

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO 2501 San Pedro Dr. NE, Suite 216 Albuquerque, NM 87110

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS' DESKS:

LWVCNM anticipates the appointment of District 1 Congresswoman Debra Haaland to the US Department of Interior seat will be followed by a Special Election and LWVCNM Candidate Forums will be scheduled to assist the electorate in making an informed decision. Candidate information will also be made available to voters by 1st VP Mary Wilson using Vote411.



The LWVCNM SNF Storage Consensus Meeting was conducted 1-15-21 for consideration of questions with responses and discussion to be coordinated with 3 other local league consensus results to prepare final LWVNM Position. Consensus meeting staff included Donna Rigano/Facilitator, Andrea Targhetta/Timekeeper, Sonia Lersten as Recorder with backup support from Barbara Calef/LWVLA. 14 LWVCNM members participated in the presentation of 8 consensus questions provided by Bobbi Merryman and



Karen Douglas followed by member discussion. LWVNM subsequent decision followed to modify and eliminate questions which would be better posed to a national LWV audience for discussion and participation.

APD Forward has had several meetings with CABQ management finalizing selection of new APD Chief (see separate article, p. 8)

LWVCNM located to a different office July 2020 located at 2501 San Pedro NE with plans to enjoy a brighter space, use of a conference room, and a janitorial service 5 days weekly. The new property owner, Peterson Properties, first cancelled the janitorial service followed by leasing the conference room to a new tenant. A January 6th meeting including LWVCNM Co-Presidents Karen Wentworth and Karen Douglas, Office Director Linda Adcox-Kimmel, and Treasurer Denise Blood with Peterson Properties representative Alicia Meiering also included NAMI Vice President, but tenant representatives were offered no resolution. An attorney leasing space in the building met with LWVCNM afterward and discussed his plan to file suit for breach of contract. LWVCNM is now seeking the support of additional building tenants who also planned to use the conference room.

Program Planning was held January 23. The March Voter will contain information about proposed program for 2021-22.

Dick Mason addressed the 1/14/21 LWVCNM general meeting conducted via Zoom discussing 2021 virtual NM Legislative Session election. This new communication method never before employed during the legislature caused uncertainty for LWVNM advocacy approach and Dick offered anticipated impact on legislative representation and leadership following November 2020 general election. LWVNM representatives from LWVLA, LWVSNM, LWVSFC attended to be apprised of projected legislation garnering LWVNM support.

Karen Douglas and Karen Wentworth



HAPPY VALENTINE'S
DAY

THE VOTER

Published monthly by
 The League of Women Voters
 of Central New Mexico
 2501 San Pedro Dr. NE, Suite 216
 Albuquerque, NM 87110
 (505) 884-8441
www.lwvcnm.org

Co-Presidents:

Karen Douglas
 Karen Wentworth

1st Vice President:

Mary G. Wilson

2nd Vice President:

Kathy Economy

3rd Vice President:

Jennifer Black

4th Vice President:

Vacant

Treasurer:

Denise Blood

Secretary:

Ashley Benning

Membership:

Donna Rigano

Voter Services:

MaryEllen Smith

Directors:

Judith Binder
 Lani Desaulniers

Director and Office Manager:

Linda Adcox-Kimmel

Technology:

Cheryl Haaker

Advocacy:

Alan Ramos

LEAGUE CALENDAR

All of the following are Zoom meetings. Members will receive invitations on the LWVCNMTopics listserv. Anyone who does not receive an invitation can email president@lwvcnm.org.

February 4—5:30 pm Board meeting

February 11— 12 noon Monthly luncheon meeting. See page 3

February 18—Virtual league Day at the Legislature. See page 4

March 4 —5:30 pm Board meeting

March 11—Monthly luncheon meeting Topic: *Let the Sunshine In: Ethics and Government Transparency*

March 20—Noon legislature adjourns

The deadline for the monthly Voter remains the 15th of each month. Articles and pictures are always welcome.

