



League of Women Voters  
of Central New Mexico  
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# The Voter

League of Women Voters of  
Central New Mexico  
September, 2015

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

## September LWVCNM Meetings

### Luncheon Unit, Sept. 10, 11:45 a.m., MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul Boulevard NE

Bob Perls, president of New Mexico Open Primaries (a 501c3 organization), will address the LWVCNM Luncheon Unit Thursday, Sept. 10. Perls will talk about the impacts of closed primaries in New Mexico with comparison to the resultant cooperation and citizen involvement realized by states which now hold open primaries.

Current LWVNM positions on election procedures include:

- \* Protection of the right of every citizen to vote, and
- \* An all-inclusive system of voting that allows all registered voters to participate in the primary election.

Taxpayer dollars fund the primary election process, however, 42 percent of American voters consider themselves independent. Many independent vot-

ers register in a major party to participate in primary elections, with 22 percent of eligible New Mexico voters abstaining from the primary process altogether. Existing party establishment selects candidates supporting the party platform, resulting in more polarized candidates which further alienates moderate voters. Incumbents are reelected 97 per cent of the time. Pending New Mexico court action challenging the primary election process with basis in New Mexico anti-donation clause was initiated 2014 in New Mexico District Court with evaluation by New Mexico Court of Appeals March 2015. Further consideration by the New Mexico Legislature 2016 could result in amending the New Mexico constitution.

Perls attended APS, earned a BA in Government at Pomona College, and a MS in Healthcare Management at the University of Maryland with honors. He started Monitech, Inc., a medical technology company, with subsequent management for 25 years. He was elected to two terms in the New Mexico House of Representatives, representing parts of Sandoval County and served as consultant to the New Mexico governor. He also ran unsuccessfully for Congress and th, and served in Germany, Canada, Pakistan and Gambia. He returned to New Mexico in the spring of 2015 and currently lives in

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### Announcements

**Friday, Oct. 9, 11:30 a.m.** – US Senator Martin Heinrich to address a joint meeting of Albuquerque Press Women and LWVCNM at MCM Elegante (This will replace the Oct. 10 LWVCNM Luncheon Unit)

**Tuesday, Nov. 10, 6 .p.m** – Money in Politics Consensus meeting. LWVUS study material and replay of MIP Webinar available on LWVUS website;. Consensus questions will be available Oct.1. LWVCNM Members interested in participating in the MIP study committee or MIP consensus roles should contact Peggy Howell or Karen Douglas

### September Calendar

Sept. 5	Voter dead.line
Sept. 8	Evening Unit, 5:;30 p.m.
Sept. 9, Friday	Luncheon Meeting, 11:45 a.m.
Sept. 28	NE Heights, 10 a.m.
Oct. 11	Joint meeting with Albuquerque Press Women.

**League of Women Voters of  
Central New Mexico  
Board Meeting**

**1st Thursday of each month  
Offices of Sutin, Thayer & Browne,  
6565 Americas Parkway NE**

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

### **Amy Biehl Charter High School**

Amy Biehl Charter High School is now in its 16th year of preparing students for college, many of whom will be the first in their family to attend.

Students are encouraged to go on field trips, including visits to the Holocaust Museum in downtown Albuquerque, and as well as presenting US Supreme Court cases, often dealing with education such as *Brown v. Board of Education* and the John Brown trials.

We are invited to visit Amy Biehl to view student participation in the Trials in mid- September and stay around for a tour.

Sign up for your best time with:

Judith Binder: 265-4336 or [bjudy@unm.edu](mailto:bjudy@unm.edu).

Thursday, Sept. 17, 10:15-11:55 a.m.  
or 12:40-1:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 18, 8:30-10:10 a.m. or  
10:15-11:55 a.m.

Can you car pool? -- *Judith Binder*

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### **LWVCNM to Moderate Candidate Forum**

LWVCNM will moderate a candidate forum for the District 6 City Council race September 3, 6-8 p.m. at the African-American Performing Arts Center, 310 San Pedro NE. The League members involved include: Mary H. Smith, moderator; Diane Goldfarb, timekeeper; and Helen Wright and Ann Piper, question sorters.

## **Aug. 6, 2015 LWVCNM Board Meeting Summary**

Carol Tucker Trealease, First Vice President, opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Cheryl Haaker, Treasurer, discussed her report in detail. Funds are low, and we need to have a membership drive and are counting on members sending in contributions so we meet our financial needs to print the upcoming *Voters' Guide*.

She also reported that the state convention, while successful, had a cost overrun of \$1, 339.81 due to a 28 percent service charge by the hotel that was not figured into our anticipated expenses.

Karen Douglas, Third Vice-President, presented the tentative programs scheduled for the upcoming year. We are in need of purchasing audio-visual equipment as some of our speakers do not have his/her own and we don't want to pay rental costs from the hotel or elsewhere. Cheryl Haaker will look into what our needs are and costs.

The Westside Unit meeting will be discontinued due to lack of attendance. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the board accept the executive committee's decision to not hold the consensus on the constitutional amendments.

At our unit meetings the board decided that rather than request announcements from the floor prior to the speaker, we will ask members at sign-in to prepare written announcements that can be read sequentially for less distractions. If items come up after the speaker and Q&A, they may be announced then. This would focus our attention on the speaker and topic.

A motion was made and passed that LWVCNM offer a yearlong membership to Andres Sabogal in appreciation for *Voters' Guide* Spanish translation volunteer services.

