



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

2315 San Pedro Drive NE, Suite F-6 ♦ Albuquerque, NM 87110-4158 ♦ (505) 884-8441 ♦ www.wvcnm.org ♦ <https://www.facebook.com/LWVCNM>

February 2019

The VOTER

Volume: 84 Issue: 02

Co-Presidents Report February 2019

Program Planning Committees Begin Work on Many Issues

This year we tried something a little different with our annual Program Planning/Review meeting. The members attending the meeting discussed the issues most important to them personally and put together some committees to research and determine whether we need to take specific advocacy stands. The discussion broke down into these groups

Public Transportation

Sharon Moynahan led a passionate discussion on the problems involved in trying to take public transportation in Albuquerque. As a regular bus rider, she has great familiarity with the problems of poor scheduling, hopeless connections and complete lack of service on important routes. Volunteering to work with her on the project of finding a way to make the city transit department listen are Judith Binder, Terry Dettweiler and Eva Stricker.

Education/Civics

Leah Ingraham is one of many members particularly concerned about the problems around the teaching of civics in the public schools. She and Jan Strand will be working with Judith Binder, Shelly Roberts and Karen Douglas.

Voting Issues

Ashley Benning, Peggy Howell and Mary Ellen Smith are focused on voting issues and are looking at what our local League should be doing to improve access for voters. They are also interested in redistricting efforts.

Drunk and Drugged Driving

George Richmond and Susan Blasco are interested in steps that can be taken to limit the number of drunk and drugged drivers on Albuquerque streets. George says he is particular concerned about drivers who are arrested multiple times.

Spent Nuclear Fuel

Karen Douglas is leading a statewide study on Spent Nuclear Fuel. Karen Wentworth is a member of the study group. Karen Douglas invites

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Co-Presidents
Leah Ingraham Karen Wentworth

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Peggy Howell

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Andrea Targhetta

3rd Vice President
Trish Lopez

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Director
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Anne Pierce- Jones

Technology
Cheryl Haaker

**Newsletter Format
Administrative Coordinator**
Margaret Guinn Magee

Office Hours
Monday - Wednesday - Friday
10 am to Noon
Closed
February 18th

FEBRUARY 2019

Thursday, February 7

LEAGUE DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE

5:30 pm LWVCNM Board Meeting

Sutin Thayer & Browne
6100 Uptown Blvd, 4th floor
Enter on North side of building. Doors are locked after 6 pm

Monday, February 11

Reservation Deadline for Luncheon

Thursday, February 14

**Luncheon Unit Meeting
Topic: Behavioral Health**

LWVUS 99th Birthday

Friday, February 15

Deadline for Voter Submissions

Monday, February 18

President's Day - Office Closed

Monday, February 25

NE Heights Unit Meeting

Topic: Voter Suppression

MARCH 2019

Thursday, March 7

5:30 pm LWVCNM Board Meeting

Sutin Thayer & Browne
6100 Uptown Blvd, 4th floor
Enter on North side of building. Doors are locked after 6 pm

Monday, March 11

Reservation Deadline for Luncheon

Thursday, March 14

**Luncheon Unit Meeting
Sunshine Month: Open Government
Chair: Mary H Smith**

Friday, March 15

Deadline for Voter Submissions

Monday, March 25

**NE Heights Unit Meeting
Sunshine Month: Open Government
Chair: Mary H Smith**

AMAZON SMILE

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/85-0355179>

....Co-Presidents Report, continued from page one

any member who is interested in learning more about the problem of spent nuclear fuel and the current applications to bring tons of it to Southeast New Mexico and West Texas to join the study group.

Recycling

Carol Tucker Trelease and Terry Dettweiler are both interested in problems with recycling, but have not yet formed a group to work on the issue.

Affordable Housing

Linda Kessler is interested in the problems of affordable housing and is looking for others interested in the issue.

All of these groups are interested in finding new members with common interests. Please think about joining a group to help us become more deeply involved in solving the many problems in our community. You can join a group by contacting one of the members. Everyone’s contact information is in your member handbook.



**Bernalillo County
Commission Chair
Maggie Hart Stebbins
will speak at the
February 14 luncheon**

11:45 a.m. at the Embassy Suites. Hart Stebbins will discuss the ways the Bernalillo County Commission is allocating \$20 million that taxpayers in Bernalillo County approved to rebuild the mental health services system dismantled by former NM Governor

Susanna Martinez. Hart Stebbins has championed Behavioral Health projects and the [Bernalillo County Behavioral Health Initiative](#) outlines the projects the county is backing to improve the lives of citizens.

In her time on the commission, Commissioner Hart Stebbins has focused on ethics reform; expanding local economic opportunities through responsible job creation; feeding hungry children; improving access to mental health and substance use treatment services; supporting at-risk students and their families through the ABC Community School Partnership; protecting Bernalillo County’s great open spaces including the county’s first urban open space at the UNM North Golf Course; increasing the county minimum wage; and working to make sure men and women receive equal pay for equal work.

