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The Voter

League of Women Voters of
Central New Mexico
July 2014

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

Movie Making in New Mexico Topic of July 10 General Meeting

Tobi Elizabeth Ives, New Mexico State Film Office senior manager of production, will be the guest speaker at the July 10 general meeting of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico. The meeting will be held at 11:45 a.m. at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul N.E.



Tobi Ives

Ives will discuss what influences a production to consider New Mexico as a filming location, what support services and amenities are vital to a successful production and why the industry is considered an economic driver.

After graduating with honors from Indiana University in both cultural anthropology and studio

fine arts, Ives moved to Las Vegas, Nev. where she worked in commercial production. Eventually moving to Santa Fe as an art consultant, she also managed the office of the local film technicians' union.

Of the twelve years she has worked in the industry, nine have been with the New Mexico Film Office. Ives currently manages the Refundable Film Production Tax Credit Program. She has worked in several capacities for the Film Office, including as the crew training and policy development manager and as the state's film liaison.

Reservations for the lunch must be made by 10 a.m. July 7. The cost of lunch is \$17. To make a reservation call the LWVCNM office at 884-8441 or email lunch@lwvcnm.org. Indicate if you want an alternate menu option.

2014-2015 Calendar Planning Summary

Eighteen LWVCNM members attended the calendar planning meeting Saturday, June 14. The following is a summary of the topics for next year's programs, although specific speakers and topics are still being worked out.

* July – the role of the film industry and the New Mexico Film Office in economic development.

* August – Project Echo, a UNM telemedicine project for getting medical services and expertise to rural New Mexico.

* September – Natural resources with a consensus question for the luncheon and other natural resource topics for the other unit meetings.

* October – All of the unit topics will address law enforcement issues, including APD Forward, a coalition project in which LWVCNM is participating.

* November – The luncheon speaker will be an expert summarizing the election results and what they mean, with the other units addressing different topics such as mental health and senior health.

* December – There is only a luncheon meeting, probably with an elected official.

* January – Most of the units will focus on

(Continued on page 3)

July Calendar

July 5

Voter Deadline

July 10

General Meeting, 11:45 a.m.

No July Board Meeting

Summer office hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 10 a.m.- Noon.

Mental Health Committee meets fourth Thursday of every month

**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.

Marilyn Fifield's Conference Reflections

By Marilyn Fifield

The National Convention for League of Women Voters in Dallas, Texas, was a new experience for me. I was attending the convention as a delegate and MLD local coach. MLD stands for Membership Leadership Development. Our mission is to recruit new and younger members to the League. I was tracked into training sessions: Visibility, Fund Raising, Program. I also attended plenary meetings where I voted on national issues --: Living Wage, Climate Change, Human Trafficking and Money in Politics. The informational caucuses regarding these issues were impressive and national positions were created. The Parade of States was an amazing overview of League successes, both serious and humorous.

We were entertained by a Molly Ivins impersonator and treated to Texas hospitality in an Arts District Dine Around. The speakers were excellent and casual networking was encouraged. In every way the League of Women Voters National Convention was fabulous. Join me in recruiting new members to this excellent organization of activists.

President's Corner

By Andrea Targhetta

Karen Driscoll, Marilyn Fifield and I attended the 2014 LWVUS convention in Dallas. Please see Marilyn's article on the convention to the left. Here is a short synopsis of the proceedings.

We opened Friday afternoon with Membership, Leadership and Development (MLD) workshops followed by caucuses in the evening. There were several caucuses to choose from each morning before the business meeting (plenary) and each evening after the daily programs. The MLD training encompassed fundraising, decision making, election strategies, and social media. It's past time that we start using Twitter and Face Book.

During the plenary sessions, we adopted a position on human trafficking through the concurrence process from a study done by LWV of New Jersey. In short, "Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking." We also adopted a three-part program to study and review campaign finance, the process of amending the U.S. Constitution and a review of the redistricting process for the U.S. Congress.

