

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO
2315 San Pedro Dr. NE, Suite F-6, Albuquerque, NM 87110-4158



OCTOBER HAPPENINGS IN THE LEAGUE.....

OCTOBER 8—10 ... Voter Guide for Local election makes its debut

OCTOBER 8 ... Paul Stokes will speak at The Neighborhood for the westside League unit meeting on “Election Security—Ballot and Voting Machine Issues

OCTOBER 10 ... Luncheon Meeting featuring Veronica Arzate and Paige Best on the Census 2020

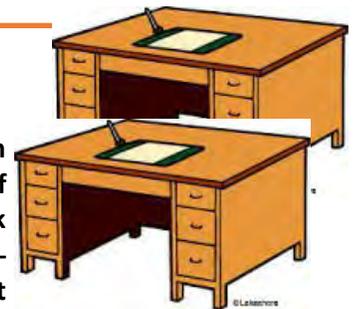
OCTOBER 28 ... Northeast Heights Unit Meeting featuring Bernadette Miera on the Census 2010

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

LWVCNM members are keenly aware of the NM legislative session which is held each winter (odd years – 60 days; even years – 30 days) and we know the elected House of Representative and Senate officials for our districts but we do not frequently think about NM Legislative Interim Committees. These Bi-Partisan Interim Committees, comprised of both NM Senators and Representatives from districts scattered throughout NM, hold meetings scheduled throughout the year and their decisions serve as the foundation for policies and programs impacting every community. Most NM Interim Committees rotate meeting locations, permitting a broader constituency to attend their meetings and to be able to offer insight, advice, or recommendations.

Current NM Legislature Interim Committees include: Legislative Council, Legislative Education Study Committee, Legislative Finance Committee, Capitol Building Planning Commission, Courts, Corrections, and Justice Committee, Economic and Rural Development Committee, Indian Affairs Committee, Interim Legislative Ethics Committee, Investments and Pension Oversight Committee, Land Grant Committee, Legislative Health and Human Services Committee, Military and Veteran Affairs Committee, Mortgage Finance Authority Act Oversight

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THE VOTER

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The League of Women Voters
of Central New Mexico

2315 San Pedro dr. NE, Suite F-6
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LEAGUE CALENDAR

October 2019

Thursday, Oct. 3 5:30 pm LWVCNM Board Meeting, Conference Room 4th floor, 6100 Uptown NE
Monday, Oct. 7 10:00 am Deadline for luncheon reservations
Tuesday, Oct. 8 3:30 pm The Neighborhood Quarterly Mtg.
Thursday, Oct. 10 Luncheon Meeting.
Tuesday, Oct. 15 Deadline for VOTER articles
Monday, Oct. 28 NE Heights Unit Meeting
(See pages 3 and 5 for details about meeting speakers)

November 2019

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5. LOCAL ELECTION DAY. VOTE VOTE VOTE
Thursday, Nov. 7 5:30 pm LWVCNM Board Meeting, Conference Room 4th floor, 6100 Uptown NE
Monday, Nov. 11 10:00 am Deadline for luncheon reservations
Thursday, Nov. 14 Luncheon Meeting. **SPECIAL PANEL DISCUSSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION** with NM Court of Appeals Chief Judge Monica Zamora, UNM Law School Dean Sergio Pareja, and NM State Bar President Jerry Dixon
Friday, Nov. 15 Deadline for VOTER articles
Thursday, Nov. 25 HAPPY THANKSGIVING
Monday, Nov. 28 NE Heights Unit Meeting

LWVCNM ANNUAL DUES NOTICES have been sent. Please take a moment to return your dues as soon as you get the notice or go online to pay your dues at [RE-NEW](#). (extra \$ if you pay online) If your address has changed, please call the office at 505-884-8441 and provide us your new address.

Do you know how many of your dues dollars stay at the local league???
League membership dues are \$60; another family member pays \$30.

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|---------------|---------|
| First member | \$60.00 | Second Member | \$30.00 |
| Sent to LWVUS | \$ 32.00 | | \$16.00 |
| Sent to LWVNM | \$13.00 | | \$ 6.50 |
| Remains with CNM | \$15.00 | | \$7.50 |

Now you know why LWVCNM requests donations to carry out its work!

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Wednesday—Friday
10 am — noon

Regular unit meetings this month are focused on the 2020 Census....

