

November 2019

The VOTER

Vol. 84 No. 11

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

“JUDICIAL SELECTION IN NEW MEXICO”

LWVCNM invites you to attend our November 14, 2019 luncheon meeting to hear a very esteemed panel. The Chair of New Mexico’s Judicial Nominating Commissions and the Dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law, Sergio Pareja, will provide an overview of the judicial selection process in New Mexico. He also will review the three bills related to judicial selection that were introduced in the last legislative session, SJR 12, SJR 15, and SJR 19. This will be followed by a panel discussion on issues with the current judicial selection system, ideas for reforming the system, and possible insight into what we might expect to see in the next legislative session. The panel will consist of Dean Pareja, New Mexico Court of Appeals Chief Judge Monica Zamora, and New Mexico State Bar President Jerry Dixon.



Chief Judge Monica Zamora



President Jerry Dixon



Dean Sergio Pareja

LUNCHEON UNIT MEETING
Thursday, November 14, 2019
11:30 AM
EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL
1000 Woodward Pl. NE, Albuquerque

Reservations are due Nov. 11 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. If you register online, please pay by 10:00 am on Nov. 11. The treasurer will recognize that entry as payment for a lunch.)

See page 3 for more information about the speakers and page 2 for more details about the lunch.

THE VOTER

Published monthly

The League of Women Voters
of Central New Mexico

2315 San Pedro dr. NE, Suite F-6

Albuquerque, NM 87110-4158

(505) 884-8441

www.lwvcnm.org



Co-Presidents:

Karen Douglas

Karen Wentworth

1st Vice President:

Mary G. Wilson

2nd Vice President:

Andrea Targhetta

3rd Vice President:

Trish Lopez

4th Vice President:

Vacant

Treasurer:

Janice Strand

Secretary:

Carol Tucker Trelease

Membership:

Donna Rigano

Voter Services:

Mary Ellen Smith

Public Relations:

Chris Burroughs

Director:

Ashley Benning



Technology:

Cheryl Haaker

Administrative Coordinator:

Vacant

The VOTER Editor:

Mary G. Wilson

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday

10 am — noon

LEAGUE CALENDAR

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
VETERANS DAY**

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 December VOTER articles

Monday, Nov. 25 NO NE Heights Unit Meeting in Nov. or Dec.

Thursday, Nov. 28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING Office closed

Friday, Nov. 29 Office closed

December 2019

Thursday, Dec. 5 5:30 pm LWVCNM Board Meeting, Conference Room 4th floor, 6100 Uptown NE

Saturday, Dec. 7 10 am to Noon LWVNM Advocacy Workshop

Monday, Dec. 9 10:00 am Deadline for luncheon reservations

Thursday, Dec. 12 Luncheon Meeting : Legislative Priorities with Richard Mason, LWVNM Advocacy Chair

November 14 luncheon details....

Lunch will be in La Ventana Room at the Embassy Suites hotel. Park on the south side of the hotel and enter through the Main entrance.

Menu: Napa chicken salad on croissant. Halved grapes, celery and chopped pecan with fresh herbs. Chef's Choice Soup.

Vegetarian: Grilled eggplant, zucchini, and roasted peppers wrapped in a tortilla with roasted pepper hummus, goat cheese and alfalfa sprouts. With either Chef's Choice Soup or vegetable soup.

Cookies and brownies for dessert.

NOVEMBER 14, 2019 Speakers:

M. Monica Zamora joined the New Mexico Court of Appeals in December 2012. She was elected to serve as Chief Judge of the Court in January 2019. Judge Zamora previously served as a District Court Judge in the Second Judicial District Court, assigned to the Children's Court Division and served as its presiding judge for over five years. Prior to her appointment to the District Court bench in November 2005, Judge Zamora was in private practice for over 18 years.



Judge Zamora graduated from the University Of New Mexico School Of Law in 1987. She was admitted to practice in the State of New Mexico in 1987; the U.S. Federal District Court for the District of New Mexico in 1988; in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in 1988; and in the United States Supreme Court in 2000. Judge Zamora is a member of the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association and the New Mexico Women's Bar Association. She has received the Governor's Award for Outstanding New Mexico Women (2008), the CLE Summit Award for Ethics & Professionalism Credit awarded by the State Bar of New Mexico and The Center for Legal Education (2012), and the Henrietta Pettijohn Award from the New Mexico Women's Bar Association (2013).