The body of this convention approved a resolution that "the LWVUS support a price on carbon emissions that will increase in stages, as part of an overall program to improve energy efficiency and to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy, fast enough to avoid serious damage to the climate system."

The convention also adopted a resolution to strongly advocate for passage of legislation that restores voting rights in federal elections to citizens with felony convictions who have been released from prison or who have been paroled or placed on probation. (As an aside, in New Mexico, a felon may vote when that person has completed the terms of a suspended or deferred sentence imposed by a court and other provisions listed in New Mexico Statutes, Chapter 31, Section 31-13-1 — Felony conviction; restoration of citizenship.)

LWVUS is producing a new database system for our local leagues to use. This system, Constituent Relationship Management (CRM), should be available later this year and ready in time for the membership count at the end of January 2015.

The Per Member Payment (PMP) to LWVUS will be increased to \$32 in 2015-2016. We currently pay the national league \$31 out of each member's dues each year. There was a nomination from the floor for Deidre MacNab, president of LWV state of Florida, for LWVUS President. The incumbent, Elizabeth MacNamara, won the election and will remain our national president.

Calendar Planning Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

education, but one will be our usual legislative preview.

* February – The units will focus on various aspects of human trafficking and immigration since human trafficking is a national LWV topic this year.

* March – The luncheon meeting will focus on open government (Sunshine Week), and the other units will focus on privacy issues such as what the government is doing to protect and/or encroach on privacy and what companies (that collect and use far more information about us than the government) are doing.

* April – One unit will be a summary of the results of the legislative session, and the other units will focus on economic development, such as development incentives and transportation.

* May (the Annual Meeting) – we are considering a speaker who has a major study out on what really creates jobs.

* June – A speaker to provide an overview and general evaluation of our foreign policy, not focused on a single, specific issue. -- *Olin Bray*

Welcome New Members

Members who recently joined LWVCNM are:

Terri Scafid, 804 Agora Rd NE, Rio Rancho 87124, cscafidi@cableone.net, 512-248-2513

Address Changes:

Elbert Earnest, 7201 Prospect Pl NE, Apt 320, ABQ 87110

Olin & Jan Bray, 10801 Lagrima de Oro NE, Apt 867, ABQ 87111, 291-5867.

New Email Address

Merri Rudd -- abogadapress@gmail.com

Northwest Unit Holds First Meeting

The new Northwest Unit met at Chow's Asian Bistro at the Cottonwood Mall on Tuesday, June 17. Our timely program, titled "Political Mythbusting," was presented by Olin Bray for 15 members and guests. We are now better armed as voters with ways for examining information so that we can see through deceptions and myths.

The unit will not meet in July, but we do plan to meet in August. Watch for an announcement of that meeting. All are welcome. Our meeting night on the third Tuesday is a problem for some of our group, so we will survey those interested in attending to determine the best meeting day for the most folks. -- *Peggy Howell*

League Member Edna Fowler Dies

League member Edna Valverde Fowler passed away June 4, following a lengthy illness. She was part of a longtime New Mexico family dating back to the 17th century. Fowler joined the League in the mid-1990s and quickly became a voice for increasing and appreciating diversity within the League. She became chair of the Making Democracy Work Committee and sought to increase the League's visibility within the Hispanic community. One of her primary contributions was to institute the first Spanish translation of the voter information that appears in *Voters' Guides*.

Because of her extensive work in organized labor in Central and South America, her talents were very useful in planning the itinerary when the CNM League hosted a visitor from Nicaragua as a

part of the LWVUS international program. She was active with the Albuquerque Council of International Visitors in programming numerous visitors on such programs as Women from the Mideast, indigenous groups from South America and media from various countries. Most of the programs she planned for the visitors were related to human rights and democracy.