LUNCHEON UNIT MEETING
Thursday, OCTOBER 10, 2019
11:30 AM
EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL
1000 Woodward Pl. NE, Albuquerque
Ballroom Sierra I
Reservations are due Oct. 7 before 10
am to (505) 884-8441 or emailed to
lunch@lwvcnm.org
Lunch is \$22.00. (You may attend free
of charge without lunch.)

It is now possible to pay online at www.lwvcnm.org by donating \$22.00 for one meal.. Please pay by 10:00 pm on October 9. The treasurer will recognize that entry as payment for a lunch.

Menu This Month: Entrée: Classic Italian Chicken Alfredo with Penne Pasta, Served with a Side of Steamed Broccoli. Vegetarian Entrée: Penne Pasta with Alfredo Sauce (No Chicken) Served with a Side of Steamed Broccoli.

Veronica Arzate, Senior Partnership Specialist with the Census Bureau in NM, and Paige Best, the State Census Coordinator with the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration for the Governor's Statewide Complete Count Commission, will discuss everything we need to know about the U.S. Census at the October 10 lunch meeting. Ms. Arzate is leading the 2020 Census campaign in our state. She is developing partnerships with local municipalities, counties and organizations in NM to promote an accurate 2020 Census count. The decennial census, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, is the country's largest non-military mobilization workforce and the data compiled during this operation, is of paramount importance to our communities. It helps determine each state's number of representatives in Congress, and the allocation of billions of dollars in funding for many federal programs. In



addition, it helps structure the boundaries for voting and school districts, and countless other decisions that benefit local governments in all fifty states and the territories. Businesses of all sizes depend on census data to make decisions about where to locate, hire, and invest. Ms. Arzate previously worked for the NM Health Insurance Exchange where she led the State's outreach program for access to healthcare under the Affordable Care Act.

Ms. Best assists with the administration of the \$3.5 million appropriation. As part of this work, she created a work plan that includes: Coordination of the SCCC meetings; Management of the county grant agreements and work plans; Management of all contracts including the contract with UNM Geospatial Population Studies for the work of the State Demographer; Development of the icountnm.gov website and social media; Coordination of an education campaign working with the New Mexico Public Education Department; and Procurement of a small scale media campaign contract. Best earned her BS degree in Anthropology and Biology from the University of New Mexico and her MPH degree in International Health from the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health. She has taught biostatistics and HIV epidemiology at the United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, North Dakota and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, Maryland. Best is the founding Community Health Director with the Positive Art Workshop in Beijing and finance manager of the Hong Kong-based fund for the largest LGBTQ+ advocacy and support group in Mainland China for the past fifteen years.



NOTE: Before the panel discussion on the census, Kathy Winograd, President of the Central NM Community College, will speak for a few minutes to bring us up to date on CNM's future plans.

NORTHEAST HEIGHTS UNIT MEETING
Monday, OCTOBER 28, 2019
10:00 AM
LA VIDA LLENA MAIN BLDG. GAME
ROOM
10501 Lagrima de Oro Road NE
Albuquerque, NM
Meg Wente, Coordinator

Bernadette Miera will speak to the Northeast Heights unit She is in charge of the Complete Count committee for Bernalillo County. This committee administers state grant money to local groups to focus on getting a complete count. She will speak about the difficulty of getting a complete count in New Mexico and the efforts the State is making to insure that the Census is



complete. Ms. Miera will discuss the timeframe for Census 2020 and some of the uses that the county makes of census data.

FROM THE DESKS OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS.....continued from page 1



Committee, NM Finance Authority Act Oversight Committee, Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force, Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee, Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee, Science, Technology and Telecommunications Subcommittee, Tobacco Settlement Review Oversight Committee, Water and Natural Resources Committee, Behavioral Health Subcommittee, Capitol Security Subcommittee, Criminal Justice Reform Subcommittee, Disabilities Concerns Subcommittee, Transportation Infrastructure Revenue Subcommittee, Senate Rules Subcommittee, Commission on State Laws, and the Educational Commission on States. Many of these interim committees and subcommittees were formed in 2019.

These NM Interim Legislative Committees are responsible for identifying priorities, funding level recommendations, and many decisions impacting our daily lives. The NM Legislative Council Service provides the agendas, dates, and locations for these NM Interim Committee meetings (505-986-4600) or so that members of the public may participate as their interest and schedule permits. LWV promotes active citizen involvement in their government so that legislation and other decisions reflect the priorities of the citizenry.