AND A WORD TO OUR NON-TECHY MEMBERS: Do not be concerned that you do not “do online stuff.” We are working on ways to make these available to you too! This may be through pairing you with a “buddy.” It may be that several members can view the sessions in the conference room at our new office building. Or if you just need a little help using Zoom or whatever meeting software we use, several of our Board members, our Webmaster, or other volunteers may be sent to help you. And summaries of the presentations will appear in the Voter issued after the date of the speaker. I am sure other ways “to make this happen” and keep us all safe will evolve as we proceed. **Contact Karen Wentworth at**

Correction to Membership handbook:

Some of Karen Wentworth’s information on page 39 was another casualty of trying to transfer a word document (the entire handbook) from mac to a PC. The last line on Karen Wentworth’s information showing her email address skipped over to Karen Douglas’s side. Karen Wentworth’s email address is :
kwentworth17@comcast.net

OFFICE HOURS

Closed until further notice due to Covid concerns.

The VOTER Editor:
 Mary G. Wilson
T3Wilson@aol.com

JOIN US ON ZOOM FOR THE FEBRUARY LUNCHEON UNIT MEETING....FEBRUARY 11 AT 12 NOON.

TOPIC: *The Pandemic.....A Year Later*

It has been nearly a year since the first case of COVID-19 was identified in New Mexico on March 10, 2020. In the eleven months since, COVID-19 has radically changed all of our lives. New Mexico has been at the forefront in many aspects of the COVID-19 response, including testing, contact tracing and case investigations, treatments, regional care coordination, and public health practice. Further, the availability of COVID-19 vaccines provide an opportunity for every New Mexican to help eradicate the virus.



Dr. David R. Scrase, Secretary of the New Mexico Human Services Department, will join us on February 11th and share his knowledge as to where the State of New Mexico stands regarding the pandemic, the roll-out of vaccine and everything in between.

Dr. Scrase is a Board Certified Internist and Geriatrician, and at the time of his appointment was the Interim Division Chief for General Internal Medicine and the Chief of Geriatrics at UNM. His first love and understood calling is as a primary care physician, and he has continuously cared for patients for over 30 years, despite concurrent service in administrative roles. He continues to see patients while serving as Secretary of the Human Services Department.

Dr. Scrase has held a variety of administrative positions, including nine years in medical education, as well as numerous healthcare executive positions in Michigan and New Mexico. Since moving to New Mexico more than 20 years ago, he has been active in many New Mexico public policy committees and community organizations, including four years as Director and Treasurer of Equality New Mexico and as a member of the Board of Menaul School in Albuquerque. He served on Governor Richardson's Insure New Mexico! Committee and Health Care for New Mexicans Committee, on the national Ambulatory Quality Association setting quality metrics for professional practice, and on the Executive Committee of the New Mexico Association of Commerce and Industry. He worked closely with the New Mexico Medicaid program for the three years prior to his appointment as Secretary, working to enhance the treatment of Hepatitis C for Medicaid members and to improve quality and reduce hospital readmissions in all New Mexico nursing facilities.

While not seeing patients and teaching, he also works as a popular public speaker, consultant and writer. He regularly provides entertaining talks at the local and national level on a wide variety of topics, including fascinating medical cases, successful aging, health policy, mindfulness, and happiness. Under the pen name of David Roberts, in 2013 he published the book, *Practice Makes Perfect: How One Doctor Found the Meaning of Lives*, which chronicles some of the lessons he has learned from his most interesting patients.



VIRTUAL LEAGUE DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Watch Constant Contact for the Zoom link

10:30 am Welcoming comments from LWVNM President Hannah Burling New Mexico

10:45 - 11:30 am Redistricting Reform Legislation

Edward Chavez, Former New Mexico Supreme Court Justice

Justice Chavez is a former Justice and Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court. Chavez was born in Santa Fe. He was appointed to the Supreme Court by Governor Bill Richardson and served from March 10, 2003 to March 2018. Justice Chavez oversaw the litigation concerning the New Mexico House Redistricting maps in 2011. Justice Chavez received his undergraduate degree from Eastern New Mexico University in 1978 and his J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1981. Justice Chavez was the co-Chair of the 2020 New Mexico First Redistricting Task Force.

11:30 am - 12:30 pm Taxes and Funding for Essential Services

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

Amber oversees New Mexico Voices for Children's research and policy work. She also manages the KIDS COUNT program and does policy research on education, tax and budget, hunger, and economic issues. She joined NM Voices in 2012 as a Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Fellow, after which she was a Research and Policy Analyst. Amber has worked in the public sector at the municipal, state, and federal levels, working in the government department at New Mexico State University and the budget department at the city of Las Cruces prior to joining the Voices team. Voices oversees the Fairness Project that advocates for fair taxation and revenue for essential services. The LWVNM is a member of the Fairness Project.

