

July 2017

The VOTER

Volume 82 Issue 07



Timothy Beck,
Social Studies teacher,
Sandia High School

Timothy Beck, a Social Studies teacher at Sandia High School, will be our featured speaker at the LWVCNM July 13th luncheon meeting. His courses include Advance Placement U.S. Government and Politics, AP Economics with an emphasis on Macro Economics, and the International Baccalaureate History of the Americas, which covers U.S., Latin American, and Canadian history from 1492 to present. Mr. Beck has previously taught regular Government and Economics, AP World History, and regular World History. He earned his bachelor's degree in Economics as well as a Master's in Business Administration and Econometrics from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Mr. Beck has a broad background having worked as a merchandise buyer and was Vice President at Shillito's (a Federated Department Store), Macy's in New York, and the May Company in Los Angeles. He came to Albuquerque in 1985 as the head of store merchandising at American Furniture. An entrepreneur, he started Patim, Inc. in 1989, importing textiles from the Far East. The business still exists today. Tim has

been married to his wife Patsy for almost 30 years. They have four children and a grandson!

Luncheon Costs: Members \$17, Guests \$20. Remember that your reservation is a promise to pay.

Please make reservations for the July 13th Luncheon Unit Meeting by emailing lunch@lwvcnm.org or by calling the LWVCNM office (505) 884-8441 by 10:00 am Monday, July 10th. Please specify if you would like a vegetarian meal.

Our Community Role in Strengthening Democracy: At the grassroots level, the League of Women Voters® Central New Mexico will continue our heritage.

Since the time of Alice Caddy Stanton, the League has fought to defend our most fundamental American right—to cast a ballot. For almost 100 years the League has worked to encourage voter registration and expand voter information.

The League should be the GO TO organization for Election Reforms, and our members often join with local civic groups to tackle major policy issues. Areas that need speedy attention include:

- Public financing of elections
- Non-partisan redistricting

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Newsletter Format

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Summer Office Hours

July 5– September 4

Monday –Wednesday- Friday
10 am to Noon

July 2017

**Monday, July 3—Tuesday, July 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY!
Office Closed**

Monday, July 10 10:00 am Reservation Deadline

Thursday, July 13 11:45 am Luncheon Meeting
MCM Eleganté Hotel Albuquerque
2020 Menaul NE

Welcome

New Members

Lissa Callirhoe Jeannette Smyth

Returning Members

Dede Eckles Sharon Prewitt

Seeking an Assistant to the Treasurer

Treasurer, Jan Strand, is searching for a member to serve as an assistant. This member would be able to make deposits and become familiar with the League's financial procedures. Please email her at jan_str@msn.com if you are interested.

New Location for LWVCNM Board Meetings

Beginning in August the Board Meetings will once again have a permanent home at Sutin, Thayer & Browne. 6100 Uptown Blvd and they are on the 4th floor. The entrance is on the North side of the building closest to the street with plenty of parking. The doors are locked after 6:00 p.m.. Plenty of time to be there, but you may call Judy for entrance after that.

It's nice to have a permanent place and nice that Sandra Bowne and her daughter Anne are very hospitable to the League. As you may not know, Sandra was President twice of this league.

Many thanks to Sandra Bowne and Anne Browne and Laura Mudd, Operations Manager, who will be there to help with anything we may need.

...Continued from page 1

- Accessible voter registration
- Non-partisan ethics commission
- Non-partisan voter information services, i.e.,
LWV Voters' Guides

To ensure the electorate is informed, we must continue our outreach efforts. We can speak informally with our families, friends and neighbors and encourage their participation in the election process. We can make a personal commitment to write to – and possibly speak with upcoming candidates who may soon be our elected leaders.

Help us get the word out and then let us know how you think it's working. Many members are employed, and could benefit

Hello! And Welcome to our newest members!

As a long time League member I have known of the high value most knowledgeable people across the country hold for our organization and for our members. We have welcomed individuals seeking to be informed and the inexperienced advocate who wants to “do something.” Are you that person who is searching? Perhaps you've never been very active before but want to do something now.

While checking the LWVCNM Membership Handbook, it occurred to me that there are five League families within 200 yards of my home! In addition, there are 21 League families within my ZIP CODE! So, I invited them to a Saturday Afternoon Tea Party. We had a wonderful time together and enjoyed a round-robin exchange of ideas about how our League could become more visible. One of the themes was how to encourage younger people to join the League. Many mem-

bers are employed, and could benefit once we return to having an evening or Saturday meetings. We may even organize a MEETUP!

Check your zip code and get to know your neighbors!

Judith Binder, Co-President



The League Update

June 22, 2017

News From LWVUS National Office

The League continues our commitment to redistricting reform with lawsuits in [North Carolina](#) and [Pennsylvania](#). Meanwhile, Ohioans are collecting signatures to get a [gerrymandering elimination item](#) on the November 2018 ballot

The League of Missouri has also joined in [a suit against the state's photo ID law](#). And in Florida, the League is [asking state justices to determine who appoints successors to justices](#) whose terms end the day Governor Rick Scott leaves office

From New York, [The Union Edge](#), Dare Thompson and Laura Bierman of LWV New York State chatted on the history of the suffrage movement and how laws in NY make it difficult for people to vote how they want.