SAVE THE DATE

DECEMBER 7, 2019
10 AM TO NOON in Santa Fe
Annual LWVNM Lobbying workshop.
See November Voter for more details.

Be sure to come to the December LWVCNM meetings to hear more about LWVNM legislative priorities for 2020.

Karen Douglas and Karen Wentworth
Co-Presidents, LWVCNM



National Voter Registration Day event at Civic Plaza, September 24, 2019. LWVCNM had a voter registration table. Pictured left to right are Benjamin Mackey, Karen Wentworth, County Clerk Linda Stover, and Vanessa Williams. Picture courtesy of Andrea Targhetta.

WESTSIDE QUARTERLY MEETING
Tuesday, OCTOBER 8, 2019
3:30 pm
THE NEIGHBORHOOD
900 Loma Colorado Blvd. NE
Rio Rancho, NM

LWVCNM Member Paul Stokes will discuss Election Security—Ballot and Voting Machines. Paul spent most of his career at Sandia National Laboratories conducting research, development and analysis of 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.

He has been engaged in election integrity activities since the 2004 election, when he worked with national organizations to pursue a recount of the presidential election in New Mexico, followed by support for legal action to investigate the accuracy of voting machines. Since that time, as coordinator for United Voters of New Mexico, Paul 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.

Talking Points: Election Security issued by the LWVUS

Election security is about voter confidence and participation. The more confident voters are in our elections systems, the more confident they will feel that their vote has been counted and their voice heard, and this directly impacts their participation. There are several ways that elections officials, voters, and community groups can address these issues of election security, including through cybersecurity protections, upgraded voting technology, training of elections officials, and advocating for updated laws and regulations. We must allocate resources to fortify our election systems, guard against future attacks, and restore voter confidence in our democratic institutions.

Working with State and Local Officials to Secure Our Elections

Leagues are encouraged to work with elections officials to:

- Enhance voting security and upgrade equipment
- Institute risk-limiting audit practices
- Ensure valid votes are counted
- Protect eligible voters
- Facilitate cyber-security training for elections officials

Foreign Interference from Russia and Other Countries

Individuals can protect against foreign interference by:

- Educating themselves and others on how to understand who or what may be trying to influence their vote or decision-making processes. You can use the War on Pineapple (https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/19_0717_cisa_the-war-on-pineappleunderstanding-foreign-interference-in-5-steps.pdf) handout from Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to help those around you understand this concept.
- Checking their voter registration status (before registration deadlines)

There are multiple ways elections officials can protect their voting systems, including:

- Replacing paperless voting machines with accessible voting machines that provide a paper trail
- Securing voter registration data
- Securing election night reporting systems

Officials should investigate additional ways to protect against outside interference.

Legislative Solutions

- The League of Women Voters works directly with state legislatures and elections officials at the state and local level to advocate for equipment and processes that work best for the communities our elections are meant to serve.
- Honest Ads Act: The League supports passage of the Honest Ads Act, legislation at the federal level which addresses the misinformation campaign launched by Russia through social media channels in the 2016 elections.
- For the People Act: The League urges the U.S. Senate to pass the For the People Act, federal legislation that includes measures related to election security, money in politics, expanding access for voters, and increasing transparency in our elections.

Editors' Note: See lwg.org for more information.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR....

Dear VOTER Editor,

In the past few weeks, the Albuquerque Journal has published several news stories involving the Bernalillo County Sheriff's

department that indicate a troubling pattern of autonomous actions that may create problems for the Albuquerque police. On September 11, the sheriff's department conducted a "surge" in Southeast Albuquerque without notifying the Albuquerque Police Department. He claimed "success" in the operation. The problem is that Sheriff Gonzales has refused to use the money allocated for his sheriffs to wear body cameras, claiming that he will use the money to upgrade the dash cams in patrol cars.

This independent decision regarding body cams is the most visible refusal to implement instructions from the citizens who voted the sheriff into office.

The weekly Alibi (Sept. 5-11) published a short news story about Bernalillo County residents gathering at the Sheriff's office, calling for him to resign.

Though the sheriff is an elected official, not enough attention has been paid to this powerful elected office. Might the LWVNM be ready to study this office - its history and its utility? Should the city continue to allow the county sheriff to wield so much power within the city limits?

