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# The Voter

League of Women Voters of  
Central New Mexico  
May 2014

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

## New Mexico Economy Topic of Annual Meeting Brunch

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 of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico.

Reynis will discuss New Mexico's economic status, taking a look at the state's recovery rate and comparing it to other states. Also, she will talk about

the types of people, skills and jobs the state needs.

Reynis became director of the BBER in 1999. Prior to that, she was the City of Albuquerque's economist 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 Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan.



*Lee Reynis*

Registration for the Annual Meeting will be from 9-9:30 a.m. at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul N.E. The business meeting will run from 9:30-11 a.m. and the brunch is at 11 a.m. Cost of the brunch is \$20 at the door.



Senator Gerry Ortiz y Pino, who represents District 12 in Bernalillo County, talks about the Human Resources Services Department's Medicaid funding cut of 15 behavioral services and treatment providers at the April 10 Luncheon Unit meeting of the LWVCNM.

(Photo by Brenda McKenna)

**Bring your April Voter  
to Annual Meeting**

### May Calendar

May 3	Annual Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
May 5	Voter deadline
May 17	LWVNM Council in Santa Fe

**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](http://www.lwvcnm.org).

## **Welcome New Members**

**Molly Birely** 896-0852

3702 Rose Circle SE

Rio Rancho 87124

[mbirely@swcp.com](mailto:mbirely@swcp.com)

**Nora Sanders Curran** 891-3820

3809 St Andrews Dr SE

Rio Rancho, NM 87124

[Curranora@gmail.com](mailto:Curranora@gmail.com)

**Jaclyn Deniston** 249-5131

823 Country Club 1-C

Rio Rancho 87124

[Jaclyn@unm.edu](mailto:Jaclyn@unm.edu)

**Karen Dhanens** (309) 721-8855

4242 Foxwood Trl SE

Rio Rancho 87124

[kdhanens@yahoo.com](mailto:kdhanens@yahoo.com)

**Sandy Firth** 918-2828

2003 Southern Blvd SE #10277

Rio Rancho 87124

[sandfish@hotmail.com](mailto:sandfish@hotmail.com)

**Bernard Zak** 281-2664.

P.O. Box 1385

Cedar Crest, NM 87008

[BDZAK@comcast.net](mailto:BDZAK@comcast.net)

## **President's Corner**

*By Andrea Targhetta*

### **A 2014 THANK YOU**

I want to thank everyone who has given their time and energy to this League. Beside the Board of Directors, whom I have thanked at the Annual Meeting, gratitude is the word which best expresses my thoughts of this past year. This list is lengthy:

**Diane Goldfarb**, a past president, maintained our office and schedule while we did not have an office manager, and has remained someone we can rely on to assist in any way. She is the state's liaison for the Coalition for Choice.

**Terry Quinn** for bulk mailing of the *Voter* and fundraiser letters. There are so many rules and regulations of the U. S. Postal Service that she has kept us from overspending and out of trouble.

**Steve Wentworth** for an excellent job of moderating the District 7 candidate forum for City Council and the Democratic Party Gubernatorial Forum with flare and a relaxed quality.

**Margaret Krahenbuhl** has written donor appreciation letters for many years with professionalism and dedication. She also produced the *Who's Who* with very little help. This year **Michelle Meaders** offered to assist with gathering information. Margaret also headed a recent meeting with seven Iraqi government officials who came to us through the Albuquerque Council of International Visitors. **Diane Goldfarb, Don Goldfarb, Helen Wright** and **Meg Wente** were also a part of this delegation.

**Marilyn Morgan**, who led our luncheon meeting for many years with style and grace. Thanks to **Joyce Greer** for stepping in temporarily at the luncheon and to **Susan McKinstry** for accepting to be our new luncheon leader.

Thanks to **Ida Humphrey**, a new life member and leader of the La Vida Llena unit, provided a welcoming space. **Meg Wente**, who has been a member for many years, has taken over the NE Heights unit recently.

**Josephine Porter**, who moderates forums, speaks on voting issues and is a past president, is our resident *Voters' Guide* editor. She has spearheaded this publication for many years which has solidified our place in Albuquerque's election cycle. Our sincere thanks go out to all the many members who have given their time to proofing and distributing this publication.

**Laura Stokes** who puts our LWVCNM Member Handbook together with the excellent expertise of **Kathy Altobelli**. Both have done this project for quite a few

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## President's Corner

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years with an eye to detail.

**Pam Harris** has supervised our Voter Registration Agents and conducted many voter registration events herself. Many thanks to these tireless members who go out, set up a table and register voters --**Norma Argo, Judith Binder, Jan Bray, Lisa Franzen, Diane Goldfarb, Peggy Howell, Margaret Magee, Richard Mason, Michelle Meaders, Marilyn Morgan, Judy Orrell, Josephine Porter, Sharon Prewitt, Gayle and Bill Prinkey, Doug and Jane Swift, Dee Trester, Karen Wentworth, Ellen Whitman, and Bernard Zak.**

Thanks go to office staff – **Judith Binder, Alice Brasfield, Karen Gatlin, Diane Goldfarb, Peggy Howell, Leah Ingraham, Margaret Krahenbuhl, Susan McKinstry, Sharon Moynahan, Josephine Porter, Terry Quinn, Shelly Shepherd, Carol Steeves, Meg Wente, and Helen Wright.**

A special thank you to **Margaret McGee**, our administrative coordinator, who came on board, rolled up her sleeves and has organized not only the office, but your LWVCNM president as well. She's always on top of things and is a stickler for detail. She deserves

another thank you for taking over the important task of Donor Appreciation letters.