ANNOUNCING: NEW ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The League of Women Voters Central New Mexico is pleased to announce the formation of an Advocacy Committee dedicated to identifying local issues in our four service areas: Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia Counties. Join the committee and *make a difference* locally. Working with our Observer Corps, the committee will identify and distill the issues of importance that impact our daily life. The committee will report these issues to the general membership and to the LWVNCM Board of Directors who will determine which issues command the League's attention. We are also recruiting members to join our Observer Corps. These volunteers attend meetings of local Boards and Commissions and provide to League members synopses of these public meetings. They are the Ambassadors whose efforts bring to light the important issues of the day; efforts which are greatly appreciated by the Board of Directors. To join or to obtain more information, please contact Advocacy Committee Chair Alan Ramos. His email address is: aramos@aerlaw.com.

A Thank You to New Mexico Election Officials

Attorneys for President Donald Trump quietly dropped a lawsuit they had filed questioning the accuracy of New Mexico's election results. It was a tacit admission that they did not have a case for proving voter fraud or state misconduct in the counting of ballots.

More than 68 percent of eligible New Mexicans cast their ballots in this election, one of the higher turnouts in recent history. The county clerks across the state were able to certify ballots for 928,238 voters.

Bernalillo County Clerk Linda Stover, Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver and county clerks and their staffs across the state deserve a word of thanks for doing their jobs well in last year's turbulent election. Thank you for your professionalism in the 2020 election cycle.

THE LWVCNM OBSERVER CORPS MEMBERS HAVE JUST COMMENCED THEIR WORK. EACH MONTH YOU WILL FIND REPORTS FROM THE CORPS ABOUT GOVERNMENT MEETINGS THEY HAVE OBSERVED....

Observer programs (or Observer Corps) are a structured way for individuals to exercise their right to know. Organized under the auspices of a grassroots organization (such as the League of Women Voters, which is referenced throughout this publication), they provide a valuable service to the community. They help ensure that citizens are aware of the decisions that impact their lives, and they promote government transparency and accountability. An observer is an individual who attends a governmental meeting, notes what happens at the meeting, and reports back to the League and the community. By attending public meetings of local governmental bodies/agencies, observers learn more about what their government is doing. They learn about the issues facing their community and are empowered to take action, if warranted. They also learn how issues are being addressed. Observers keep elected and appointed officials on notice; they let them know that someone is watching what decisions are being made and how they are being made. They help ensure that the issues facing their community are being handled “in the sunshine,” in the open. Ideally, observers are monitoring both the issues being discussed as well as the process by which they are being discussed. While not every item up for discussion will relate to a League’s priorities, ensuring that the meeting is being conducted in an open and acceptable way is critical to all of the League’s efforts and the health of democracy.



CONTACT KAREN DOUGLAS IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE OBSERVER CORPS. THERE ARE MANY AGENCIES AND COMMITTEES TO OBSERVE!

THIS MONTH’S OBSERVER CORPS REPORTS ARE SHOWN BELOW :

Bernalillo County Commission

Bernalillo County Commission sets Legislative Priorities

The Bernalillo County Commission set priorities for the 2020 session of the New Mexico legislature at its meeting on January 12. The priorities include

- Opposition to legislation that reduces revenues to the county
- Support for better funding of the Second Judicial District Court, the District Attorney, Public Defenders and Metropolitan Court.
- Support for Public Employee Retirement Fund reform
- Support for legislation that would allow Medicaid dollars for behavioral health to be fully leveraged.
- Increased funding for school-based health centers
- More secure housing options for transition aged youth
- Support of funding initiatives for Bernalillo County Sheriffs Office to update and improve equipment, training facilities and software and hardware.

A more detailed list of legislative priorities is available [here](#).

The commission also voted to give Albuquerque Public Schools \$30,000 to help fund a summer food services program for school aged children in Bernalillo County.

In another action, the commission voted to award a \$2.5 million dollar contract to Guzman Construction to raze the old downtown jail at 5th and Marquette and to create a parking lot.

