

League of Women Voters
of Central New Mexico
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League of Women Voters of
Central New Mexico
June 2015

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Foreign Policy: How to Evaluate It and How Are We Doing?

Emile Nakhleh, expert in middle eastern politics and political Islam, will be the guest speaker at the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico luncheon meeting on June 11 at 11:45 a.m., at the MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul N.E.

Although we rarely look at them, the League does have international relations positions on the UN, international trade, relations with developing countries and military policy and defense spending. Our June speaker, Nakhleh, will help us think about how to evaluate foreign policy. It is not nearly as simple and easy as the pundits would have us believe. He will also review how we are doing in several key foreign policy areas.



Emile Nakhleh

(Note: Foreign policy is also the topic of this month's book review on Kissinger's new book *World Order*.)

Foreign policy evaluation requires a comprehensive, long-term perspective, rather than a short-term, single-country, region or issue perspective. As a superpower, the U.S. has worldwide interests and maintains economic, political, cultural, educational and/or security relations with most countries. Foreign policy has at least three key objectives: (1) manage American relations with other countries; (2) explain and defend American interests in a specific country or region. and (3) interpret American values and our political system to other countries. Nakhleh's talk will address a series of questions including: What is the U.S. role in the world? Should the U.S. national inter-

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LWVNM President Meredith Machen (right) gives outgoing LWVCNM President Andrea Targhetta a big hug at a reception prior to the 2015 LWVNM convention. She thanked Targhetta and the entire convention committee "for the excellent job you did preparing for and hosting LWVNM convention 2015. It ran so smoothly because of your thoughtfulness in handling the hundreds of details behind the scene and for your gracious hospitality and responsiveness."

June Calendar

June 5	Voter dead line
June 6	New Board Training
June 11	Luncheon Meeting
June 13	Calendar Planning

**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

Education Group

Judith Binder

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.

Looking for Volunteer Opportunities

A woman called me last week. She was looking for volunteer opportunities in the community. Of course I was delighted to explain all of the volunteer possibilities if she became a member of League of Women Voters Central New Mexico and National League.

I began with voter registration, advocacy in the Legislature, candidate forums, Who's Who in New Mexico, the *Voters' Guide*, as well as our speakers and unit meetings. Altogether, I spoke to her for about 30 minutes concerning all that the League does to strengthen our democracy and inform voters. Then I asked her to JOIN US! She gave me her address and email because I want to keep in touch with her! The next day an application for the League was in the mail. She called me because she spoke with an office volunteer who gave her my name and number. I was delighted to have the opportunity to speak with her about the League.

ASK people to JOIN US!

WELCOME newcomers!

Marilyn Fifield, MLD Chairman

Topics

Editor's Note: Since LWVCNM has no elected president, a Leadership Team has been formed consisting of the vice presidents. Each month the team will assign a different person to write a column regarding League activities called Topics. The June column is written by Diane Goldfarb on the state convention.

Representatives from all four Leagues in the state -- Central New Mexico, Santa Fe County, Greater Las Cruces and Los Alamos -- came together May 15-17 for the biennial LWVNM Convention. The event began with a lovely reception at the home of Carol Tucker Trelease on Friday evening, followed by plenary sessions on Saturday and Sunday at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albuquerque. Saturday luncheon attendees heard a welcome address by City Councilor Dan Lewis, and Barbara Vigil, Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court, spoke on understanding the judiciary. Linda Wassenich of Dallas, New Mexico's liaison with LWVUS, spoke to delegates and observers at the first plenary session. That evening political psychologist and women's issues expert, Dr. Martha Burk, gave the banquet address. Dr. Burk focused on the potential power of women in elections and discussed her latest book, *Your Voice, Your Vote*.

As usual the business of the first day of state conventions entailed hearing reports, and the second day was dedicated to voting and adopting the budget, program, bylaws and the slate of officers and directors. The Convention voted to adopt a new study on charter schools. The slate of officers was reelected-- Meredith Machen of SFC, President; Dick Mason of CNM, Vice President; Carol Tucker Trelease of CNM, Secretary; and Cheryl Haaker of CNM, Treasurer.

CNM Immediate Past President Andrea Targhetta and her committee did an excellent job in making arrangements for this Convention and the silent auction that accompanied it. In 2016 there will be no convention, but a smaller LWVNM Council will convene in a site yet to be determined.



The new state board are back row from left to right: Miriam Ries, SFC, La Palabra editor; Dick Mason, CNM, vice president; Meredith Machen, SFC, president; Gwen Hanson, GLC; and Akkana Peck, LA, webmaster.. Front row from left to right: are Laura Stokes, CNM; Carol Tucker Trelease, CNM, secretary; Diane Goldfarb, CNM; Barbara Calef, LA; Judy Williams, SFC; and Tarin Nix, LA

Book Review -- *World Order* by Henry Kissinger

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.

World Order by Henry Kissinger, 2014, New York: Penguin Press, hardcover, 420 pages.

