

**May 2019**

# **The VOTER**

**Vol. 84 No. 05**

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO**

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[www.lwvcnm.org](http://www.lwvcnm.org) <https://www.facebook.com/LWVCNM>

## **FROM THE DESKS OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS.....**



Thinking about the Municipal Election: Everyone who attended the April lunch unit meeting got to hear from a group of very bright, aware juniors from the Amy Biehl Charter School. They spoke about their friends, many of whom attend other schools and one of the most striking things they said was, “They think people just go to Washington and government happens.”

Most of us have friends who still think that’s how the world works. But the people who go to Washington don’t pave the streets in Albuquerque or worry about the weed and litter in the parks or think about stray dogs and cats. They don’t worry about whether the water in the pipes in your home meets standards, or how the air quality is in your neighborhood. The people who go to Washington D.C. set the broad federal laws that are the standards, but it is our local elected officials who worry about how to fund it all and whether our communities are really working. Federal elections are important, but local elections really make the difference in our day to day lives.

Early voting for the 2019 municipal election begins Oct. 19. That means it is time for us to begin thinking about what will go into the 2019 Voters Guide. This year we will be thinking about Albuquerque and Rio Rancho councilors and Albuquerque Public School Board members. IF WE HAVE ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS, we will be able to put together information about other municipalities in our four-county coverage area. In an ideal world we will have enough help to track down information about who is running in all the communities in Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia Counties and we will put the information on our website.

When we asked the young panel about where they would go to get information about a city election, they unanimously agreed they would go to Instagram. The Central New Mexico League does not have an Instagram account, but if we want to reach young voters, we are going to have to change with the times. Anyone who is interested in working with the board on setting up and maintaining an Instagram account should contact please think about what you will be doing in August and September, because that is when we will need all the help we can get. It has been wonderful serving the league over the last year as Co-Presidents and we thank you for that opportunity.

Leah Ingraham  
Karen Wentworth

**THE VOTER**

Published monthly

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of Central New Mexico

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**Co-Presidents:**

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Karen Wentworth

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Ashley Benning

Mary Wilson

**Voter Services:**

Anne Pierce-Jones



**Technology:**

Cheryl Haaker

**Administrative Coordinator:**

Margaret Guinn Magee

**The VOTER Editor:**

Mary G. Wilson

T3Wilson@aol.com

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday—Wednesday—Friday

10 am — noon

**LEAGUE CALENDAR**

**April 2019**

Tuesday, April 30 5:00 pm Reservation Deadline for Annual Meeting

**May 2019**

Saturday, May 4 Annual Meeting (see page 3)

Albuquerque Marriott Hotel

2101 Louisiana Blvd NE

Sunday, May 12 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Wednesday, May 15 Deadline for June VOTER submissions

Friday, May 17—Sunday, May 19 LWVNM State Convention  
(see page 4)

Monday, May 27 MEMORIAL DAY — Office is closed

**June 2019**

Thursday, June 6 LWVNM Board Meeting

5:30 pm 6100 Uptown Blvd NE, Suite 400

Monday, June 10 Reservation Deadline for Luncheon Meeting

Thursday, June 13 LUNCHEON UNIT MEETING

Embassy Suite Hotel, 1000 Woodward Place NE

Saturday, June 15 Deadline for July VOTER submissions

SUNDAY, June 16 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

NE HEIGHTS UNIT MEETING WILL NOT MEET AGAIN UNTIL SEPTEMBER

Thursday, June 20 — Sunday, June 23 LWVUS Council  
Leesburg, VA

**WATCH THE JUNE VOTE FOR THE DATE FOR CALENDAR PLANNING**

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico, a tax exempt 501 (c ) (3) organization is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

## LWVCNM ANNUAL MEETING 2019.....

SPEAKER FOR THE  
EVENT IS VICTOR  
REYES, Director of  
Legislative Affairs for  
New Mexico Governor,  
Michelle Lujan Gri-  
sham.



**Saturday, May 4, 2019** is YOUR time to provide input to your League leaders, vote for new officers, review the budget, and plan for the next League year. The April VOTER contained all the information about the business part of the annual meeting. Bring it along with you on May 4.