As a member of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority Board, she is committed to protecting our precious groundwater resources. She led early efforts to remediate the Bulk Fuels Facility jet fuel spill at Kirtland Air Force Base and sponsored county policies to reduce nitrate contamination from leaking septic systems.

Please join us for this important meeting. Reservations must be made by Monday, Feb.11 by 10 a.m. You can make reservations by calling the League office at (505) 884-8441, by emailing lunch@lwvcnm.org, or pre-pay online for the luncheon by going to www.lwvcnm.org and to Contribute and then Donate. Donate \$22 (or \$44 for 2). Pre-payments must be made by midnight Wednesday, February 13. Cost of lunch is \$22. Your reservation is your commitment to pay.

NORTHEAST HEIGHTS UNIT

On February 25th the Northeast Heights Unit will hear from Paul Stokes, a League member who has done extensive research in the area of voter suppression. The unit meets at 10 a.m. in the card room of La Vida Llena (10501 Lagrima de Oro NE).

Welcome New Members

Judy D. Jones
Rachel Hertzman

BOOK REVIEW

***Political Tribes: Group Instinct and the Fate of Nations* by Amy Chua, 2018, Penguin Press, Hardcover, 293 pages.**

Chua, a Yale law professor specializing in ethnic conflict and globalization, contends that political analysts often overlook or underrate the role of “political tribes” in both the international and domestic political context and therefore make serious mistakes in politics and policy.

Internationally, these tribes may be based on ethnic groups, religion, clans, or sometimes ideology. In developing countries these tribes often have stronger support and legitimacy and provide a stronger basis for identity than the nation. Unfortunately, in many cases simply introducing democracy and elections can reinforce these groups and increase a country’s identity crises and conflicts rather than easing or resolving them. Sometimes strong dictators (such as Tito or Saddam) can hold their “multi-tribal” states together, but when they go things often fall apart. In the international context she looks at four countries (Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq,

and Venezuela) and terrorism to show how missing these tribes and their issues can lead to bad policies. In Vietnam our policies to support their economy and develop a market/capitalist economy was often counterproductive. We didn’t realize that in Vietnam, as in much of Southeast Asia, most of the economy was controlled by what she calls a “market dominant minority” (the overseas Chinese), so most of our economic actions were seen as supporting this minority rather than the Vietnamese. She makes the point that after the fall of Vietnam the first two waves of “Vietnam boat people” were primarily these Chinese and only the third wave several years later were mainly ethnic Vietnamese. Similarly, in Iraq the Coalition Provisional Authority made many mistakes by not understand the Sunni, Shia, and Kurdish groups and their issues. Most of the successes with the “surge” came not from more troops, but from a better understanding of the issues and better coordination with these various groups.

She contends we make similar mistakes in domestic politics by ignoring or misunderstanding issues with political tribes. America was unique in that it allowed people to become part of a “supertribe” — American — without giving up their other identities. While there are many x-Americans, you don’t think of a German-Brit or a French-German or an Italian-Swede. She contends that part of our problem is that we are losing this supergroup identity and becoming more tribal, in a sense we are regressing rather than developing politically. While we still have ethnic and religious tribal groups which define us vs them, we are also developing tribal groups based on ideology and economics. Growing economic inequality is increasing our economic tribalism.

...**Book Review continued from page 4** She contends that extremist groups on both the left and the right are now often basing group or tribal identity on ideology. There are several chapters on tribalism within the US. She contends that the original civil rights and human rights position was that everyone had the same rights as individuals, in spite of their differences not because of their differences which is more of the position taken by many with identity politics. The problem is not that we are seeing more groups, but that the groups are more exclusionary taking an us vs them approach, rather than trying to be inclusive as a supergroup. There is a quote from John Adams fearing, "... the division of the republic into two great parties ... concerting measures in opposition to each other ... as the greatest political evil under our Constitution."

In summary, Chua makes an important point that "political tribes" are critical and must be factored into any serious political analysis, but you are left with the impression that they are almost the only factor that is important. While she doesn't explicitly state this, her focus only on this factor clearly leaves that impression implicitly. To be fair, the 200 pages of text would be probably be 500 pages if she tried to cover other factors in similar detail, but other factors can't be ignored. While one can argue with some of her analysis, her points about tribalism and its effects are important and need to be added to many analyses where they have been ignored. However, one should read the book as a legal brief making its case as strongly as possible, not as an intelligence analysis that considers all sides of an issue to provide a balanced analysis or as rigorous social science with clearly defined concepts and testing a specific hypothesis.

Olin Bray

Happy 99th Birthday
LWVUS





Happy 99th Birthday LWVUS

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Return Service Requested

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