter Services

The League provided moderator and timekeeper services for several candidate forums over the past year.

On Aug. 29 the Coalition of Neighborhood Associations, District 7 sponsored a candidate forum for the office of city council in District 7. It was held at the Sheraton Uptown. Steve Wentworth was moderator, and Cheryl Haaker was timekeeper. KOAT-TV, Channel 7 sponsored a mayoral forum on Sept. 22 in cooperation with the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico. Cheryl Haaker provided the timekeeping.

There was also a mayoral forum sponsored by KNME in conjunction with the League. It aired on Sept. 30. Gene Grant of KNME was moderator, and Gayle Prinkey was timekeeper.

The Village of Corrales sponsored a candidate forum on Feb. 6 in anticipation of the Corrales election of March 4. The offices for the forum were city councilors in Districts 1, 3 and 4 and mayor. Diane Goldfarb moderated the forum, and Gayle Prinkey did timekeeping. The forum was very well attended and was a big success.

The Bernalillo County Democratic Party sponsored a gubernatorial candidate forum for the candidates running for Democratic Party ticket for governor. The forum took place at Carpenter's Hall on Wednesday March 5. Steve Wentworth was moderator and Gayle Prinkey was timekeeper. The hall was packed and new questions for the five candidates kept coming in throughout the forum.

Megan Brown of League VOTE 411 posted information for all the candidate forums.

On Saturday, Aug. 24 Anne Arrasmith and Veronica Cordova from the County Clerk's Office provided the League with voter registration training. The total number of League voter registrars is now 20. Voter registrars from the League registered voters at a number of events throughout the year. Among them were the South West Alliance and Neighborhood annual event, the Equal Rights Amendment Celebration in Tiquex Park, a Wherry Elementary School event, a UNM Hospitals employee picnic and Senator Candelaria's New Mexico's 26th District First Annual Job Fair. On Aug. 1 Judith Binder did voter registration at Atrisco Heritage Academy, registering high school seniors.

Reports

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La Vida Llena and del Sol retirement communities are receiving voter registration services on an “as needed” basis.

League members attended six Naturalization Ceremonies this past year, handing out voter registration forms to new U.S. citizens and stressing the importance of voting. Several new citizens said that being able to vote was one of the main reasons they became citizens.

I much appreciate all those who have assisted with Voter Services. Thank you. -- Pam Harris

Second Vice President Report -- Membership

We began 2013 with about 210 members. The directory included a few members who did not renew their membership. We started 2014 with 200 members, gaining about 20 new members through the year. However, about 30 did not renew their membership. Since January we have gained three new and two returning members. Two of our long-time members, Ida Humphrey and Dorothy (Tooker) Walton received their life membership certificates.

The Membership Committee -- Meg Wente, Karen Driscoll, Margaret Magee, Judy Orrell, Diane Goldfarb, Katarina Ottosova, Marilyn Fifield and Andrea Targetta -- have had a mission to increase the membership. Efforts include creating a new application, a reception for the new Albuquerque City Council, Mayor and Bernalillo County Commissioners and exploring the possibility of creating a Westside Unit which would meet 5-6:30 p.m., convenient for working members. The New Member Social and Orientation on March 20 provided the opportunity to try a very accessible venue in Cottonwood Mall and a time frame compatible with the schedules of working members. Members and potential members who live on the west side were invited, as well as members who have joined in the past year. Several new members were expected to join at this event. If there are a sufficient number who want to participate in a regular monthly unit, we will recommend to the board that an evening unit be tried at Zio's Italian Kitchen.

The Northeast Heights Unit has enjoyed

new energy with the addition of three new members and a boost in attendance. Several members have moved to the Heights and regularly attend that unit. Our other two units seem to be holding their own.

The National League initiative MLD, chaired by Marilyn Fifield, promotes welcoming, contacting and engaging potential members. Marilyn has agreed to provide training for the Membership Committee to enhance our recruitment and retention efforts. This being an election year, we plan to take advantage of candidate forums and other events where LWV is involved to recruit members. -- Peggy Howell

Third Vice President Report -- Program

This has been a year in which we explored many different interests. We've had programs on climate change, healthcare work development, immigration and the legislative budget process. We've also looked at prescription drug abuse and citizenship training. In April we will hear about mental health as Jan Bray and Shelly Shepherd catch us up on the mental health study.

I would like to thank Jan and Olin Bray, Mary Smith, Shelly Shepherd, Andrea Targhetta, Peggy Howell, Pam Harris, Carol Tucker Trelease and Dick Mason for their consistent and enthusiastic efforts to bring new information on many subjects to the league as they arranged for guest speakers.