Sergio Pareja is the Dean of UNM School of Law. Prior to joining the UNM law faculty, he practiced tax and estate planning in Colorado and Indiana. Dean Pareja commonly teaches courses in the areas of tax and estate planning. In 2011, he was identified by as one of the top law teachers in the country: *The Bucket List: 23 Law Profs to Take Before You Die*. In 2013, Pareja was honored by the University of New Mexico with a university-wide *Outstanding Teacher of the Year* award. Dean Pareja also is New Mexico's first ever Academic Fellow to the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Dean Pareja is the founding director of UNM's Madrid Summer Law Institute. In his role as Dean of the law school, Dean Pareja serves as Chair of all Judicial Nominating Commissions in New Mexico. Outside of his interests in the law, Dean Pareja is a dedicated guitarist. He got his J.D. from Georgetown and his B.A. from UC Berkeley.



Jerry Dixon is a shareholder at Dixon•Scholl•Carrillo•P.A. and has practiced law for 38 years in the areas of professional malpractice defense, licensing, commercial and construction litigation and real estate. He is currently the President of the State Bar of New Mexico. He is a frequent speaker to professionals on ethics, professional liability and risk management issues. Jerry was President of the Albuquerque Bar Association in 1994. He has participated in the New Mexico high school mock trial program since 1988. Jerry was named Outstanding Attorney of the Year by the Albuquerque Bar Association in 2014 and received the 2014 Distinguished Service Award from Texas Tech University School of Law. Jerry served as a visiting Professor of Law in 2012 at the University of National and World Economy in Sofia, Bulgaria and in 2015 at South-West University in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico has long supported merit selection for appellate and district court judges and Supreme Court justices in New Mexico. Since the time that merit selection was enacted in the State, many new members have joined the League and, as always, we desire to refresh our members' understanding of this important process for a key branch of our Government. In addition, the League's renewed interest in the selection of judges has resulted from a State study adopted at LWVNM Convention in May 2019. The two-year study is on the "Qualifications and Selection of Judges of the Lower Courts." Suzanne Ronneau (LWVSFC, State Board Treasurer) proposed the study and will serve as study chair. Committee members are Mary Wilson, Mary Smith, Janet Blair, and Adelaide Jacobson. The Committee welcomes additional members. Please contact sronneau@bellsouth.net or call 505-699-7781 for more information or talk to her at the Nov. 14 meeting.

Continued on next page....

Study Plan for the Qualification and selection of Lower Court Judge....

- Determine the current legal requirements for qualification of judges of the "lower courts" or "Limited Jurisdiction Courts," -- magistrate courts, municipal courts, and probate courts.
- Review the positions of other State Leagues regarding legal requirements.
- Determine the adequacy of the current legal requirements to assure optimal justice for New Mexicans by interviewing judges of the lower courts, interviewing citizens having cases in these courts to the extent practicable to determine whether the current judges are doing an acceptable job. In addition, consider what other minimum requirements should be instituted (i.e. requirement for certain level of educational achievement, status as a New Mexico attorney.)
- Study whether the selection process, i.e., partisan elections, is optimal, by comparing current selection processes in other States.

The first year will be aimed at educating the committee and League members as to the current status and the positions of other state Leagues. The second year will be aimed at developing questions for consensus for an amended state position, if deemed warranted after study.

The Study committee will hold its first meeting in the Embassy Suites lobby at 11 am immediately prior to the Nov. 14 luncheon. The committee will caucus again after the luncheon to refine their work based on what they have heard from the panel discussion.

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

LWVCNM issued the Voter's Guide for the November 2019 Local Election culminating this intensive effort with eager constituents contacting LWVCNM to request both the printed Guide, with distribution of the hardcopy publication managed under the capable direction of Andrea Targhetta, and the online version posted by Cheryl Haaker. This concentrated effort highlighted LWVCNM cooperation and strengths to achieve a unified major objective offering our most visible service to the voting public and will serve as a "practice run" for the upcoming 2020 Voters' Guide in a year where the Presidency, major Congressional races, and NM State Legislators will also vie to represent their constituency and forward their goals. The Voters' Guide always provides insight to voters when there are many decisions and when LWVCNM can offer the public each candidates' perspective on the issues in a fair presentation easily understood.