Our yearly program, which is set up during Calendar Planning (June 14 this summer--info to be in *Voter*), is provided by members who acquire the speakers for each unit meeting. This year we thank these people for their efforts: **Jan Bray, Olin Bray, Dick Mason, Pam Harris, Peggy Howell, Mary H. Smith, Karen Wentworth, Shelly Sheherd and Carol Tucker Trelease.**

Thanks to **Dean Smith** who has distributed hundreds of *Who's Whos*.

If I have overlooked anyone, please know that I truly thank you for all you have done. "It takes a village" to support this organization. Thank you all for your hard work and your ongoing support.

### Stan Orrell Passes

Stan Orrell, long-time League supporter, recently passed away. He was a non-member who believed in our mission through the years with his quiet donations of time and knowledge. He was a man who did not want recognition but gave us internet support believing the League needed to be a force in this digital world.

## Book Report: What Went Wrong?

*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*

*What Went Wrong: How the 1 % Hijacked the American Middle Class and What Other Countries Got Right*, George R. Tyler, 2013, Benbella Books, hardcover, 563 pages.

This book explains the causes of U.S. economic stagnation since the 1980s. Consider the growth in total employee compensation since 1985 – 220 percent in Denmark, 194 percent in Germany, 192 percent in the Netherlands, 154 percent in France, 64 percent in Australia and 0.47 percent in the US. Obviously, something is seriously wrong. I say "explains" because he focuses on data and analysis rather than ideology and myths.

The critical measure of economic performance is growth in productivity because without that real wages and standards of living cannot increase. During our "golden age," from 1946 to 1972 our average annual productiv-

ity grew at 2.8 percent, but since the 1980s and Reaganomics it dropped by a third to only 1.9 percent. Meanwhile in Western Europe, with what he calls family capitalism, productivity has been growing about 30 percent faster than in the U.S., which explains why their wages are now higher than ours. We have become the low wage competitor, with all of the problems that entails. Furthermore, he contends that simple GDP/capita is not a good economic measure if economic growth is not equitably distributed.

He makes a strong distinction between Reaganomics and what he calls "family capitalism," which is what is seen in most other developed democracies. The characteristics of Reaganomics are shareholder capitalism, a culture of selfishness, regulatory capture, weak corporate governance, and illusory prosperity. On the other hand, family capitalism is characterized by stakeholder capitalism, a culture of responsibility, wariness of corporate influence, codetermination, and genuine wealth creation. All of these characteristics are related. With shareholder capitalism the only

## Book Report

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concern is to maximize shareholder value, which makes the economy a zero sum game and generates a short term, selfish approach to corporate decision making. This has led to under investing for the future, lack of innovation, and not training the workforce. On the other hand, stakeholder capitalism explicitly recognizes that there are many players in the economy and that gains need to be balanced among them. The economic and political system explicitly punishes excessive greed and punishes attempts to circumvent reasonable regulation. For example, in the U.S. corporate misbehavior gets token punishment, low fines compared to revenues and profits, and little CEO and board accountability. However, in Australia a shopping center owner who falsified his books got a verdict that wiped out 18 months of earnings. Another Australian company that played games to avoid asbestos liability was heavily fined and its CEO and board members were banned from other boards for up to 15 years.

The two main sections of the book describe in detail the shift that has occurred in the U.S. economy and the results of these changes in many areas. The final section focuses on rebuilding the American dream and American family capitalism.

I strongly recommend this book, even if you only read the first and last sections and skip most of the detailed analysis. However, it is frustrating because a number of other well respected authors, including a Nobel prize winning economist, have made similar cases using

much of the same data, but very little is changing. Many of the things we need to do are obvious, not unknown. Unfortunately, a lot of myths need to be destroyed and the culture needs to be changed. If people don't realize there is a problem or recognize its seriousness and don't accept that many other countries are doing significantly better than the US economically, then little will change. than she seems to realize.

In summary, this book points out some serious problems that must be addressed, but it is less helpful in proposing solutions. However, in identifying these problems and their seriousness the book provides an incentive to try to find viable, i.e. real and politically acceptable

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## Recruit New League Members

Here are some little things everyone can do:

- \* Always have a membership brochure and be prepared to ASK someone to join us.
- \*Mingle at the next community event. Don't just sit with League members! Make a conscious effort to meet new people and share the value of being a member of the League, as well as find out what brings them to the event.
- \*Every member should invite two non-members to the next League event.
- \*Wear League buttons to all events so that Leaguers are easily identified and can be approached by those who are interested in LWV.
- \*Mentor a new member on how to become engaged in League of Women Voters.                   -- Marilyn Fifield