Kissinger suggests that a major problem today is to develop a new world order comparable to the Treaty of Westphalia and the Congress of Vienna that provided Europe with stability and relative peace for several centuries. He defines world order as a country's, region's, or culture's view of how the world works and their place in it. He identifies five distinct world orders -- Europe, the Islamic Middle East, India, China, and the U.S. As long as most of a region's interactions were internal, things were stable and understandable because they saw only one world order. However, today there are extensive interactions among the regions and their perceptions of world order clash resulting in unpredictability, instability, and potential conflict.

After centuries of religious and political conflict among relatively equal nations, a European world order emerged based on national sovereignty, non-interference with a country's domestic affairs and a balance of power model that maintained the system. The Islamic model combined politics and theology in a single caliphate mandated to conquer and rule the world with no place for other states. Following WW I, the West carved up the Middle East into a number of states in the European model. This led to much instability in the region. ISIS and many Islamic militants still want to return to their caliphate world model.

India had a world model involving many competing states operating in cycles, and it routinely outlasted, changed and absorbed invading cultures, until the British. Whereas the Europeans saw the balance of power as a way to ensure and maintain an equilibrium, the India world model saw equilibrium as a temporary state between conflict which was the long term norm of relations between states. China, after it was unified, saw itself as the center of the universe with no comparable states. As the only real civilization, it wanted little from the rest of the world except respect and token tribute. It had little interest in conquering or ruling other regions.

The US world model, like the European one,

involved many relatively equal states where sovereignty and non-interference were key principles. However, it tended to be more isolationist and rejected the idea of a balance of power since it had oceans for protection and did not need alliances. Also, it was more idealistic and talked in terms of spreading democracy and its form of government. Except for the Spanish American War in 1898, most of its wars were justified by ideology, not for conquest and colonies. Wilson's and FDR's real justification for getting into the wars and their post-war plans were about democracy and self-determination, not colonies and empire. Kissinger contends that these different world models are incompatible and something needs to be developed to replace them in a world where there are many major interactions among the various regions. He suggests that WW I was the result of a breakdown in the traditional balance of power system where nations maintained the flexibility of moving in and out of

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Foreign Policy

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ests be broadly or narrowly defined? Has the U.S. developed post-cold war grand strategy? What are the central challenges now confronting the U.S.? How might the US.. take advantage of opportunities to shape the world? What parts of the world matter most and why?

Nakhleh is an expert in middle eastern politics and political Islam. He was with the Central Intelligence Agency from 1993 to 2006 where he was Chief of the Regional Analysis Unit in the Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis and subsequently the director of the Political Islam Strategic Analysis Program. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a Research Professor at UNM. He has a Ph.D. from American University. His books include *A Necessary Engagement: Reinventing America's Relations with the Muslim World* (2009), *Bahrain: Political Development in a Modernizing Society* (1976 and 2011), and *The Gulf Cooperation Council: Policies, Problems, and Prospects* (1986).

Reservations for the lunch must be made by 10 a.m. on June 8. The cost of lunch is \$15. To make a reservation, please call the LWVCNM office at 884-8441 or email lunch@lwvcnm.org. -- Olin Bray

LWVCNM June 13th Calendar Planning

LWVCNM Annual Calendar Planning meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, June 13 in the Creative Arts Room of the Nueva Vista Building, La Vida Llena (located at the corner of Juan Tabo/Lagrima del Oro -- one block north of Montgomery). Coffee and pastries will be available at 9:30 am.

Calendar planning usually encompasses both initiatives from LWVUS and LWVNM, requiring consideration and deliberation as well as potential study issues of interest to LWVCNM membership. A central theme for the four LWVCNM unit meetings each month is desired and suggestions for topics with associated speakers are welcome and encouraged.

LWVCNM anticipates deliberation on Money in Politics and the proposed U.S. Constitutional Amendment from LWVUS which

may require several months for adequate LWVCNM consideration. Additional program areas for review may also result from the May 2015 LWVNM convention.

LWVCNM has no studies currently underway. Topics relating to existing LWV positions which have not been recently revised could include:

- * State and Local government personnel – merit selection and rating criteria to enhance accountability

- * Education – adequacy of measures for progress vs. success rates

- * Clean Energy – incentives vs. prevalence in both public and private applications

Member participation is key to identification of LWV issues of interest which could impact future positions. Please plan to attend LWVCNM Calendar Planning to provide your suggestions.

-- Karen Douglas

World Order by Henry Kissinger

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alliances as the situation required, as summarized by the idea that “Britain has no permanent friends, only permanent interests.” In the pre-WW I years, the alliances became more permanent and lost the flexibility required for the balance of power model to work. Its collapse then led to WW I.

While Kissinger doesn't really propose a solution, he does raise many questions and issues that need to be considered. Some of these issues relate to non-state actors such as terrorist groups or international corporations in a global economy. Other challenges are created by new information technologies. In the past events happened, but policy makers had time to consider a response. Now the public sees the events as they happen and expects an immediate response from policy makers. A final example is the growing poten-

tial of cyberwar. In diplomacy there are norms and procedures, and when they fail there may be war, which has its own norms and procedures. However, such norms and procedures do not yet exist for cyberwar. While war has been a state tool when diplomacy fails, cyberwar can be initiated by state or non-state actors, and it can be done covertly so you don't even know who is attacking you.