LWVCNM would like to especially thank everyone who worked on the 2019 Local Elections Voter Guide. This year was a learning experience as the Voters' Guide covered city council, Albuquerque Public School Board, Central New Mexico Community College Governing Board, Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control and Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District races. This year we also included local races in the Villages of Tijeras and Los Ranchos de Albuquerque. Special thanks are due to Mary Wilson for organizing the guide, to Janet Blair for searching out the candidates, to Jeanne Logsdon for organizing proofreaders, and to Andrea Targhetta for organizing the distribution of the Voter Guide and to Mary Smith for handling all the requests for candidate forum moderators. LWVCNM would also like to thank the Bernalillo County Clerk Linda Stover for allowing us to place the guides in the early voting centers. This year voters are going to need the guide more than ever as they face down the 14 bond questions and try to translate the ballot questions into practical terms.

Our nation is going through difficult political times, and the work we do to educate voters on local political candidates and concerns is more valuable than ever. Thank you to all the leaguers who work to keep our democracy on track every day. It might not seem like much day to day, but the grass roots of democracy keep the political landscape strong.

Karen Douglas and Karen Wentworth
Co-Presidents, LWVCNM

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Editor has not edited the Presidents' Message.



DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW WANT TO EARN SOME EXTRA MONEY AND HELP THE LEAGUE AT THE SAME TIME? IF SO, please consider applying for the following part-time position:

LWVCNM Office Administrative Aide

Position Description:
 Reports to LWVCNM Co-Presidents
 Up to 20 hours per month
 Flexible schedule
 Salary negotiable, consistent with responsibilities

Responsibilities

- ⇒ Correspondence as needed (i.e. membership mailings, donation requests and appreciation, formal correspondence to elected/appointed officials)
- ⇒ LWVCNM/NM Office support – supply inventory, assist with technology support for volunteer
- ⇒ LWVNM Board portfolio support (Program, Membership, Voter Services - as needed, mostly annual)
- ⇒ Meeting Attendance – monthly LWVCNM Board meeting
- ⇒ Other Duties, as assigned (occasional)

Thank you for your support of the League of Women Voters!

Any interested applicant can learn more about our work by visiting <https://www.lwvcnm.org/about/>.

Apply by emailing a resume and letter of interest to President@LWVCNM.org
 You can also call Karen Douglas with questions: (505) 263-3297



KAREN M. DOUGLAS, our Co-President, has received a very great professional honor from her alma mater. The University of New Mexico School of Engineering will present her with a Distinguished Alumni Award at a November 7 banquet at Embassy Suites Hotel. She is being honored in the Chemical and Biological Engineering field. Karen received a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering from UNM in 1979 and completed her master of science in Materials Science and Engineering at Stanford University in 1983. From 1990 until she retired in May 2019, Karen worked as a nuclear engineer at the National Nuclear Security Administration in Albuquerque. She is currently serving as a nuclear quality assurance mentor at Longenecker & Associates. We are very proud to have Karen as a League Leader! And we SALUTE her for receiving this award.



Thanks to many volunteers and especially Karen Wentworth, Janet Blair, Jeanne Logsdon, Cheryl Haaker, and Andrea Targhetta—LWVCNM was able to publish a Voter Guide for the November 5, 2019 Local Elections in Bernalillo County WITHOUT a Voter Guide Editor. Let's try not to repeat that in 2020. Contact Mary Wilson NOW if you would like to be an Editor or Co-Editor next year. And, in the 2021 local elections, we would like to cover more elections being held in our 4-county area.

Advocacy Workshop - 2020 Legislative Session

The League of Women Voters

of New Mexico Presents

Effective Citizen Advocacy at the Legislature

Special Focus on the Budget and Revenue Process

Saturday, December 7, 2019, 10 a.m. to Noon

New Mexico State Capitol, Room 322 (enter on the East side only)

The public is invited.

Learn tips from legislators and a professional lobbyist about how to interact with legislators, speak at hearings, and advocate for your cause.

Speakers:

Senator Sander Rue - Member of the Senate Finance Committee

Representative Christine Chandler - Member of the House Taxation & Revenue Committee

Amber Wallin, MPA, Deputy Director, New Mexico Voices for Children

Wallin oversees Voices' research and policy work. She is an expert on education, tax and budget, hunger and economic issues.