**RESERVATIONS FOR THE BRUNCH ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON MONDAY, APRIL 30. CALL THE LEAGUE OFFICE AT (505) 884-8441**

**Cost is \$22.00 for brunch.**

**(No reservation or payment is required to attend the business meeting or to hear the speaker.)**

**WHERE: Albuquerque Marriott Hotel  
2102 Louisiana Blvd. NE  
Albuquerque, NM**

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER.....

In his role, Victor Reyes oversees the governor's legislative agenda and advocates for her policy priorities in the New Mexico Legislature. Reyes was the governor's deputy campaign manager, and previously served as a senior staff member for the Senate Majority Caucus, and as the legislative director for Conservation Voters of New Mexico. Victor has worked on various state, local, and national campaigns including Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign where he served as the press secretary in the battleground state of New Hampshire.

Anyone who worked on legislation with the governor's office over the 2019 legislative session worked with Victor Reyes. He stood at ground zero for petitions from citizens to endorse or change a bill and he was the last resort when asking for a veto of legislation that wasn't wanted. This is an incredibly difficult job for a member of the governor's staff who had actually been on the job for three weeks when the legislative session began. He will give the League insight into how it feels to have the wish, hopes and anger of two million New Mexicans arriving in your email in-box each morning and how he sorted out how to deal with those requests so quickly and efficiently.

### ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

**9:00 Registration**  
**9:30 Business Meeting**  
**11:30 Brunch and Speaker**

## LWVNM STATE CONVENTION.....



Every member of LWVNM is also a member of the State League. Every member is welcome to attend the biannual State Convention. This year it is May 17-19 in Los Alamos. If you would like to be a delegate for the local league at this Convention, call Karen Wentworth at (505) 263-9066. We need three more people to serve as delegates.

Check out the Spring issue of LA PALABRA at [lwvnm.org](http://lwvnm.org) for more details about the Convention and to register for the event.

### A few highlights:

The Convention kicks off at 5:30 pm Friday with a reception at Mike and Kyle Wheeler's home.

The 9:00 am Welcome on Saturday morning will be from Los Alamos County Council Chair Sara Scott.

The Saturday luncheon will feature State Rep. Christine Chandler.

At the Saturday banquet State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard will be the featured speaker.

And, oh, yes, I almost forgot... In between hearing from those great women, League members will discuss Program issues, vote on new positions, elect new Board members, and consider bylaws changes. **AND THERE WILL BE FUN AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES ON SATURDAY AS WELL AS ALL THAT GREAT NETWORKING.**

**BANQUET SPEAKER.....**Stephanie Garcia Richard is the first woman and educator to be elected to the position of New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands to oversee the State Land Office, which is responsible for raising revenue from state trust lands to pay for New Mexico's schools and hospitals.

Born in Tatum and raised in Silver City, Stephanie learned at a young age the importance of serving others. Her father, a WWII veteran, was a teacher; her mother was active in their church and community. Stephanie grew up in a family that operated ranches on the eastern plains and northern mountains of New Mexico, giving Stephanie a strong connection to our land. After graduating from Silver High School, Stephanie went on to receive her undergraduate degree from Barnard College at Columbia University in New York.

During her tenure as a New Mexico state representative and chair of the House Education Committee, Stephanie championed laws to increase access to a quality education, transparency, and investments in renewable energy, job training, and economic development.



## ALL LEVELS OF LEAGUE ARE GETTING READY FOR A BIG, BIG CENTENNIAL OF WOMEN SUFFRAGE AND THE FOUNDING OF THE LEAGUE.....



**CHRIS CARSON, President of LWVUS provides this recent information about the National plans:**

**“LWVUS is hard at work planning a variety of activities and opportunities in connection to the 19th Amendment anniversary as well as the League’s 100th anniversary next year. Earlier this month, the board committed to developing a League-wide day of action for February 14, 2020. The board committed to the theme of ‘Women Power the Vote’. Goals and activities will be developed in the coming months for state and local Leagues to participate in this high visibility opportunity. We know some Leagues already have plans**

**in place for the February 14th organization ‘birthday,’ while others are looking for more support. This day of action will complement any existing plans Leagues may have, staying true to our brand, and offering all Leagues the opportunity for engagement and celebration in honor of our centennial.**