Karen Wentworth,
observer

PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

January 6-, 2021—

At the first meeting of the year, NM PRC continued with Steve Fischmann as Chair and newly elected Joe Maestas, District 3, as Vice Chair. Joe replaced Valerie who termed out. He is an Engineer and clearly has done his homework.

An important issue today concerns service disconnects which are embargoed by our Governor. Importantly, NM Gas is stepping up to use its funds to help clients who lost jobs to maintain service. An issue is that Electric Co Ops may not have the money to do the same. But, the NM PRC does not regulate them. The NM Legislature is considering funding for that issue. In some cases, cities such as Farmington, Taos and Socorro have municipal electrics, but the others are rural.

January 27, 2021—AVANGRID, Inc., a leading clean energy company, confirmed today that the applicable waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 ("HSR Act") has expired in relation to the proposed merger combination with PNM Resources.

But there are a few more approvals, not counting the NM Public Regulation Commission.

The company continues to pursue state and Federal regulatory approvals for the merger, including approvals from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the US, as well as the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission and the Public Utility Commission of Texas. The agreement between AVANGRID and PNM Resources is also subject to approval by PNM Resources' shareholders.

The shareholders' meeting will be this spring. The NM PRC will start hearings in May or so. I expect many groups to file with the NM PRC to ask for favors for their group. These should be known by April as to which groups and what they want.

The last item was a review of the dozen or so bills filed, so far, at the NM Legislature, relating to the NM PRC. I will ask the Chair to inform me of bills the Commission favors/opposes and share.

By George Richmond

**City of Albuquerque Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) Meeting
January 19, 2021 5-7 pm (submitted by Lani Desaulniers)**

Issues addressed during this session:

Public Comment

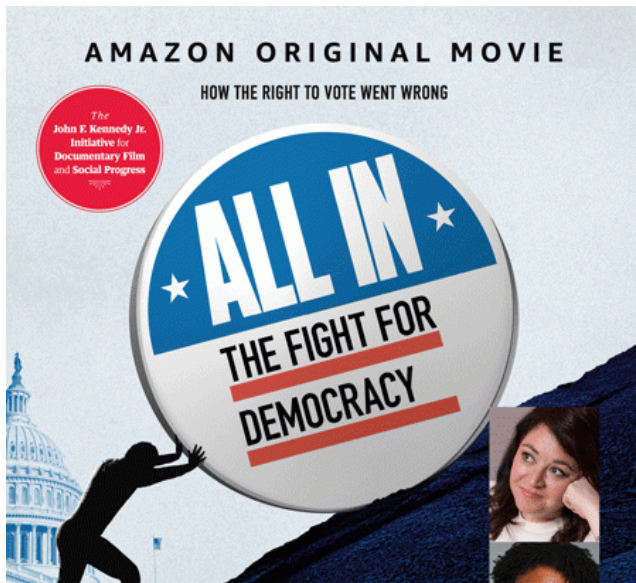
- James Ogle, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Efforts are underway to implement "988" Suicide Prevention/Mental Health hotline to fulfill the requirements of federal law HR988 (signed Oct 20)– National Suicide Prevention Hotline.

- Body Camera Legislation Update** – At a previous meeting concerns about public access to police body-cam video were discussed. Recordings are stored by city clerk for 120 days, unless a case number is created. These recordings are not covered by HIPPA privacy regulations, and they include responses to medical and psychiatric emergencies. They may incidentally record video footage of 3rd parties in a medical or psychiatric emergency room setting. The city clerk has staff who work to redact footage that he/she deems a violation of privacy, but they lack clear guidance. Furthermore, there are no clear guidelines about who can request access. There is no legislation pending at this time to address this. NAMI and others are seeking other partners to advocate for protection of patient's rights to confidentiality.

Albuquerque Community Safety Department – Staff are being hired, but leadership positions have not yet been filled. More information is available at <https://www.cabq.gov/acs>

New Homeless Shelter Update – ongoing planning. Plans to utilize old Lovelace facility on Gibson for Gateway delayed due to ongoing litigation involving 2 sellers. Hopeworks has plans to create two smaller shelters for single men and for single women. A HUD "point in time count" for unsheltered individuals is scheduled in January

- Data from APD Crisis Intervention Team was presented by Lieutenant Matt Dietzel, APD– the full report can be viewed at MHRAC website. A total of 5467 calls were reviewed from the period 1/1/20-9/1/20. Demographics revealed predominantly male individuals ages 20-40. 22% were identified as homeless. Diagnoses were ranked: Depression>Schizophrenia>Bipolar Disorder>PTSD> Anxiety. Most transports did not result in transport, but transports were most often made to UNM and Kaseman. Arrests were made in 120 cases.
- Use of Force Review** by Lieutenant Matt Dietzel – presented data from calls which were identified as Behavioral Health by dispatcher. From this data set of 4033 calls – 1.3% resulted in use of force.
- Monthly meetings every 3rd Tuesday (open to the public). Next meeting: Feb 16th 5-7pm.