This is training on the legislative process. Questions about positions on specific issues will not be permitted.

ETHICS IN ALBUQUERQUE GOVERNMENT....Co-Presidents Karen Douglas and Karen Wentworth joined other dignitaries at the ceremony of Mayor Tim Keller signing the City's Ethics Reform Ordinance that added important provision to the city Ethics Code.

Among many other important provisions, it added additional qualifications for members of the Board of Ethics including that members shall not:

—Have held public office as a City official or have been a candidate for public office as a City official for a two-year period prior to appointment;



—Participate in any political campaign for a ballot initiative, City official or a candidate for elective office as a City official while serving on the Board;

—Be a Lobbyist, or be employed by or have an equity interest or ownership interest in a Lobbying Organization, as defined in ROA § 2-3-3, while serving on the Board;

—Be a paid political campaign employee, or be employed by, or have an equity interest or ownership interest in, a business entity that derives any of its revenue or income from political campaign work, while serving on the Board;

—Have a Contract with the City as defined in Article XII, Section 2 while serving on the Board;

—Publicly endorse or publicly oppose a candidate who is a City official or a candidate for elective office as a City official while serving on the Board.

WHY I HAVE MADE A BEQUEST TO LWV CNM IN MY LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.

By George Richmond

I have made a practice of attending most Luncheon meetings of LWVCNM and the Monday morning meetings at La Vida Llena to learn how the various parts of Governments in New Mexico work and how they could be improved. Yes, meaningful changes take time and my patience level on a scale of 1 – 10 is very close to 12,469, but I can wait it out.



LWV members like Andrea Targhetta, Dick Mason and Diane Goldfarb have been very helpful in showing me the League processes and so I have learned from them and also by working with Common Cause NM, ACLU New Mexico and other organizations.

The Independent Ethics Commission will begin this January...after about 20 years of procrastination by the State Legislature and Governors. When I moved here about 21 years ago, voting in person was held at each voter's specific polling place and in a few years, with the help of computers, voting in person could be at any of more than a dozen centers. So, the LWV CNM monthly meetings, and many of its members, have given me the knowledge of our many governments and how changes might be made. This education will be rewarded by a generous contribution through my estate.

To aid this process, I worked to create the **JoAnne Ramponi Society*** which recognizes those people who will help LWV CNM financially. And so I ask that you do the same.

What does LWV CNM need money for?

LWV CNM is chartered to provide voter educational services in four counties: Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia. Most members live in Bernalillo County with about a dozen in Sandoval, four in Torrance and NONE in Valencia. Recently some people in Socorro County asked about forming a league down there. Expanding LWV efforts to more people is, I deem, vital to having active voters informing themselves on issues and candidates and then working to improve our governments.

Further, as more people adopt various social media for their information, and drop newspapers/TV/radio, getting "The Voter Guide" to people or driving them to read it on line is vital. As of August 29, the NM Secretary of State reported just over 416 thousand registered voters in Bernalillo County, yet LWV CNM prints many fewer copies of The Voter Guide to inform voters. Either LWV CNM finds a way to get more print copies in peoples' hand and then their minds, or LWV CNM needs programs to be more effective with social media to get into voters' smart phones/tablets/computers.

Sandoval County has about 97,000 registered voters and is growing rapidly, so I deem that this county should be an important goal for LWV CNM. But having lunches/coffees to get more members there will take some money and planning/time for current members to make it happen. Valencia County has over 42 thousand registered voters and is a good target, but only with planning and meeting leaders down there.

So, if you are leaving money in your estate plans to a not-for-profit organization, please consider naming LWCNM in your plans.



But why am I leaving money in my Will to LWV CNM and not now? My wife and I do not want to be a burden on our children or grand children so we wish to be financially self sufficient now but we feel comfortable leaving money for the League at our deaths. Please contact your attorneys to add a small clause to YOUR Will or Trust that will provide a bequest to LWVCNM.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT.

Attendees at the October LWVCNM luncheon enjoyed learning about plans for the 2020 census.....



The audience listened intently to Marisa Santistevan, NM Census Project Specialist. Pictured on the right are from left to right: Bernadette Miera, Chair of the Bernalillo County Complete Count Committee, LWVCNM President Karen Wentworth and Ms. Santistevan.

