



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

2315 San Pedro Drive NE, Suite F-6 ♦ Albuquerque, NM 87110-4158 ♦ 505.884.8441 ♦ www.lwvnm.org ♦ https://www.facebook.com/LWVCNM

February 2018

## The VOTER

Volume 83 Issue 02

### **Sarah Gustavus and Jeff Proctor, Society of Professional Journalists, to speak on Investigative Journalism, with examples in government in New Mexico, at the February meeting.**



**Sarah Gustavus** is the producer of *New Mexico In Focus* on New Mexico PBS/KNME-TV. Previously she was executive producer of national programs for Koahnic Broadcast Corporation, where she oversaw production of *Native America Call-*

*ing, National Native*

*News* and *Earthsongs*. Sarah has worked for public radio stations in Washington State and New Mexico and filed national stories for NPR. She earned an M.A. in Media from City University London and a B.S. in Communication Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. She currently serves as the president of the Rio Grande chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ).



**Jeff Proctor** is an investigative reporter with *New Mexico In Depth*. Previously, he was an investigative reporter/producer for KRQE-TV, the CBS affiliate in Albuquerque. Prior to that, he was the justice system reporter for the

Albuquerque Journal. Jeff's work has received

numerous local, state and regional awards. In 2013, he was a finalist for the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award for his reporting on systemic civil rights abuses by the Albuquerque Police Department. And in 2012, Jeff received the William S. Dixon First Amendment Freedom Award from the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government for advancing transparency in the state. Jeff is a member of the chapter's Freedom of Information Committee and has been a board member since 2013.

### **Society of Professional Journalists:**

The Society of Professional Journalists is dedicated to the perpetuation of a free press as the cornerstone of our nation and our liberty.

To ensure that the concept of self-government outlined by the U.S. Constitution remains a reality into future centuries, the American people must be well informed in order to make decisions regarding their lives, and their local and national communities.

### **New Mexico in Depth:**

Our official mission is to invigorate New Mexico journalism through our reporting, through working with other journalists as collaborators or mentors, and through media partnerships that leverage collective resources, with the goal of telling in-depth stories of people who represent our diversity and challenging power in a way that informs and empowers people and communities.

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The VOTER  
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**Office Hours**

**Monday – Friday  
10 am to Noon  
February 19  
Office Closed**

**FEBRUARY 2018**

**Thursday, February 1 10:15 am League Day**  
Morgan Hall, New Mexico Land Office  
310 Old Santa Fe Trail

**Thursday, February 1 5:30 pm Board Meeting**

**Monday, February 5 Noon Reservation Deadline**

**Thursday, February 8 11:45 Luncheon Meeting**  
Topic: Journalism panel, Chair: George Richmond

**Wednesday, February 14 LWVUS 98th Birthday**

**Thursday, February 15 Submission Deadline for March Voter**

**Monday, February 19 President's Day - Office Closed**

**Mondays, February 26 1:00 am NE Heights Unit**  
Topic: Legislative update Chair: Jan Bray

**MARCH 2018**

**Thursday, March 1 5:30 pm Board Meeting**  
Sutin, Thayer & Browne  
6100 Uptown Blvd, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Enter on North side of building- Doors are locked after 6:00 p.m.

**Monday, March 5 Noon**

**Thursday, March 8 11:45 am Luncheon Meeting**  
MCM Eleganté Hotel Albuquerque  
2020 Menaul NE

**Monday, March 15 Submission Deadline for April Voter**

**Monday, March 26 10:00 am NE Heights Unit**  
La Vida Llana  
10501 Lagrima de Oro Road NE

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***Luncheon Costs: Members \$17, Guests \$20.***

***Your reservation is a promise to pay.***

Please make reservations for the February 8<sup>th</sup>  
Luncheon Unit Meeting by emailing [lunch@lwvcm.org](mailto:lunch@lwvcm.org)  
or by calling the LWVCNM office (505) 884-8441

**by Noon Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**

***Please specify if you would like a vegetarian meal.***

**To: Members of the League of Women Voters® Central New Mexico.**

It is with great sadness that I write this letter of resignation as one of your co-presidents. Over the last several months I have noticed a decline in my ability to respond to the needs of our organization with the speed and accuracy essential to fulfill the purpose of the League of Women Voters®. I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to be among such dedicated partners, and I am grateful for the assistance you all have provided.

For more than forty years I have volunteered on committees, registered voters, and spoken before groups to help individuals increase their understanding of the issues that face our community and our nation. I will continue to do what I can to support the League's agenda.

*Judith Binder*

**MY LWV STORY**

Both of my parents were registered voters but in looking back, probably following their parents. Voting in our town took place at the Firehouse and was in person unless there was some strong reason for an absentee ballot. In hindsight, I suspect the daily newspapers in our house were the prime source of information as well as the party of registration of the candidate.

My mother was more independent as she was active in the LWV Greenwich, CT as well as the Crispus Attucks A) Chapter of the NAACP, so participating in government was clearly more than just voting at election time.

My first vote for President was in 1960 when I was in the US Army in France so I voted absentee. Then when I got out of the service, I voted

in NY, PA, IL and MI before moving to NM in 1998. Our voting precinct in Detroit was in the basement of a church where standing in lines for an hour was standard practice, possibly because the voting practices there were very different. While living in NY, I got interested in John V. Lindsay's efforts to get elected that I went canvassing in Brooklyn, a real education.