SEEKING A VOLUNTEER BULLDOG

Karen Wentworth is searching for a volunteer to help her follow the complicated court and city council deliberations over the sick leave ordinance as it makes its way to the ballot. It will appear in some form in the “Voter’s Guide.” Please call 263-9066 or

email her at kwentworth17@comcast.net.



Website Reviews

Budget Model

The League of Women Voters and other groups interested in public policy have always tried to analyze issues, but unfortunately were often limited to high level qualitative results such as taxes should be progressive, fair, efficient, and a collect the money needed to fund the government. The two websites reviewed this month can dramatically change that. The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania has democratized the policy analysis process by providing easy access to the types of data and models rarely available except to government agencies such as the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and well funded think tanks and universities.

The first site (<http://www.budgetmodel.wharton.upenn.edu>) uses detailed census, demographic, economic, and tax data to calculate the effects various policy options. The models address (or soon will include) tax policy, social security, immigration, health care, housing finance, education, retirement, criminal justice, and regulatory issues. For example, for social security, what would be the effects of raising the cap on the tax to \$200K or \$400K or raising the full retirement age by one year. Their model calculates the effects of these proposed changes. How much would SSA take in and payout and how would it affect the SS Trust Fund? By varying the model parameters you can explore the effects of over 4096 different policy alternatives just for social security, with additional alternatives for the other policy areas.

In addition to allowing anyone to work with their model, the Penn Wharton Budget Model (PWBM) project also does their own analysis of

various policy proposals, including new ones as they come up in Congress or other governmental or non-governmental sources. Their reports explain the results of their analysis and where they disagree with other models such as the CBO's they explain what the differences are and why they occurred. The PWBM is non-partisan and non-normative. They only analyze and explain alternatives. They do not propose or recommend any policy alternatives, which makes them even more non-partisan than the League. The project director is Kent Smitters, who was an economist for the CBO, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy at Treasury, and a consultant for the World Bank and the Urban Institute. He has a staff of 12 to support these sites and their analyses.

Regardless of how good the model is, without good data the results are worthless. Therefore, the project also has a comparable website for the data (<http://USAFacts.org>). The models use data from this website, which is also accessible independently. It includes data from government and other sources for data on population, demographics, economic, income, taxes, education, crime rates, etc. It is similar to an online version of the Statistical Abstracts of the US. Even if you don't use the analysis models, this site is a good source for a lot of critical data to determine what policies are or are not working.

Take a look at both of these sites and have fun. Later we may want to have a meeting exploring these sites in more detail.

Olin Bray



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® of CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

**WILL ISSUE ITS VOTERS' GUIDE FOR THE
2017 ALBUQUERQUE CITY ELECTION.**

**PLEASE BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR DONATIONS TO THE
LWVCNM EDUCATION FUND, A 501 C 3 ORGANIZATION**

Early Voting on September 13 through September 29 will kick off this election with Election Day being Tuesday October 3, 2017.

There are eight candidates for Mayor and four City Council contests, each with several candidates. Plus some issues for Voters which are under discussion as well as a possible court order.

NM State law decrees that city elections are Non Partisan but our County and State Elections are Partisan. Why? Because the State can make such decisions!!

The LWV CNM Hard Working Editorial Bees have been creating questions for the Candidates. Many LWV volunteers will drive the Voters' Guide all over the city to Libraries, Retirement Homes and many other destinations.

BUT....BUT the printing is NOT free so please donate. More people are reading the Voters' Guide on line *but we still must INFORM VOTERS so that THEY CAN MAKE EDUCATED DECISIONS.*

*So please be generous.
Thank you for your support.*

George Richmond, 4th Vice President, LWV-CNM

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO
EDUCATION FUND

FUNDRAISER

EAT, DRINK, & MAKE MERRY

at

NEXUS BREWERY



ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 11:00 AM-9:30 PM

NEXUS BREWERY

***WILL DONATE 10% OF YOUR FOOD CHECK
TO THE LWVCNM ED FUND!!!***

4730 PAN AMERICAN FREEWAY EAST
ON THE EAST SIDE OF I-25 JUST NORTH OF MONTGOMERY
FROM I-25 NORTH, OFF AT MONTGOMERY; STAY ON THE ACCESS ROAD

Here's the catch: You MUST bring this flyer or say "LWV."

Nexus has some great beers (& wine) & its foods are Southern Style & New Mexican.
NEXUS WEB SITE: Check their menu here and start thinking about what you will order!

<http://nexusbrewery.com/>

NOTE: No reservations accepted & it's very busy after 600 PM

Questions?

Contact, George Richmond, 4th Vice President-Fund Raising:

(505) 856-0245

geomrich1@comcast.net

LWW

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OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

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