At the October luncheon we heard that some members have been getting phishing emails claiming to be from the U.S. Census Bureau. Our speaker explained that the U.S. Census Bureau will never contact you by email unless you specifically go to the Census website and subscribe to its newsletters. So, we thought Members would like to have some information about defending themselves against spam email:

Your first line of defense is asking questions about whether the Census (or any other organization) would reach out to the public this way.

But what can you do in the moment as you sit at your computer to check if an email is legitimate? Errors in the sender name or the subject line are one indicator. Another simple step is to see if the name listed as the sender matches the email source. How do you do that? Take your cursor and let it “hover” over the text for the sender name. Don’t click on the name; just align your cursor over the name. When you hit the right spot, you’ll get a box showing where the email is coming from. For example, I buy things online from Land’s End, so they have my email. If I see Sender: Land’s End Subject line: Got a few seconds? Create your shopping account today!, I am not going to waste my time opening it because I don’t want to create a shopping account, but I can guess it is probably really from Land’s End. I can confirm this by hovering over the sender to see that the email this came from is land-send@email.landsend.com. The sender name and the source email line up: this is a legitimate email.

I also subscribe to Rep. Deb Haaland’s email newsletters. For her the sender is Representative Debra Haaland, and by hovering, I see the source email is NM01DH.Outreach@mail.house.gov. The email wording is a little more convoluted, but all the elements of it still relate to Deb Haaland and show a legitimate connection. But here’s one that isn’t so clear: Sender: 3 Bureau Credit Scores Subject line: Don’t let Labor Day Overwork Your Credit It’s possible this is from a legitimate source wanting to help me check my credit score . . . By hovering my cursor over the sender, I see the actual source is contact84Jou14TA@crawlinginside.com. The sender name and source email do not align, which is enough to know this isn’t legitimate, but the source email also looks pretty sketchy. This is not even worth opening, so into the trash it goes. It is also possible for the sender to look a little more legitimate than this example does, but still be spam, like these U.S. Census Bureau emails. The bottom line is don’t open an email if you are not expecting it, but when in doubt, use the above tool to check out an email.

Submitted by Ashley Benning

MAGDALENA, NM.....

On September 28, Karen Wentworth, Mary Wilson and Hannah Burling traveled to Magdalena to meet with a group of local residents who are interested in doing League work in their community. We told them about the league, what we do, our history and current work in New Mexico. They told us about their concerns about voter registration and voting in their community and about the issues they would like to focus on. One particular issue caught all of our attention because it concerns a group of citizens who need to be better integrated into the voting population, i.e. individuals with disabilities. The group told us about work being done in Colorado under the REV UP! Program created by the American Association of People with Disabilities. REV UP stands for register, educate, vote, use your power.

We welcome members from Magdalena and the surrounding community to join LWVCNM so that they can start working on this important voting rights issue under the League umbrella!

Here are some interesting nationwide statistics about Disability and Voter Turnout in the 2016 Elections compiled by Professors Lisa Schur and Douglas Krusel of Rutgers University:



Pictured above are Mary Wilson and three Magdalena area residents .

- 16.0 million people with disabilities reported voting in the November 2016 elections. The voter turnout rate of people with disabilities was 6 percentage points lower than that of people without disabilities.
- Employed people with disabilities, however, were just as likely as employed people without disabilities to vote, suggesting that employment helps bring people with disabilities into mainstream political life..
- The voter registration rate of people with disabilities was 2 percentage points lower than that of people without disabilities. The lower voter turnout was due both to a lower registration rate among people with disabilities, and to lower turnout among those who are registered.
- If people with disabilities voted at the same rate as people without disabilities who have the same demographic characteristics, there would be about 2.2 million more voters.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

Linda Zipp
3425 Mackland Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87106
elzipp@swcp.com
(505) 266-4042

Joey Diaz
5327 Still Brooke Ave NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120-4606
joey.65@gmail.com
(505) 553-3059

Charles Knoblauch
1412 Lomas Blvd. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104-1236
quidproquo@zianet.com
(505) 263-0599

Molly McGrath
Sydney Swetnam
6324 Ghost Flower Trail NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111-8350
mcgrathtennis@sbcglobal.net
(808)268-7262