So moving to NM meant Early Voting and absentee voting was easy to do. Still, why are ballots printed in BOTH English and Spanish and not EITHER English or Spanish?

In keeping up with my sisters, one in IL, the other in NY, I learned that my sister Betty in the Chicago area was very active in the LWV in Evanston IL and in the Cook County Chapter, which includes Chicago, as well.

Further my daughter in Austin TX makes a point of working the polls every election so I can get a taste of TX government as well.

Learning about LWV activities and working in a few, has brought home the message that:

**DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR  
SPORT**

Crispus Attucks was an American stevedore and sailor, thought to be the first person killed in the Boston massacre.

George Richmond, Board Member, LWV CNM

**Come to the luncheon  
February 8th where  
we will celebrate our  
98th birthday with a  
special cake!**



## Book Review

*The Gatekeepers: How the White House Chiefs of Staff Define Every Presidency* by Chris Whipple, 2017, Crown Publishing, hardcover, 365 pages.

Presidential chiefs of staff are largely unknown except by insiders and policy nerds, but they are arguably the second most powerful person in Washington. They control who the president sees and what he reads. They are also the one person who must be willing to tell the President the things he does not want to hear. As government and the executive branch have become larger and more complex, their role and importance have increased dramatically.

Eisenhower brought in the idea of a chief of staff from the army. However, it was Nixon with Haldeman who created what has become the classic White House chief of staff. In December of 1968 Haldeman described the role to his staff as “Nothing goes to the president that is not completely staffed out first, for accuracy and form, for lateral coordination, checked for related material, reviewed by competent staff concerned with that area — and all that is essential for Presidential attention.” He must be neutral enough to see that the president sees all sides of an issue, not just a single recommendation.

Chiefs of staff are very open and cooperative with their successors to ensure a smooth transition whether between administrations or within an administration. The book starts with a December 2008 White House meeting set up by George W. Bush’s chief of staff for Rahm Emanuel, Obama’s incoming chief, attended

by almost all of the surviving chiefs of staff to provide their best advice to him. Perhaps the most interesting was from Vice President Cheney who had succeeded Rumsfeld as Ford chief of staff. “Control your vice president.”

Both Ford and Carter went into office determined not to have a chief of staff and to interact directly with their key advisors and cabinet members. It was chaos and little got done until both realized the need and appointed a chief of staff, although too late to save their presidencies and get them reelected.

The scarcest and most valuable resource in Washington is the president’s time and the chief of staff controls it. At one point Brzezinski, Carter’s national security advisor, bragged to Brent Scowcroft that he could give Carter 150 pages to read overnight and he would do it and mark it up with comments. Scowcroft’s reaction was that that was terrible. The president didn’t have time to go through that much detail in any one of the many areas he was responsible for. A good chief of staff, which Carter didn’t have until his last year, would have made sure it was boiled down to a concise few pages laying out the alternatives and a recommendation. Jack Watson, Carter’s last and best chief of staff, said the position affects everything — the president’s relations with Congress, the cabinet, the integrity and effectiveness of the decision process, and how presidential decisions are explained and implemented.

Some effective chiefs had crude and abrasive personalities while other were more open and friendly, but in all cases they were detail oriented, kept track of everything, and held their staff accountable. *Continued on page 5*

....**Continued on page 2** Most of them didn't want the job but took it when the president insisted. It is such a demanding job that most burned out and left before a full four years. Picking a chief of staff is one of a president's first critical jobs, along with picking a running mate. Some disastrously picked a long time friend that they got along well with, but who did not have the experience or personality to do the job. One exception was Reagan, who listened to his advisors and picked James Baker who had run Bush's primary campaign against him. Whipple suggests that Baker was perhaps the best modern chief of staff. The importance of the position is highlighted by the transition at the start Reagan's second term when Baker and Regan (Secretary of Treasury) traded jobs. Regan was a disaster and the administration's effectiveness was crippled until he was replaced by former Senator Howard Baker.

The book was finished just after Trump was elected so there is only a short epilogue on the future Trump administration. Whipple says the key issues is will Trump select an effective chief of staff who will create a disciplined and competent White House staff, who can control access to the president and keep him focused. And does the president want such a controlling chief.

Olin Bray



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® CENTRAL NEW MEXICO THEATRE BENEFIT FUND RAISER

Our 2018 Theatre Fund Raiser to Benefit our Education Fund (a 501(c)(3) organization) will be held on Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 PM, at the Vortex Theatre.

The play this year to celebrate the 98<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Founding of the League of Women Voters® is one of Tennessee Williams best known and, perhaps, his greatest play. As we all know, the LWV was formed in February, but the quality of this play demands that we hold the event in April.

### *A Streetcar Named Desire*

*The 1947 play by American playwright Tennessee Williams received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1948. A Streetcar Named Desire is often regarded as among the finest plays of the 20th century, and is considered by many to be Williams' greatest.*

60 tickets have been set aside for Members, Friends and Guests of the LWVCNM.

Please send your check for tickets, \$30.00 each, with the Names of those people attending the play. The Vortex is holding a block of seats for us but we must let them know two weeks in advance of the number of tickets we have sold. SO, your check must be in at the LWVCNM office by Monday, March 26.

The Vortex Theatre is located at 2900 Carlisle, East side of the street, between Candelaria and Menaul. Ample parking is available in their lot at the theatre.

Questions to George Richmond: 280-2105 or [geomrich1@comcast.net](mailto:geomrich1@comcast.net)