Alice Brasfield

September 2019

POLICY REGARDING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: We welcome letters from our members about topics of public policy and issues that affect the public. The opinions expressed in any such letter reflects the opinion of the writer and not the League of Women Voters or the Voter Editor. The Editor re-

Correct Count for Census Critical for New Mexico/Scammers Already at Work

DO NOT REPLY TO ANY CENSUS INQUIRY OVER THE INTERNET

At least one member of our league has already been targeted by an internet demand for information supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau. The scammer was seeking details that might actually be asked on the census questionnaire, but the census is not scheduled to begin until April 1, 2020. (No this is not an April fool.)



Next spring, you will receive a post card in the mail directing you to a census link. You should also receive a post card and explanatory letter from the Census Bureau explaining how to go online to fill out your census form. This census is going to be problematic for New Mexico, especially since only 73% of our citizens have access to the internet, and this census will primarily be done online. Now just stop for a minute to think about the odds that your friends/neighbors/family will be willing to go online and able to correctly navigate a census questionnaire. This census could be pretty ugly for New Mexico.

Over the next few months complete count committees will be working to figure out how to count as many New Mexicans as possible.

This is really important to our state because census numbers are used by the federal government to allocate funds for Medicaid, CHIP, SNAP, Section 8 and school lunch programs. They are also used to calculate funds for early education and transportation, such as grants for city buses. The state currently estimates New Mexico will lose at least \$3,000 a year for every person who is not counted. Over a ten- year period, that may add up to about \$600 million. That estimate is based on undercount problems incurred in the 2010 census. During that census, New Mexico's response rate was so low that we were the 49th state in terms of response.

Getting a correct count is a priority for the U.S. League of Women Voters and our local league will be participating. If you want to join the league's effort, please contact Karen Wentworth at KWentworth@comcast.net

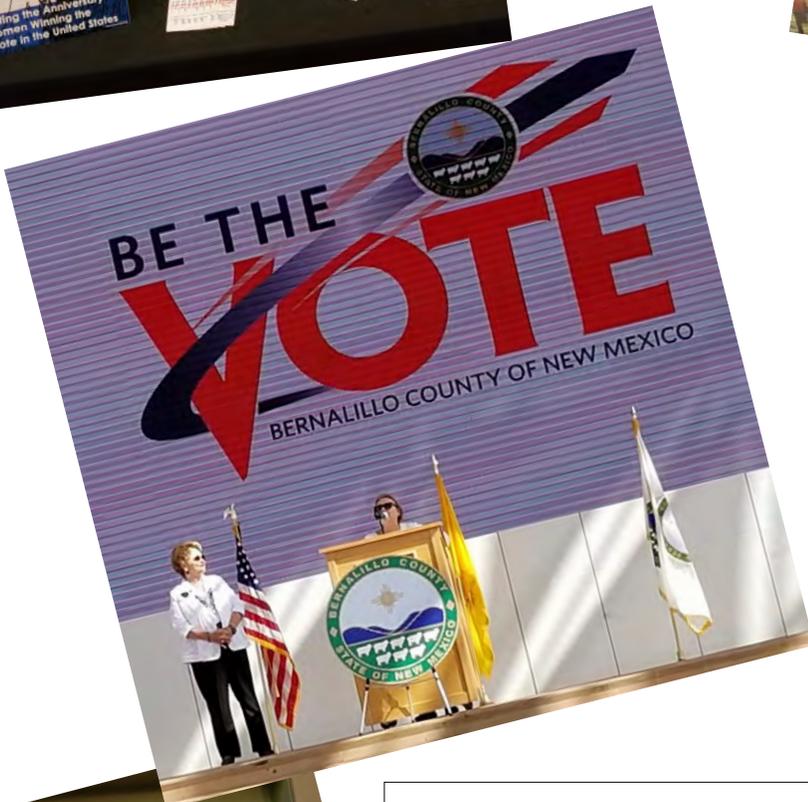
A COLLAGE FROM SEPTEMBER EVENTS INVOLVING LWVCNM.....



Pictured to the left are from l. to r. : Members Carrie Sarnicky, Donna Rigano and Karen Wentworth staffing the LWVCNM table at the Dr. Joyce Antler event on Sept. 17. We welcome new member LINDA ZIPP who joined at this event.



Above: Judge Stan Whitaker addressing the September luncheon meeting.



Pictured to the Left:

LWVCNM President Karen Wentworth addresses the audience at the Voter Registration Day event at Civic Plaza on Tuesday, September 24, 2019. Karen encouraged the public to register and to get out and vote on Election Day and to urge their friends and family members to do the same. Our VOTE is our VOICE in a democratic society.