ALL IN: THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY examines the issue of voter suppression in the US. The film interweaves personal experiences with activism and historical insight to expose a problem that has corrupted our country from the beginning. With the expertise of Stacey Abrams, the film offers an insider's look into the barriers to voting.

Directors Liz Garbus, Lisa Cortes

Starring Stacey Abrams, Ari Berman, David Pepper

Genres Drama, Documentary

There is a PBS link with an interview with Stacy and presents an overview of the film and the issues. The link is [below](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/stacey-abrams-on-bidens-leadership-georgias-election-and-challenging-voter-suppression):

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/stacey-abrams-on-bidens-leadership-georgias-election-and-challenging-voter-suppression>

Thanks to Kathy Economy for bringing this to our attention.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT UPDATE

2021 might be the year when the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) finally becomes part of the U.S. Constitution -- after first introduced into Congress in 1923. Yes, 98 years ago! The ERA was passed by Congress in 1972 with large bi-partisan majority votes and given 7 years to be ratified by three-fourths (38) of the states. Thirty-five states had ratified the amendment by 1977, but then the backlash gained momentum. The deadline was extended to 1982, but no other state legislatures voted in favor. In 2010, a new generation took up the battle to get the ERA into the Constitution by lobbying state legislatures that had not already signed on. Virginia was the 38th state to ratify in January 2020. However, the issue of the 1982 deadline was a sticking point to the Archivist of the United States, who refused to enter the ERA as the 28th Amendment.

So where are we today? Legislators in both houses of Congress introduced bills in 2020 and just reintroduced them in 2021 to waive the deadline so that the 38 state ERA ratifications can be accepted. In the House of Representatives, Jackie Speier (D-CA-14) and 200 co-sponsors have filed House Joint Resolution 17, which was sent to the House Judiciary Committee for consideration. A similar bill (Senate Joint Resolution 1) was filed by Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee. The next steps will be for both judiciary committees to hold hearings on the bills. New Mexico Congressional members Heinrich, Lujan, Haaland, and Leger-Fernandez support the ERA and deadline waiver. As of January 31, neither Judiciary Committee had scheduled the bill.

If the deadline waiver is passed, President Joe Biden is expected to sign the legislation with great fanfare. Then we might see several lawsuits going to the U.S. Supreme Court about the legitimacy of waiving the deadline and several other issues. Stay tuned. We might have a long-anticipated celebration of the Equal Rights Amendment later this year.

By Jeanne Logsdon



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
WILL BE 101 YEARS YOUNG ON
FEBRUARY 14, 2021. PLEASE CELEBRATE
THIS DAY EVEN THOUGH WE
CAN NOT BE TOGETHER IN PERSON**

Albuquerque Search for a New Police Chief – January 2021 Progress

The 1/6/21 CABQ briefing to APD Coalition representatives regarding the APD Chief selection criteria, methods, applicant pool and status offered an information exchange and opportunity for APD Forward comments. The meeting included CABQ representatives (attorneys VanMeter and Aguilar; Mayor Keller's Chief of Staff Puelle; and Mayor Keller's Liaison for Community Meetings Manzano) for discussion of the APD Chief search. APD Forward Coalition members representing Disability Rights NM, ACLU, Health Care for the Homeless, LWVNM, Common Cause, NM Department of Health, Sierra Club, and La Mesa Presbyterian Church participated.

Many Albuquerque residents were queried during the survey. Ms. Manzano conducted 45 community input sessions with 2300 respondents and results were applied to define specific selection criteria. The Albuquerque panel sought advice from community organizations, neighborhood associations, businesses, unions, and professional associations with selection of 14-15 community individuals for further recommendations. The CABQ Office of Equity and Inclusion were also consulted in defining desired applicant qualifications. Survey respondents emphasized a decrease in the Use of Force and promotion of crisis prevention. The Crosby/Aztec search firm both designed the public survey and evaluated survey data to craft the APD Chief application. The resultant APD Chief advertisement was posted on national, local, and professional societies in other municipalities with 44 outside police departments included among applicant search.