**LWVUS is also developing a digital campaign to increase brand awareness and engage new audiences tied to our upcoming 100th Anniversary. The campaign will feature personal League stories and connect different external audiences across generations and backgrounds. This campaign will launch in August 2019, in connection with the 19th Amendment anniversary and run through the 2020 election cycle. There will be a toolkit that state and local Leagues may utilize and League leaders will get a preview of the campaign at Council in June 2019.**

**LWVUS is also updating the existing 100th Anniversary toolkit in time for Council in June 2019. These upgrades are intended to supplement existing plans and provide additional resources for Leagues.**

**Our convention in June 2020 (in Washington DC) will be another opportunity for celebration and visibility. LWVUS staff have been conducting outreach in hopes of bringing in a major keynote speaker.**

**Additionally, there are a variety of opportunities and partnerships related to the 19th Amendment Anniversary in 2020. As Kathy Chiron mentioned, the National Archives has an exhibit opening next month called Rightfully Hers that features THE 19th Amendment document. The League is also featured in this very high-profile exhibit with historical documents that will be on display to the public until January 2021. We are also proud to have Virginia Kase included on their honorary committee and are in conversation with the Archives about other opportunities for collaboration. There will be a traveling exhibit and LWVUS is working with the Archives to make some materials available to Leagues in the coming months.”**

*Continued on page 6.....*

## CENTENNIAL OF WOMEN SUFFRAGE AND THE FOUNDING OF THE LEAGUE.....continued from page 5

The State League is also starting to plan for the Centennial. Meredith Machen of Santa Fe is chairing the committee. She will be convening a meeting of the committee which represents all leagues in the State during the Convention on May 18. Anyone who is interested may get involved!

Meredith has recently reported that the Library of Congress has posted online a lot of archival material from the papers of Carrie Chapman Catt, the suffragist who received much credit for passage of the 19th amendment. See the collection at <https://www.loc.gov/item/prn-19-030/?loclr=eal> If you are in Washington, D.C. be sure to visit the Library of Congress for the wonderful exhibit opening June 4, "Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote."

Meredith commented about our State's involvement in the suffrage movement, " [Mrs.] Catt's December 1919 visit to Albuquerque and her speech at the YMCA, 101 Central Ave. was exactly what NM needed to rally advocates to finish the fight for the 19th Amendment ratification.

Governor Larrazolo called a special session for that purpose in February 1920, and on February 21, NM became the 37th state out of the 38 states needed for approval. Catt's meticulous notes about the women she worked with and the strategic planning they did together is so inspiring and compelling. Women voted for the president for the first time that fall. Our goal for the centennial is to get as many disenfranchised folks to the polls as possible."



### And LWVCNM is also hard at work planning the celebration.... (article by Jeanne Logsdon)

How to celebrate? The board of LWVCNM discussed and approved a number of activities and events at the April board meeting. We are asking for volunteers to participate in making them happen successfully. A major event will be a banquet (either a dinner or lunch) for League members and friends of the League, possibly in February to coincide with the national League's formation. We are especially interested in inviting past League leaders and our eight lifetime members to honor their commitment and contributions. We also want to reach out to people active in government and politics to celebrate with us. A small group of volunteers is beginning to investigate place and date for this event. We will need many volunteers to help with program, publicity, invitations, and all the myriad details to create a meaningful and festive event. A second major event is a community-wide celebration at Civic Plaza. We are encouraging the City of Albuquerque to sponsor a festival around democracy and civic engagement, including women's suffrage. We would participate along with many other organizations.

Other activities are intended to educate different groups and the general public about the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment in New Mexico, women and disadvantaged groups in politics, the impacts of expanding suffrage, the importance of voting, and related topics. They include the following:

- Encouraging and coordinating Museum and Library exhibits;
- Designing and distributing a pamphlet/brochure about how suffrage was achieved in New Mexico, the impacts of suffrage (e.g., first women to run for office, win an office, sponsor which types of legislation, etc.); the role and achievements of LWVCNM (e.g., the Voters Guides; leading role in getting National Monument designation for the Petroglyphs). A series of laminated bookmarks may be drawn from this information.