Damaris Perez
P.O. Box 1142
Magdalena, NM 87825-0112
enchanted87825@gmail.com
(575) 418-7278

Cornelia "Nili" Lange, MD
1310 Constitution Ct. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112-4601
cwlange@aol.com
(505) 264-2341
(505) 292-7365

Kate Polevitzky
12704 Calle del Oso NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111-8056
k.polevitzky@gmail.com
(760) 908-1776

Patricia "Patti" Drake-Talbott
4972 Quail Ridge Dr. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114-4350
pattidrake@gmail.com
(505) 730-0664

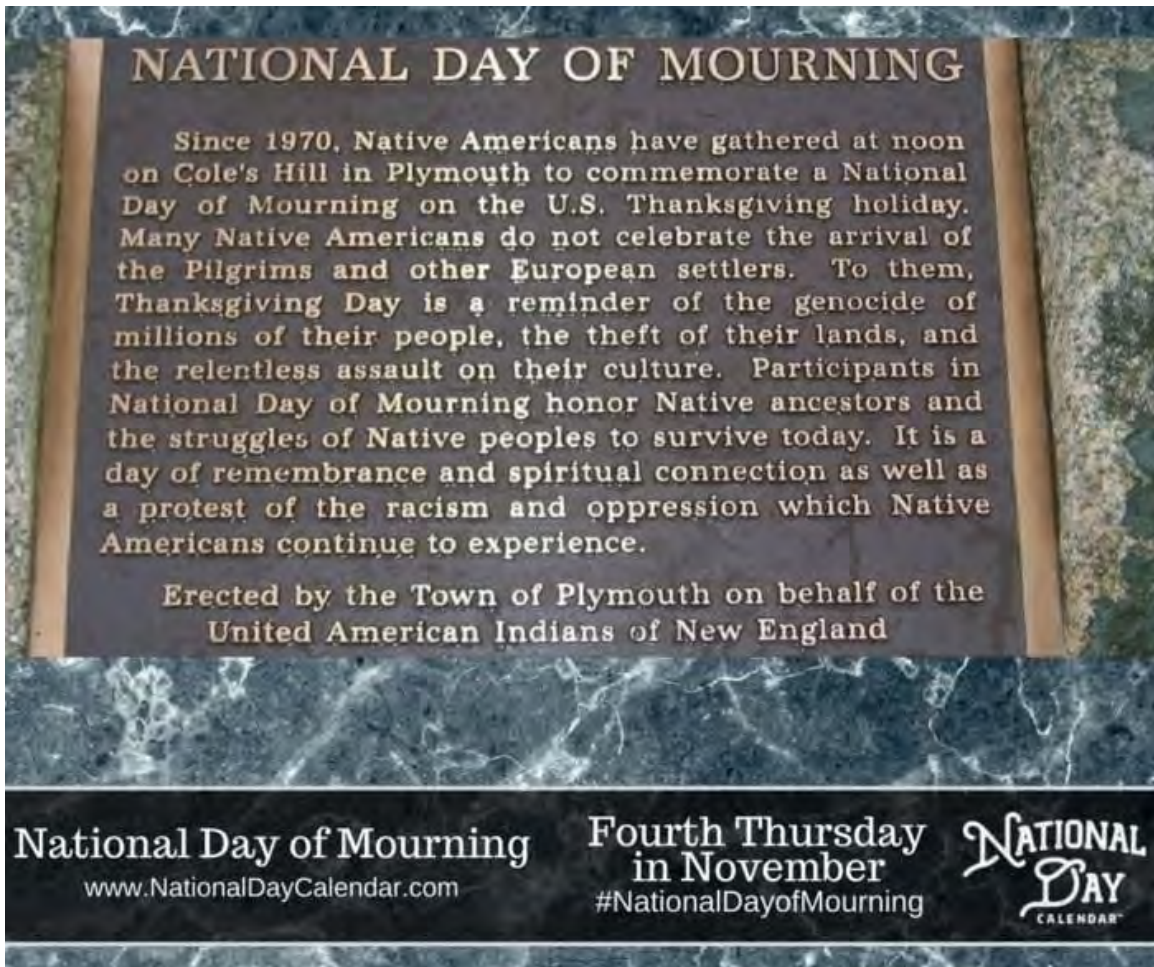
Denny Blood
9217 Palmas Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109-6631
Dc1jacobs@yahoo.com
(505) 823-2718
(917) 449-5341



We all must remember that we are a country and a world of many different cultures and traditions. There is no better day to remember that than what many of us celebrate as Thanksgiving Day which this year will be November 28. When Abraham Lincoln in October 1863 proclaimed the fourth Thursday in November as “Thanksgiving Day,” he had in mind expressing gratitude for the Union Army victory at Gettysburg. For many years prior to that time peoples of all national origins often celebrated with feasts of Thanksgiving for bountiful harvests.