Fowler also shared with the League her sharp political mind and understanding of New Mexico politics. She had very long and deep ties with elected officials in New Mexico. Former House Speaker Raymond Sanchez delivered the eulogy at her funeral. And former LWVUS President Mary Wilson read portions of her memoirs which will be published in the near future.

Book Review: If Mayors Ruled the World

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*

If Mayors Ruled the World: Dysfunctional Nations, Rising Cities by Benjamin R. Barber, 2013, Yale University Press, Hardcover, 416 pages.

Barber has an interesting and thought provoking hypothesis. Mayors can (and eventually may) rule the world more effectively than national leaders. While his analysis is logical and makes some sense, he does not have much hard data and analysis to support it. However, he has convinced some important experts such as Michael Bloomberg (former mayor of New York City), John Hickenlooper (governor of Colorado and former mayor of Denver) and Richard Florida (urban and economic development scholar).

We started with villages and towns (city states) that were centers of trade and activity including government. Governance was consolidated into nations for efficiency and economies of scale, but cities still played important roles in trade and production, especially non-agricultural production. The essential points for nations were independence and sovereignty. Barber contends that with global issues such as climate change, environment, and even some aspects of security we have outgrown the role of nations because their pursuit and defense of their independence and sovereignty keeps them from making the sorts of compromises and collaborative arrangements that are needed to solve these serious global problems.

Barber contends that networks and collaborations of cities are more likely to address and solve these problems. In fact, he has several pages of lists of such cross national multi-city networks -- as well as their web sites if you want more details. Several examples include:

* C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group – 58 global cities – www.c40cities.org

* Energy Cities/Energie-Cites – 1,000 towns and cities in 30 countries – www.energy-cities.eu

* ICLEI (International Council for Local

Environmental Initiatives) -- 1,200 municipalities and associations from 84 countries – www.iclei.org

* World Mayors Council on Climate Change -- 113 member cities in 32 countries -- www.worldmayorscouncil.org

He contends that mayors, even of large mega-cities, are closer to and more responsive to their constituents, more pragmatic problem solvers and less ideological than their national leaders. In most cases they don't see the mayor's job as a short-term step to higher, national office. In fact, many of their characteristics and actions make them unlikely to become national leaders. It is more an issue of electability because their pragmatic policies and actions clash with the ideology of many national voter groups rather than their ability to govern.

Consider two examples. While nations are still debating and stalling on climate change, networks of cities are already agreeing and taking actions. Countries are stalling in part because setting targets infringes on their independence and international monitoring agreements are seen as a threat to their sovereignty. Mayors care far less about those issues and just want to solve the problems. Another area involves security, a key responsibility of the nation. When the mayor of New York City (or other cities) can't get terrorism information from Washington, he sent his own terrorism experts as liaisons to other cities such as London, Madrid, and Tel Aviv. Mayors understand the problems and threats other mayors and cities faced and were willing to share information, lessons learned and best practices.

Barber believes that many global problems can be better addressed (and solved) by a "Parliament of Mayors" than by networks or collaborations of nations and national leaders. However, so far much of what mayors have done has been under the radar of their national leaders. A key question is will the national leaders (in all countries, not just the U.S.) allow mayors to continue to operate as freely in the international arena or will they use the issues of independence and sovereignty to try to limit such actions? If they do try to interfere, how will the mayors respond?

-- Olin Bray

LWVCNM Joins Coalition

In response to a very negative report prepared by the Department of Justice about the Albuquerque Police Department and its excessive use of violence, a group of community leaders and a broad spectrum of New Mexico-based organizations launched the ABQ Forward campaign. It is a multi-year effort to advocate for reforms of the Albuquerque Police Department (APD). The “APD Forward” campaign aims to build a better Albuquerque by holding the city's police force accountable, guiding and monitoring the implementation of the Department of Justice’s reforms and helping to restore community trust in APD.