Pictured to the Left:

Dr. Joyce Antler, Professor Emeritus from Brandeis University whom the University of New Mexico welcomed to its campus on September 17th to participate in its biannual Contemporary Jewish Studies Lecture Series. Professor Antler spoke on the topic of Jewish Radical Feminism, the title of her most recent book. Referring to her book, Dr. Antler emphasized the overlooked contribution of Jewish women to second wave feminism of the 1960s and 1970s. She interviewed 40 Jewish feminist women to illustrate how women's liberation and Jewish feminism unfolded over the course of their lives. League members were delighted to hear from Dr. Antler about how these women profoundly influenced the social, political and religious revolutions of our times. Dr. Antler based her research in the urban centers of New York, Boston, and Chicago. Among those founders she discussed was Susan Brownmiller and her ground breaking book "Against Our Will: Men, Women, and Rape." Dr. Antler based her research in the urban centers of New York, Boston, and Chicago. Among those founders she discussed was Susan Brownmiller and her ground breaking book "Against Our Will: Men, Women, and Rape."

FOLLOW UP TO AUGUST LUNCHEON MEETING.....

The August LWVCNM luncheon featured speakers from MOMS DEMAND ACTION just days after the mass shooting in El Paso, TX and Dayton, OH. The speakers described their group's efforts on gun control issues. The following is an excerpt from an op ed piece written by Andrea Kaminski, the legislative coordinator for the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, that appeared in the August 12 edition of *The Cap Times*, a Madison, WI newspaper:

“There are many problems that contribute to the increasing incidence of these horrific crimes, [mass shootings] including racism, nationalism, mental illness and hate. Yet there is no excuse to ignore the fact that they all involve high-capacity firearms that are all too easy to obtain. That is one reason why mass shootings are much more common in the United States than in other countries. The League of Women Voters [of the U.S.] in 1990 proclaimed the proliferation of handguns and semiautomatic assault weapons ‘a major health and safety threat’ in the United States. We adopted national positions supporting legislation to prevent gun violence, including a required waiting period for a background check, personal identity verification, and gun safety education prior to purchasing a firearm, along with annual license renewal for ownership. It took only a few weeks for New Zealand to enact similar measures following a day of horrific mass shootings in mosques in Christchurch in which a white supremacist killed 50 people. We could respond as quickly and decisively here...”



These are key bills that are pending on gun control in the United State House of Representatives:

H.R. 1186, the Keep Americans Safe Act, would ban high capacity ammunition magazines.

H.R. 1236, the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2019 (amended to include provisions from H.R. 3076, the Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act), provides incentives through grants for states to adopt laws providing for Extreme Risk Protection Orders to prevent those deemed a risk to themselves or others from accessing firearms and establishes a procedure for obtaining Extreme Risk Protection Orders in federal court

H.R. 2708, the Disarm Hate Act, which includes those convicted of misdemeanor hate crimes in the list of categories of individuals who are prohibited from possessing firearms, and who would be prohibited from doing so through background checks.

In March 2018, the LWVUS Lobby Corps presented this letter from President Chris Carson to all United States Senators:

“On behalf of our 300,000 members and supporters, as well as the millions of Americans at risk every day, the League of Women Voters strongly urges you to pass common sense solutions to the gun violence that is plaguing our nation.

It is time for Congress to adopt legislation that will close the gun show loophole, increase penalties for straw purchases of guns, ban assault weapons, place limits on high capacity ammunition magazine size, and fund research and reporting on gun violence in America. Curbing gun violence is a critical matter of public safety, public health, and public confidence.

Along with the majority of American citizens, the League supports closing the gun show loophole and providing for universal background checks. Currently, background checks are not required for the 40 percent of gun sales that take place at gun shows, person-to-person sales or other private transactions. A recent Quinnipiac poll found that support for background checks is almost universal with 97 percent of voters in favor of background checks on all gun purchasers. This is the highest level of support ever measured by the independent poll. In addition, Congress should pass legislation to increase the penalties for straw purchases in which individuals who do not have criminal records buy guns and pass them on to individuals who are not eligible to purchase a firearm, including felons and domestic abusers.