(continued on page 8)

## Members make the League a very happy place.....

LWVCNM Membership Chair has launched a new way for us all to get to know new members. Instead of having a large periodic reception to welcome new members, Donna has been meeting them for coffee at Flying Star on Route 528 and Corrales Road . Recently Donna, George Richmond and Karen Wentworth had coffee with new members Vanessa and Benjamin Mackey and Patsy Nelson and on another day met with new member Eugenia (Gege) Polevitzky. Donna will adjust the time and place to accommodate people going forward but for now location does not appear to be a concern. Watch the VOTER for information about future meet and greets. All are welcome.

Donna is also busy preparing the Member Handbook for distribution toward the end of May. Any member who has or knows a business and would like to advertisement in the handbook. please contact Donna at DJRigano@swcp.com. Ads help business connect with customers and the money raised helps defray the cost of printing and distributing the Member Handbook. A full page ad is \$200; \$100 for ½ page, \$50 for ¼ page and \$25 for business card size. (No political ads.)

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The following help is needed:

Office worker coordinator. Contact Leah at [healthissues@earthlink.net](mailto:healthissues@earthlink.net)  
 Voter Guide Manager. Contact Karen at [kwentworth@comcast.net](mailto:kwentworth@comcast.net)  
 APD Forward monitor. Contact Peggy at [phowell6300@comcast.net](mailto:phowell6300@comcast.net)  
 Committee members are needed for the program issue: Public Transportation—contact Sharon at [smoynaha@unm.edu](mailto:smoynaha@unm.edu)  
 Voter writers. Contact Mary at [T3Wilson@aol.com](mailto:T3Wilson@aol.com)

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## ABOUT THE VOTER.....

You probably noticed that starting with this issue, the Voter has a new Editor. I have held a lot of positions in the League at all levels, but this is the first time I have volunteered to be a Voter Editor. So, you need to have patience with me as I learn this job. But, I also need your help in other ways. I need articles, news, events, pictures. I can turn your thoughts into an article if you just give me some notes from which to work. Our members are interested in all sorts of public policy matters and they need to hear some nonpartisan information about those issues—nonpartisan information that only the League can provide. So, it is up to all of us to share our information, knowledge, curiosity with one another. Please send your contributions to The Voter to me at [T3Wilson@aol.com](mailto:T3Wilson@aol.com)

Mary G. Wilson



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**LWVCNM plans for 100th celebration... continued from page 6**

- Sponsoring a public lecture or lecture series at UNM;
- Applying for a grant to support performances by a re-enactor from around the 1920 time period;
- Presenting material to local high school students on civics, voting, women's suffrage, etc., with guidance on relevance from social science/government teachers.
- Preparing a series of "media minutes" with other NM Leagues for distribution to radio stations.

How to volunteer? Contact one of the members of the Steering Committee: Jeanne at [jlogsdon@unm.edu](mailto:jlogsdon@unm.edu), Donna at [djrigano@swcp.com](mailto:djrigano@swcp.com), Vivian at [vskadron@gmail.com](mailto:vskadron@gmail.com), or Andrea at [AT-arghetta@comcast.net](mailto:AT-arghetta@comcast.net). Or attend the annual meeting on May 4 or one of the luncheon meetings this summer and tell us how you would like to be involved.

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WASHINGTON – President of the League of Women Voters of the United States Chris Carson made the following comments in response to the Mueller report: “The Special Counsel’s report makes one thing crystal clear: a foreign government interfered in the 2016 presidential election. Congress must now take bold action to secure our elections systems from future attacks. To do so, Congress must have access to the full report and the underlying investigative documentation to understand the full scope of the attack. Congress has the power to strengthen our election security with modern requirements for political ads that create greater transparency in our elections. Voters have a right to know about foreign sponsors and funders of the campaign-related ads they see. The Special Counsel’s report signals the need for immediate action to safeguard the integrity of our elections. One solution is sitting in a Senate committee right now. The For the People Act includes provisions that would ensure transparency in political ads as well as funding for cybersecurity that will protect our elections. This report makes it clear: Congress should pass the For the People Act this year to ensure that 2020 campaigns are free from foreign influence and voters can cast their ballots with confidence. The American people must know who is attempting to sway their votes.”