The opening had elements to attract and discourage even the best qualified applicants - CABQ recognized that the limited 3 - month search period from October – December 2020 could reduce applications. Stability/relocation may be a consideration as 2020 was the 3rd year of Mayor Keller's 4-year term impacting those seeking this appointment, current CoVid environment, and the Consent Decree (APD Forward responded that Constitutional Policing should not deter desired applicants). Those residents desiring Chief selection outside of APD were balanced with those requesting Chief familiarity with NM. The salary range offered may also not be competitive. The APD Chief will report to the new ABQ Public Safety Director who has not yet been selected and will be required to implement disciplinary measures recommended by the Civilian Police Oversight Agency – a body appointed by the City Council. Oversight of the APD Internal Affairs Division, Improving the Police Academy, and control of collective bargaining by the Albuquerque Police Officers Association which has limited discipline previously, are all challenges which must be overcome in achieving Albuquerque goals.

APD Forward recommended changing the narrative from crime fighting to crime prevention with considerations for behavioral health needs, commitment to racial equity (candidates should have direct experience), transparency in disciplinary measures, engagement with the community (visible), rooted in peace rather than a top crime fighter. The public priorities are safety and security.

45 APD Chief applicants were narrowed as 15 did not meet the minimum qualifications. Some applicants were from other cities with Consent Decrees (e.g., Las Vegas, NV). 20 applicants were rated and further eliminated by the team with 6 prime candidates which were further narrowed to 3 finalists.

APD Chief interviews with the 3 Chief finalists were open to public viewing during a 1/23/21 Zoom interview. Mayor Keller opened the session followed by Sarita Nair, Albuquerque Chief Administrative Officer, who will supervise the new Chief. Mr. Herb Crosby, who compiled public input session results to formulate the interview questions discussed the consolidation effort. The 3 APD Chief candidates remaining were:

- Clinton Nichols, Chief of Commerce City, CO (Denver suburb) Police Department which had complied with Consent Decree measures within 2 years and who also had experience with Las Vegas, NV PD with DOJ Consent Decree.
- Joseph Sullivan, 38-year veteran of the Philadelphia, PA PD where a DOJ Consent Decree reformed PD weaknesses and who also spoke of recent PD activity during Black Lives Matter Protests
- Harold Medina, APD Interim Chief following Chief Geier's retirement, who had retired from APD during 2014 to accept the Police Chief position for Laguna Pueblo and had more recent service as APD Deputy Chief including Consent Decree involvement.

Ms. Manzano posed the same questions to each of the 3 finalists which centered around response to reduce violent crime in Albuquerque, maintaining officer morale while complying with consent decree, and first priority if selected as Chief. The ultimate APD Chief hiring decision will be made by the Mayor and his Executive Committee Q1 2021.

By Karen Douglas

NEW MEMBERS.....



Trine Vik
14117 La Cueva Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87123
trinemvik@gmail.com
(435) 640-9363

Lora Lucero
P.O. Box 7638
Albuquerque, NM 87194
loralucero3@gmail.com
(505) 453-3938
WELCOME BACK, LORA!

Holly Meyer
913 Hermosa Dr NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110-7709
workwellstrategies@gmail.com

"This was a critical decision for the national board to make, but it was rooted in our mission. As an organization, we have fought for more than 100 years to defend our democracy."

LWV

Message from Deborah Turner, President, LWVUS...January 8, 2021.....Last week, the League called for the removal of President Trump for his role in the attack on our U.S. Capitol.

This was a critical decision for the national board to make, but it was rooted in our mission. As an organization, we have fought for more than 100 years to defend our democracy. This has included many times where we stood up to threats to our core institutions. From fighting to enfranchise women and others who have been denied the vote to challenging McCarthyism and working to reduce the undue influence of big donors on our elections, we have stood on the right side of history. Last week was no exception.