The League also believes that the 115th Congress should pass legislation to ban all military-style semi-automatic assault weapons along with high capacity ammunition magazines. The Quinnipiac poll found that 67 percent of registered voters nationwide support a ban on the sale of assault weapons. Placing limits on magazine size is a common-sense solution to shootings that kill many people at once. This limit should include magazines and other ammunition feeding devices that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition. These devices allow shooters to fire numerous rounds in rapid succession without having to stop and reload, and they have been a central part of the mass killings of recent years. Throughout the country, local and state Leagues have been holding meetings with their fellow citizens to discuss the crisis of gun violence. They have testified before state legislatures and met with their neighbors in community meetings to come together, air their differences and work to find common ground and solve some of the difficult problems presented in the gun debate, including mental health issues and the problem of domestic violence. Congress should follow suit and start to act on common sense solutions to curb gun violence.”

NEWSWORTHY ITEMS YOU MAY NOT HAVE SEEN.....

Excerpts from a press release from the U.S. House Oversight Committee and Reform dated September 19, 2019:

Today the Committee on Oversight and Reform held a historic hearing on H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act—the first on DC statehood in over 25 years. H.R. 51 has 220 cosponsors, and both Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Steny Hoyer have strongly endorsed the bill.

“The testimony presented today from District officials and expert witnesses leaves no doubt that the Washington, D.C. Admission Act is constitutional and that the state would meet all of its financial, economic and other obligations. Thank you, in particular, to Chairman Cummings for his continued leadership to make whole the 700,000 Americans living in the District of Columbia. The next step is again historic – H.R. 51 will be marked up to move to the House floor,” said Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton.

“D.C. residents are American citizens. They fight honorably to protect our nation overseas. They pay taxes. Not many people know this, but D.C. pays more in total federal taxes than 22 states. And it pays more per capita than any state in the nation. D.C. residents have all the responsibilities of citizenship, but they have no congressional voting rights and only limited self-government,” said Committee Chairman Elijah E. Cummings in prepared remarks....

“And, yes, it is true that we are brown and liberal, but denying statehood would be unfair no matter who was affected—it would be unfair if we were conservatives from a rural district built around agriculture or an industrial city in the heartland. This is America, and Americans are entitled to equal protection under the law, and that’s why you should support statehood,” testified Muriel Bowser, the Mayor of the District of Columbia....

The Committee plans to markup the bill in the coming months with the goal of considering it on the House floor.



On September 20, 2019 in anticipation of the United Nations emergency Climate Action Summit held the following Monday, people around the world, including in Albuquerque, NM, staged a Climate Strike, walking out of their schools, workplaces and homes to demonstrate the urgent need for Governments and businesses to take action to save our climate. At the Summit, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called on all leaders – governments, the private sector, civil society, local authorities and other international organizations – to come with concrete, realistic plans that will boost ambition and rapidly accelerate action to implement the Paris Agreement. Cities are key to securing our climate future and successfully implementing national climate plans. Today, more than half of the world’s population lives in cities and two-thirds of people will live in cities by 2050. Cities consume more than two-thirds of the world’s energy and are the places where the effects of the climate emergency are already severely felt, particularly amongst the most vulnerable populations. Major announcements by government and private sector leaders at the United Nations Climate Action Summit boosted climate action momentum, and demonstrated growing recognition that the pace of climate action must be rapidly accelerated. UN Secretary-General António Guterres, in closing the Summit, said “You have delivered a boost in momentum, cooperation and ambition. But we have a long way to go. We need more concrete plans, more ambition from more countries and more businesses. We need all financial institutions, public and private, to choose, once and for all, the green economy.” Youth leaders including Greta Thunberg of Sweden drove home the urgency of greater action by leaders, and their determination to hold leaders to account.

Pictured at right is the Sept. 20 Climate Strike march in Downtown Albuquerque. Courtesy of Tomas Wolff.



**APD/DOJ Court Approved Settlement Agreement (Consent Decree)
Public Status Conference before Judge Browning
August 20, 2019**

Report by Karen Douglas



Tim Keller, Mayor of Albuquerque – Backlog of APD Use of Force cases (UOF) now with Force Review Board. Constitutional policing now provided by city sector with problem response teams including assignment of bicycle cops. APD is now considered the US standard for police force dealings with behavioral health issues. APD added 100 officers in 2019 and has 62 candidates for the Police Academy. Ethical Policing is Courageous (EPIC, adopted from New Orleans PD) has shifted the frontline culture to a lower level for discipline focusing on Sergeant and below. EPIC encourages officers to learn from mistakes. The APD focus is now on violent crime. An additional APD goal is to inspire youth to become police officers. Judge Browning questioned whether additional officers would reduce APD overtime and Mayor Keller responded that the current level of overtime is unsustainable.