Around 1900, schools and popular magazines began associating Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims who settled in Plymouth, MA and Native Americans in that area and the First Thanksgiving was portrayed as a time in 1621 when the two populations joined in celebration. To say the least, they romanticized this idea since there is no particular record to prove that the two groups feasted together at that time. In fact, as we all are aware, the Puritans had a great harvest because they came to an area around what was later called Plymouth, MA that had been cleared and long used by Native Americans for their own planting.

Because of the atrocities the early settlers wreaked on the Native Americans, many of our Native friends have chosen to call Thanksgiving Day a “National Day of Mourning” for the reasons so eloquently stated on the below Monument erected at Plymouth, MA.



As you gather with your family and friends this November 28, remember to respect ALL peoples of the earth whatever their race, national origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, or political persuasion. We have an obligation to understand our fellow human beings and make this world a better place for everyone.

By Your VOTER Editor

THANK YOU League Volunteers Who Staffed This Year's Candidate Forums

by Mary H. Smith

When Andrea Targhetta asked me earlier this year to coordinate the LWVCNM's participation in this election season's candidate forums, I hesitated and said yes. What was I thinking?!

In the past month, LWVCNM participated in three Albuquerque City Council candidate forums. We moderated, kept time and organized audience questions for nearly 300 voters.

I want to offer a HUGE thank you to the League members who answered my multiple calls for help with these forums. I've received nothing but positive feedback on all three forums, from the sponsors and hosts to the voters in attendance. Our volunteers did fantastic jobs, did the League proud and, most importantly, confirmed to outsiders that the League is a valuable resource and partner in helping educate voters.

September 27 Council District 4 forum – 3 candidates: *Jan Strand* was timekeeper and *Karen Wentworth* helped organize audience questions for approximately 100-120 attendees. I moderated but that's not important here.

October 10 Council District 6 forum – 2 candidates: *Diane Goldfarb* moderated, *Ashley Benning* was timekeeper and *Helen Wright* helped organize audience questions for approximately 100 attendees.

October 15 Council District 2 forum – 5 candidates: the sponsor provided the timekeeper and question organizers for approximately 50-60 attendees. I moderated.

Thank you Jan Strand, Karen Wentworth, Diane Goldfarb, Ashley Benning and Helen Wright! I so very much appreciate you helping with this important task.

I look forward to 2020 when we hope to have another training for persons interested in helping with candidate forums.



We welcome Mary Ellen Smith as Voter Services Chair....

Mary Ellen is a 14-year veteran of LWVCNM and has been a Voter Registrar since 2008. She was prompted to accept this essential position as LWV approaches the upcoming 2020 election and recognizes that the Census will remind many of the need to register prior to the subsequent reapportionment and redistricting which could change the political landscape both locally and nationally. She has contacted all 32 LWVCNM voter registrars during Oct. to ensure both coordination and the active collaboration required to address the needs of the electorate.



Mary Ellen actively serves the American Association of Retired People (AARP) by volunteering in the information booth twice monthly. She also regularly volunteers for AARP special activities.

Mary Ellen previously served LWV when the Mental Health Study was underway, working with Jan Bray and her devoted LWV committee members to ensure Mental Health parity (LWVNM later adopted the Colorado Mental Health position by concurrence with revision to the LWVNM state Health Care position during 2013). Mary Ellen is currently involved with the 2020 LWVCNM Suffrage Anniversary planning under the leadership of Jeanne Logsdon. Please join the LWVCNM Board in welcoming Mary Ellen in her service to LWVCNM as Voter Services Chair.



2315 San Pedro Dr. NE, Suite F-6
Albuquerque, NM 87110-4158

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

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 |