As the process moves to the U.S. Senate, we encourage Leagues to sign and share our action alert and reach out to your Senators

Unfortunately, what we saw last week may not be the end of violence. We must stay informed and alert. Efforts to undermine our democracy will continue in the days ahead of inauguration. Protests may also erupt into violence again this weekend around the nation, in Washington D.C., and in the future beyond next week.

LWVUS will have no formal role in these gatherings (or counter protests). As an organization, we value political expression and protest – however, safety cannot be guaranteed at these protests. We encourage League leaders to monitor the news locally and connect with your members in advance of the holiday weekend. Please remind them of this safety message. LWVUS will continue to monitor the investigation in Washington and communicate updates with state Leaders. We are also reinvesting in our efforts to reform democracy through passage of HR1 and to ensure voting rights through the VRAA. Finally, we will continue to look at how we can help combat mis- and disinformation and strengthen foundational civics education.

The year is off to quite a start, so we will continue to keep hope alive and take care of ourselves and each other. I encourage each of you to take a moment to disconnect from all that is happening for some self-care and time with your loved ones. Please be safe and don't forget to wear your mask!

EQUAL RIGHTS IN NEW MEXICO

William E. Warren (former NM Representative)

January 28, 2009

Editor's note: Co-president Karen Wentworth discovered this informative article and, knowing how much League members love history, we have been printing it in installments over several months. This is the last of the article.

I moved for final passage of House Bill 22 as amended late one afternoon when a number of my Mama Lucy supporters in the House had been excused to present their own bills before Senate Committees. Representative Jim Caudell, a Republican from Albuquerque, introduced a Floor Substitute for House Bill 22 which made the Commission on the Status of Women an advisory body to the existing New Mexico Human Rights Commission and reduced the appropriation to \$10,000. I argued against the Floor Substitute because the Human Rights Commission serves a completely different function than that set forth for the Commission on the Status of Women in House Bill 22. The Human Rights Commission is empowered to eliminate discrimination only in employment, public accommodations, and housing on account of race, age, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, or physical or mental handicap. The addition of sex to this list was added by House Bill 49 of the 1973 legislature only after ratification of the New Mexico Equal Rights Amendment. It does not study problem areas within the population to recommend possible legislative action nor does it sponsor seminars or provide outreach services for the citizens of the state. I noted the fact that the Human Rights Commission received 158 complaints relating to sex discrimination in one year while the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women received 1,248 called complaints in a little over two months. The motion to adopt the Floor Substitute for House Bill 22 passed by a vote of 34-30 and I immediately tabled the bill.