US Attorney John C. Anderson – Constitutional and effective policing will be required for success under the CASA. The EPIC program has greatly improved the APD UOF situation. APD is now considered to use best practices for mental illness. Anderson agreed that increasing police engagement with youth could result in young people considering a law enforcement careers and viewing police officers as role models. The US Attorney's office would need to double the current prosecution staff to adequately deal with violent crimes and offenders considered "worst of worst."

Detective Shaun Willoughby, President of Albuquerque Police Officers Association – The 2019 APD police force includes 6 Commanders, 18 Lieutenants, 52 Sergeants, and ~1000 Officers. The APD target would be 1100 officers – APD had 843 officers in 2016. Willoughby indicated that this is the first time that the APD union has been positively involved in the CASA/APD reform effort.



Dr. James Ginger, Independent Monitor of the CASA progress – Dr. Ginger had pneumonia and called in to discuss the 3rd CASA Outcome Report which included both identification of APD progress and assessment of the efficacy of measures adopted. He discussed the 3 elements of APD reform efforts – Policy, Training, and Remediation required for police learning and adaptation of new behaviors. Dr. Ginger now views APD as a partner in the reform effort. APD now employs an outside data consultant working with the APD Compliance Unit to make decisions based on data. 2018 was the turnaround year for APD with implementation of the Crisis Intervention and Response Team (CIRT, dealing with mental health situations). APD has improved officer training by adopting an adult learning model focusing on problem solving. APD Internal Affairs still needs work but has improved. APD now has UOF issues well in hand but remains weakest in staff supervisory processes addressed by the Internal Affairs group. APD consultation and community participation has become an APD Best Practice.



APD Chief Geier – Chief Geier had 20 years of APD experience before joining the Rio Rancho, NM State Police and returned to APD when appointed as Chief by Mayor Keller. He indicated that APD has effectively reduced the level of adversity with the community and attributes this improvement to "Blue Courage" (implementation of the EPIC program with officers informing APD Internal Affairs when excessive UOF or other signals warrant additional concern or scrutiny). Since the 2014 initiation of the CASA identified APD weaknesses, 12 officer recommendations to review UOF were referred to the APD Internal Affairs unit with most instances resulting in corrections. Now this involves the 3rd Tier of APD staff addressing Supervisors with a Force Review Board in place. 3rd recommendations are referred to the Tactical Unit which has improved both the Internal Affairs unit and the civilian complaint process. Recent concerns regarding lateral transfer of officers from other police forces were answered by Chief Geier indicating equally strict treatment by APD Force Review Team which evaluates all 3 levels of UOF.

Albuquerque City Attorney Aguilar also addressed this issue highlighted by recent Bernalillo County officers using deadly force which may not have been warranted. Attorney Aguilar pointed out that BERNCO officers receive 16 weeks of Basic Skills training but APD officers receive 28 weeks of training.

Paul Killebrew, Special Counsel, DOJ Civil Rights Division, Washington, DC – Mr. Killebrew was involved in initial 2013 DOJ Findings development, negotiated the CASA, and continues to evaluate APD progress. He participated in the last Outcome Hearing held June 2018 and has experience evaluating more than 70 potential settlement agreements across the US. He has been involved with 18 Consent Decrees and two injunctions. US DOJ identifies four pillars of policing: Policy, Training (prior APD training was too militaristic), Supervision, and Accountability (APD Supervisors reporting and reporting by the press were inconsistent). The Ninth Independent Monitor's Report (most recent) evaluates 3 Levels of Compliance: Primary – Agreeing with the Policy; Secondary – Training to the Policy; and Operational Compliance (APD Supervisor accountability still too weak). APD has improved by reducing the backlog of UOF cases – during late 2017 there was a backlog of 300 UOF cases, some including Misconduct, and many past the 120 - day deadline when it is too late to discipline officers, where warranted.

Continued on next page.....

Consent Decree Report continued from page 10.....