Our League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico is participating in the coalition along with Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless, American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico, Disability

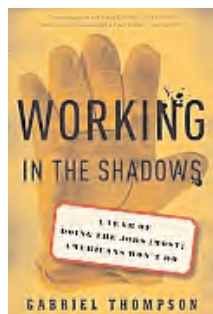
Rights New Mexico, Equality New Mexico, La Mesa Presbyterian Church, the National Association of Social Workers--New Mexico Chapter, Native American Voters Alliance, New Mexico Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, Strong Families, Fabrizio Bertolotti, former Police Oversight Task Force Member, and the Rev. Susan Allison-Hatch, Missionary to the Homeless and the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande.

The coalition plans to meet regularly to monitor the progress being made by APD in complying with a consent decree, which will be negotiated between the DOJ and APD. Join us as we launch APD Forward. (See APD Forward website at www.apdforward.org/join.) This is an effort to hold the APD accountable and reform their use of force practices and policies.

-- Carol Tucker Trelease

Hidden Danger at Work: The AIHA 2014 Upton Sinclair Lecture

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) exists to promote worker safety and health. One of its committees, Social Concerns, gives an annual Upton Sinclair Award for exemplary investigative reporting on dangerous working conditions. I was fortunate to attend this year’s winning talk by Gabriel Thompson at the 2014 AIHce (American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition) in San Antonio last month.



Thompson went undercover, working in the Arizona lettuce fields as a lettuce cutter for Dole, in a Pilgrim’s Pride chicken processing plant in Alabama and a number of other rarely-seen jobs, as he describes in his 2010 book, *Working in the Shadows*. These are jobs, he found, that make people old fast. Very few Americans are even capable of doing the backbreaking, high-paced work, which demands manual dexterity and surprising levels of skill. These are repetitive jobs which quickly produce overuse injuries -- and maiming accidents. They’re done largely by immigrants, legal and otherwise, and Americans at the bottom of the economic rungs -- people with little political power or visibility.

Based on his experiences in getting published, Thompson offered these guidelines for reporters and activists:

- * The rare press release is not enough -- you need to contact editors, other journalists and the news media frequently and on a regular basis.

- * Write so that a “mass media” audience can understand you, not as if you’re speaking to specialists or fellow activists.

- * Tell your story through people -- you need to have the data and statistics to back up your articles, but to get your readers’ attention, put a human face on your stories.

- * Connect the work and workplaces with your audience as consumers (for example, as lettuce eaters).

- * Understand what editors want to see -- which, tragically, tends to the quirky and amusing.

As an example of what is effective,, Thompson told of his article on repetitive motion injuries in the poultry processing plant which centered on a young worker who couldn’t hold her new baby. She had carpal tunnel syndrome, which causes sudden spasms of weakness in the hands and arms, and was thus afraid she might drop her baby. His article went on to give detail and statistics on the poultry industry, which people went on to read because they had been drawn in by the human story.

-- Cheryl Haaker

Voter Services Report

There will be a forum on Saturday, June 28 from 1-4 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 3701 Carlisle Blvd. NE. The subject is "Privatization of Public Education; and Charter Schools - Challenges, Opportunities, and Questions." It is sponsored by the Progressive Democrats of America Central NM Chapter. Dick Mason is moderator, Judith Binder is timekeeper and Laura Stokes is the contact person.

LWVNM is co-sponsoring with Common Cause a candidate forum for secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, and attorney general on Sept. 23 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Albuquerque. Diane Goldfarb will be moderating. Dick Mason is the contact person. A location has not been decided on yet. LWVNM and Common Cause are also sponsoring two other candidate forums in the state for these same offices. One is in Las Cruces on Sept. 16, and the other is in Santa Fe on Sept. 9.

A Naturalization Ceremony was held on June 20 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Albuquerque Convention Center, East Wing. There were 166 people who became new citizens. *-- Pam Harris*



League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico listen to a speaker at the LWVUS convention in Dallas. They are, from the left, Lee Locke, Barbara Calef (LWV Los Alamos), Karen Driscoll and Marilyn Fifield.



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