The Mental Health Study is in progress with many enthusiastic participants, and the Alcohol Policy Study is nearing completion of the consensus process.

Participating in the studies and attending League unit meetings are easy ways to become involved with the work of the league. For league members, the old adage is true. The greater your participation, the greater the benefit you will reap.

-- Karen Wentworth

Treasurer's Report

The fiscal year for LWVCNM does not end until April 30 so a full Treasurer's Report will be presented at the May 3 Annual Meeting. Most of the major expenses and revenue have already happened so it is possible to give you an overview of our financial situation.

The LWVCNM Operating Fund will end the
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Reports

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fiscal year with a cash balance of over \$30,000. The LWVCNM Education Fund (our 503(c) 3 non-profit) will end the fiscal year with a balance of around \$1,000.

The LWVCNM Board will be recommending that we continue with the position of Administrative Coordinator and that is reflected in the budget that is presented elsewhere in this *Voter*.

-- Richard Mason

Public Relations

Brenda McKenna has served as the LWVCNM's public relations director since 2013. She is responsible for announcing and photographing the League's unit meetings and events to 60 plus New Mexico press and media outlets. She also partners with fellow members Chris Burroughs, Cheryl Haaker and Karen Wentworth to ensure the League's public relations is shared among the various media and social platforms available today.

-- Brenda McKenna

Unit Coordinator

As an educational resource for a broad audience, LWVCNM provides information and updates on current issues that affect our communities. We meet at several locations in sight of the Sandias to inform ourselves and others.

Many thanks to Leaders Jan Bray, Marilyn Fifield and Meg Wente for their guidance and encouragement of participation at our unit meetings, including the monthly luncheon. It was sad to lose our presence at Manzano del Sol as participation had dropped, mainly due to the aging of our membership. On the bright side, we are investigating the possibility of re-establishing a West Side

Unit. We invite all our members to attend. Please, invite young members -- male and female -- to carry the League into the future. Encourage your friends to tune in to an evolving society. Perhaps we should consider alternate meeting locations as several large corporations, banks, utilities, the labs have rooms where employees gather. At one time, we had a thriving UNM Unit. We've also met in members' homes and an occasional meeting at PNM.

-- Judith Binder

Membership and Leadership Development

Imagine If.....League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico was growing in membership and funding, had its own coach for support, ideas, and guidance, AND if our leaders had training and mentoring before leading? Imagine if

LWVCNM's voice was as strong and powerful as our reputation in all communities across the United States. The biggest challenge for the League is to come up with a way to do something about our membership decline? Individuals outside the organization do not have a clear understanding of the value in becoming a member of LWV because current members are not communicating this in a consistent way that resonates with potential members,

How can we improve and change our dynamics in our community/state? We can conduct regular and intentional outreach to potential League members. We can connect and become more visible in the Albuquerque area, which includes the West Side and Rio Rancho. We can be "present" in the community which is one of the keys to successful recruitment of new members. We are not an elections-time only organization. Join me in recruiting new members and making LWVCNM more visible in the community throughout the year.



LWVCNM President Andrea Targhetta, right, and Pam Harris talk to Randolph "Dolph" Barnhouse, attorney with the Albuquerque-based Johnson Barnhouse & Keegan law firm, following the March luncheon meeting. He spoke on the Freedom of Information Act as part of Sunshine Week celebration. (Photo by Brenda McKenna)

May Program: State of the New Mexico Economy and Why

Lee Reynis, director of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of New Mexico, will be the guest speaker at the May 3 Annual Meeting.

We hear a lot about the New Mexico economy, usually by people pushing a particular agenda. Lee Reynis will give us the actual data on what is really happening and some of the explanations for why it is happening. Is New Mexico's economic recovery slower than the rest of the country, and if so, why? Are we losing people and jobs? If so, what types of people, skills, and jobs and how is it affecting our economy? How critical are taxes to economic development and jobs and where does

New Mexico rank? These are critical questions and it's important to get the real data from an unbiased source not pushing specific policies.

Lee Reynis became director of the BBER in 1999. Prior to that she was the City Economist for Albuquerque and Chief Economist for the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration. She is involved in producing the quarterly economic forecast for New Mexico and for Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Las Cruces. Some of her research has included studies of the Santa Fe living wage, the management and future of federal investment in New Mexico and several studies of New Mexico health care. She has a PhD in economics from the University of Michigan.

-- *Olin Bray*

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