The Backlog of APD UOF Case Reviews identified every policy violation where supervisors could be held accountable and the Lieutenants and Commanders were held accountable. APD remedial measures included Performance Improvement Plans and documents placed in officers' personnel files. Simultaneously, lessons regarding these topics were included in APD reality-based training. A Police Executive Board Study was conducted in 2011 but APD did not implement recommendations. Judge Browning questioned whether APD was held in contempt, Special Counsel Killebrew replied that no effort was made to charge with contempt as this would halt the compliance efforts underway. Special Counsel Killebrew indicated that there was currently no need for additional orders. A second case study presented a scenario with APD officer employing a distraction strategy (e.g., knee in detainees face = UOF) or tactical profanity with supervisor not reporting UOF, instead placing an Additional Concerns Memo in officer's file rather than pursuing official UOF process. This permits similar officer misconduct to be managed "off the books" including management of unacceptable UOF cases, avoiding formal UOF case processing. APD issued ~100 Additional Concerns Memo during 2018 (not all UOF). This subverts treatment of APD misconduct cases and this process was revised August 2019 so that now every misconduct case is reported to APD Internal Affairs. The next/10th Independent Monitor's Report is due to Judge Browning in November 2019 and will cover time period ending in July 2019.



Albuquerque Police Officers' Association Attorney Mowrer then addressed these allegations by DOJ Special Counsel Killebrew. Mowrer stated that APOA fosters change and has been a compliant participant in the APD reform process. He disagreed with Killebrew's assertion that backlog of APD UOF cases was stalling – rather he attributed backlog to insufficient staff available to process cases. Mowrer also disputed allegation that Additional Concerns Memos were a supervisory tool to avoid UOF processing system and cited one case where a body camera was not used that did not involve UOF.

Elizabeth Martinez, Assistant US Attorney/DOJ described the initial situation where the voice of the community contacted DOJ and the subsequent investigation revealed an increased number of officer-involved shootings which were reported to both members of Congress and the DOJ. This also prompted formation of the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee.

Peter Simonson/ACLU and Rachel Biggs/Healthcare for the Homeless represented the APD Forward Coalition – Judge Browning questioned reason for a coalition with ACLU Lead organization and Simonson responded that this coalition could better understand the conditions affecting residents and ACLU has listening groups for the homeless, Native Americans, and sex workers. He indicated that police officers sometimes take the prescription medications, belongings, or day packs provided to homeless individuals. APD Forward voiced concern that consistent and effective systems are required to evaluate UOF and APD accountability is a continuing concern. Earlier in August 2019 three Bernalillo County Sheriff's Officers shot and killed a mentally ill woman whose family members had called for help. Simonson identified sections of Independent Monitor Dr. Ginger's 9th Quarterly Report with similar concerns to the 2014 DOJ letter of findings alleging that lower levels of APD had changed the police body camera policy. Simonson agreed that both Albuquerque Mayor Keller and APD Chief Geier have made dedicated efforts to the APD reform progress. Ms. Biggs indicated that 16,000 Bernalillo county residents experience homelessness annually with 1385 counted one night recently. House-Surfing is not included among the 1385. 6000 APS students are from homeless families. Biggs discussed statistics and homeless definition required for US Housing and Urban Development Grants. APD Forward recommended that Civilian Police Oversight Agency be codified and allocated 0.8% of the APD Budget to ensure reforms remain after CASA concluded.

A Community Coalition representative then addressed Judge Browning and stated that the DOJ Findings letter paragraph 298/Outcomes did not address Racial Bias. Overall UOF should consider Demographics including both racial and ethnic (including limited English language proficiency). APD UOF Incident Report includes race, ethnicity, gender including gender expression/identity and tabulates number of UOF instances and number of injuries resulting from UOF for each of the six APD Commands.

Both APD/City of Albuquerque and DOJ representatives present advised Judge Browning that there should only be one unified AMICI and questioned whether APD Forward was inclusive.

Community Policing Councils are established in each of the city's six area commands and are charged with evaluating the priorities, inner workings and effectiveness of the Albuquerque Police Department. The Councils are required by the settlement agreement between the Department of Justice and APD and are created to allow the community to voice concerns and make recommendations to APD. All Community Policing Council meetings are open to the public. To find out what area command you are in (based on where you live), examine the City's area command websites at <https://www.cabq.gov/police/contact-the-police/area-commands> and click the area you believe you are in. Community Policing Council Meetings are usually held monthly in each of the area commands. For specific dates, times, and locations visit: <https://www.cabq.gov/police/community-policing-council>



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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 by education and advocacy.

APPLICATION FOR LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

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Mail above information to LWVCNM, 2315 San Pedro Dr. NE, Suite F-6, Albuquerque, NM 87110-4158 along with annual dues as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| First member of household | \$60 |
| Each additional member of household | \$30 |
| Student member (proof required) | \$1 |