A world order provides a set of norms and procedures for conducting foreign policy in a way that reduces uncertainty and instability. It is important enough that countries cooperatively work to maintain the system in spite of their short or long term disagreements. Kissinger does not provide, or even try to describe, a solution -- i.e. a new world order. However, the book is important because he raises many issues that policy makers need to consider if a new, stable world order is to emerge.

The League Was Founded to Finish the Fight That Is Never Finished

Editor's Note: The following is an excerpt from a speech Linda Wassenich, LWVUS Liaison, gave at the LWVNM conference.

For 95 years the League has been making democracy work through our nonpartisan voter service and by mobilizing our members and supporters on issues that matter to our communities, especially those issues that go to the heart of our democracy: keeping our elections free, fair and accessible to every eligible voter. Whatever other issues we have taken up, the League has always stood up for voters against special interest money, partisan gerrymandering and attempts to limit access to the ballot. That is part of our DNA.

When Carrie Chapman Catt (president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association 100 years ago) called for a League of Women Voters to “finish the fight,” she did not just mean the fight to get women the vote. She meant the fight to insure that American democracy was truly a government of the people, by the people and for the people. She saw in 23 million new women voters a political force motivated to serve the greater good but needing a sound political education in order to fulfill that promise. She needed a way to mobilize and organize women voters for the democracy of the greater good. The League of Women Voters is that organization.

As the 100th anniversary of suffrage and of the League approaches, LWVUS is organizing around the theme “Celebrating Our Past, Embracing the Future.” In many ways, celebrating the past is the easy part. From now until 2020, history is replete with anniversaries of victories and defeats for the cause of the woman voter. We all know that ultimately the movement was successful, and we know that we are the living legacy of that success.

But 100 years ago, that success did not seem so inevitable. Carrie Catt served as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association on two separate occasions. The second time she assumed the leadership was in 1915. One hundred years ago, she evaluated both the external political environment and the internal political environment of the movement, and she saw crisis and opportunity on both fronts.

But if she perceived a crisis, she also saw opportunity. Women in 1915 were more educated than ever before, they were entering occupations previously barred to them, especially within communities of faith where they had convinced major denominations to support the vote. Women controlled much more property and were a greater presence in the workforce. By 1915, 12 states had given women voting rights.

Carrie Catt saw more than this. She saw a vast



Linda Wassenich, LWVUS Liaison (left) and LWVNCNM member Jeanne Logsdon, also a member of the LWVUS study committee on Money in Politics, talk at the LWVNM convention recently held in Albuquerque. *(Photo by Brenda McKenna)*

reserve of suffrage supporters who were not and perhaps never would be members of the National (American Woman Suffrage Association.).

In 2015 we are discovering untapped reserves. Like those reserves 100 years ago, our reserves already agree with us on the important issues threatening our democracy, and if we can mobilize these reserves, like the National 100 years ago, we can move those immovable elected bodies. A little more than 100 years ago, Carrie Catt declared, “The woman’s hour has struck. The time to push for final victory had come.” How can it be done, she asked. She said, “By a simple change of mental attitude.”

What was true then is true now. The League was founded to finish the fight that is never finished, and so final victory is always just ahead. But the current battle can be won with a simple change in mental attitude.

2015 LWVUS Facts

Nationally League has:

- * 50,000 members
- * 61,600 donors, of whom only about 10,000 are also members
- * 200,000+ online engagers (ask for emails and respond to Action Alerts)
- * 63,000 Facebook fans and Twitter followers

New City Council Maps Heralded at Conference; LWV Involved in Process

Former president of the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County Jody Larson made a big announcement at the LWVNM conference in Albuquerque on May 16.

She heralded the success of the City of Santa Fe's Independent Redistricting Commission in drawing new maps.

The City of Santa Fe Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC) completed the redistricting of the city council districts on May 14. This was the first independent redistricting to take place anywhere in New Mexico, and it was brought about through a charter amendment drafted by the LWVSFC and approved by the voters last year.

This unusual mid-decade redistricting was caused by a recent annexation in Santa Fe, one that brought over 13,000 new residents to the city but left the four council districts very unbalanced in terms of population. The redistricting will bring the districts into population balance and ensure equal representation for people in all areas of the city.

The Santa Fe League's role in this independent commission ranged from getting the initiative on the municipal ballot, to urging its passage, to examining the statistics needed to redraw map options with new



Jody Larson, former LWVSFC president, (left) announces the success of the City of Santa Fe's Independent Redistricting Commission in drawing new maps at the LWVNM conference. With Larson is LWVNM President Meredith Machen.

boundaries, to holding public meetings, to getting the best choices adopted by city council.

Karen Heldmeyer was the demographer and moderator. Brian Sanderoff, Research and Polling, said this it was an exemplary civic process and a model for other governments to follow.

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