The directions to the Board that members submitted at the annual meeting on May 2, 2015 were reviewed and discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

-- *Sonia Lersten, Secretary*

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### **Leadership Team**

Peggy Howell, Karen M. Douglas and I met. We agreed to work collaboratively and cooperatively as a management team. I chaired the last board meeting, and Peggy will chair the next one. Douglas and Olin Bray, with assistance from others, have come up with a great group of speakers for the year. I am happy to sign letters and checks, but I don't need to sign all of them. Cheryl Haaker very competently handles the finances. We have a great team, and I very much look forward to working with the group.

-- *Carol Tucker Trealease*

## Book Review -- *Freedom of Speech*

*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 .*

*Freedom of Speech: Mightier Than the Sword* by David K. Shipler, 2015, Alfred A. Knopf, hard-cover, 336 pages.

The author is a Pulitzer Prize winner who reported for the New York Times (1966-1988), was a guest scholar at the Brookings Institute and taught at Princeton and Dartmouth. As a reporter he provides a series of stories about a variety of freedom of speech situations, some of which were legal case, but some of which never progressed that far. He provides several chapters in each of five areas -- books, government secrets, stereotypes, politics and plays. The chapters are well researched, well written and interesting. Some such as the chapters on books are balanced with interviews from people on both sides, while others such as the chapters on government secrets seem more focused on a particular position, although that may be because it was difficult to get

government officials to talk to him.

The sections on books and politics were the most interesting. Most of the book cases were groups wanting to either ban or restrict the distribution of books. In some cases, they disagreed with the theme or ideas in the books. In other cases they simply disliked some of the words, although in most of these cases the objectors never read the entire book to put everything in a context.

In the government secrets and national security area he makes the obvious distinction between serious national security threats and the simply embarrassing. Obviously the second case does not justify not publishing just as it does not justify classifying the material. He makes the point that when the government can make a good case, reporters and publishers have withheld, delayed, or modified stories. However, he would argue that the final decision is solely up to the reporters and publishers, although they always have only part of the story on which to make their decisions. At an AIA meeting Michael Hayden (a former director of both NSA and CIA) gave the example

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## September Unit Meetings

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Corrales with his wife Joan.

Make reservations for the September Luncheon Unit by calling LWVCNM office (884-8441) by 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 7. Specify if you would like a vegetarian meal.

**Evening Unit Sept. 8 , 5:30 p.m., Erna Ferguson Library**

Member discussion of voter issues.

**NE Heights Unit, Sept. 28, 10 a.m., La Vida Llena, 10501 Lagrima del Oro NE**

Paul Stokes, coordinator of United Voters of NM, will address the LWVCNM NE Heights Unit meeting. Stokes has been engaged in election integrity activities since the 2004 election, when he worked with national organizations to pursue a recount, followed by support for legal action to investigate the accuracy of voting machines. Since that time, as coordinator for United Voters of New Mexico, Stokes has continued to work with state election officials and the Legislature to bring the uniform use of paper ballots throughout the state and post-election audits to verify with high confidence the accuracy of voting machines.

He continues to work on election integrity by advocating methods to improve voter access to the polls. United Voters of New Mexico is an organizational member of the national Election Verification Network, which includes 169 leaders and advocates. United Voters of New Mexico states, "We want every qualified voter to vote, and every vote to be counted."

Current LWV voting positions include:

\* LWVUS/Voting Rights which supports citizens' right to vote, protect the rights of all citizens to vote

\* LWVNM/Election Process -- Procedures to guarantee the integrity of all statutory methods of voting in New Mexico; Protection of the right of every citizen to vote

Stokes spent most of his career at Sandia National Laboratories conducting research, developing and analyzing technologies for arms control compliance verification and intelligence, and later at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, conducting nuclear inspections in Iraq, and at the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization, also in Vienna, developing on-site inspection techniques. -- Karen Douglas

## Book Report

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of talking to a publisher about a story. It was going to say that based on intercepts we did something. Hayden asked them to change it to based on intelligence we did something. The publisher agreed to change it and said that it was the same thing. The story was essentially the same, but as Hayden pointed out the two versions were critically different. In one case the terrorist simply knew their plot failed, whereas in the other case they got a good idea of where the leak occurred and could change their methods to avoid it in the future.

Overall it was an interesting and informative read, but it basically took a position and supported it rather than providing a framework and a context into which things fit. However, I will admit that most of my concerns were with the secrets section of the book and thought the rest of it was more balanced.

## Letter to the Editor of Santa Fe New Mexican

*Editor's Note: The following is a letter to the editor of the Santa Fe New Mexican written by Meredith Machen, President, League of Women Voters of New Mexico.*

Governmental transparency and budget accountability are required by statute and essential to taxpayers and creditors. The administration needs to rectify the problems with SHARE and reveal the specifics regarding the missing \$100-\$400 million. DFA's release of a very late and incomplete financial report puts NM's credit status at risk. Government must provide accurate information. How can we expect legislators to make sound decisions on appropriations when the administration and agencies fail to submit audited expenditures on time? How can the Legislative Finance Committee develop a reasonable budget without accurate tracking of expenditures and balances? SHARE did have problems when implemented in 2008, but it's 2015 and still no information. Public scrutiny of open records builds trust and increases accountability. Meeting responsibilities is essential to a functional democracy. The administration should require all agencies to stick to their approved budgets and submit their audited reports for 2014 before the December deadline.



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