Following adjournment, I got together with Speaker Martinez, Majority Leader Salman, and a number of other members of the Mama Lucy gang, all of whom were strong supporters of House Bill 22. We discussed how to get rid of the floor substitute. Rep. Tommy Foy from Silver City had voted for the floor substitute and agreed to make the motion to reconsider the vote by which the Floor Substitute had been adopted. We all agreed that this action had to be taken early the next morning right after the House convened and before our supporters left the chamber to present bills in the Senate Committees. Rep. Dick Carbajal from Belen and one of our Mama Lucys said that he had some visitors coming in from Belen in the morning and that he might be late for the session but he would get there as soon as possible. As it turned out, he got there just in time. The next morning in general session after the usual opening ceremonies we moved to third reading of legislation. Rep. Foy stood up, was recognized by the Speaker, and made the motion, having voted with the majority, to reconsider the vote by which the House adopted the Floor Substitute for House Bill 22. After about 15 minutes of lively discussion, the call for the vote was made. The roll call vote came down to a 31-31 tie, which meant that the motion to reconsider had failed. The chief clerk held the vote tally up for the Speaker but Speaker Martinez did not immediately announce the vote which would have finalized it. Suddenly the door to the House Chamber opened and in walked Rep. Carbajal. I had an aisle seat in the chamber right near the door he came in and I screamed at him, "Dickie, get to your seat and vote yes". Speaker Martinez had held up announcing the vote just long enough and the move to reconsider had passed 32-31. The reconsidered vote to adopt the floor substitute failed on a voice vote. I then moved for final passage of House Bill 22 as amended. This motion passed with a vote of 36-29 and the bill moved on to the Senate. In the Senate, House Bill 22 as amended was referred to the Senate Finance Committee for hearing. Senator Gladys Hansen from Las Cruces, a very well respected and competent member of the Senate and a member of the Senate Finance Committee, enthusiastically agreed to carry the bill in the Senate. The Senate Finance Committee reduced the appropriation from \$45,000 to \$25,000, voted a DO PASS, and referred the bill to the Senate Floor for final passage. At about 9:00 am on the last day of the legislative session, the Senate passed House Bill 22 as amended by the Senate Finance Committee on a vote of 35-1. I was in the Senate Chamber sitting with Senator Hansen when the bill passed. The Senate then sent a message to the House informing them that the Senate had passed House Bill 22 as amended by the Senate and requesting the House to concur with the Senate amendment. I returned to the House and advised Speaker Martinez of the message regarding House Bill 22 coming in from the Senate. At that point I was willing to go along with the reduction in appropriation as long as we had set up the statutory establishment in New Mexico of the Commission on the Status of Women. I knew that if I stood up and moved to concur with the Senate amendment it would be like waving a red flag to the opponents of the Commission. Rep. John Tomlin from Las Cruces made the motion to concur with the Senate amendment to House Bill 22. Rep. Jim Caudell, the erstwhile and dedicated opponent of the Commission on the Status of Women, saw a second chance to derail this legislation. He and several other opponents rose and opposed concurring with the Senate amendment with the fatuous argument that this important Commission needed the entire \$45,000 appropriation. The House failed to concur on a voice vote. By this time it was almost 11:00 am and we had about one hour left before final adjournment. Failing concurrence, the House sent a message to the Senate informing that body that the House had failed to concur with the Senate amendment to House Bill 22 and requesting the Senate to recede from its amendment. I went immediately to the Senate Chamber and told Sen. Hansen what had occurred. She said that as soon as the House message was read she would get up and move that the Senate recede from its amendment. Lieutenant Governor Robert Mondragon was presiding over the Senate. He was a personal friend and a strong supporter of the Commission on the Status of Women. I went to him and explained the situation and that Sen. Gladys Hansen would move to recede from the Senate amendment to House Bill 22. He said he would give her motion a quick gavel. I then went back and sat with Sen. Connie Kitzes, a strong proponent of the Commission, in case she needed additional arguments if a debate occurred on Sen. Hansen's motion. If the Senate refused to recede from its amendment a conference committee of both Senate and House would have to be appointed to resolve the difference. With less than an hour remaining before final adjournment of the legislature this would have been impossible and House Bill 22 would die on adjournment. As I sat with Sen. Kitzes in the Senate Chamber I kept an eagle eye on Sen. Aubrey Dunn from Alamogordo, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and without question the most powerful member of the Senate. If he rose to oppose the motion to recede from the amendment it was probably all over for House Bill 22. Fortunately, Sen. Aubrey Dunn and Sen. Gladys Hansen were close friends which gave me some hope.

About 11:30 am the message from the House on House Bill 22 was reported to the Senate and Sen. Hansen moved that the Senate recede from its amendment. Sen. Dunn did not look up from his desk and made no move to oppose the motion. Lieutenant Governor Mondragon almost immediately ruled, "If there is no objection it is so ordered," and banged his gavel down. It was finally over. House Bill 22 establishing the Commission on the Status of Women with an appropriation of \$45,000 had passed both houses of the legislature. Governor King signed this legislation on February 27, 1974, and this became chapter 90 of the New Mexico Laws of 1974.



WE NEED YOU!

The LWVCNM Nominating Committee has started its work for the 2021-2023 Board. We need volunteers to fill the following positions:

1st VP

Membership Director

Public Relations Director

If you are interested, call or email: Andrea Targhetta
atarghetta@comcast.net or 505-280-8892

The nominating committee for the New Mexico League of Women Voters is also searching for experienced volunteers to fill critical positions on the board.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT – This is a position for someone who has the energy, skills, desire and commitment to learn what the president does and serve as the president-elect for the next biennium. As a member of the Executive Committee, you will learn the ropes, help make decisions between board meetings and assist the president with education and advocacy efforts and organizational management.

VOTER SERVICES DIRECTOR – Prior to each general election, the state director tracks information on candidates for specific federal and state offices and ballot questions, including bonds and constitutional amendments. The director coordinates voter guide compilation with local league voter services chairs. The committee proposes questions for the board to select to ask candidates. She/He communicates with candidates about submitting their photos and questionnaire responses electronically and compiles the content of the LWVNM online Voter Guide using VOTE411.org. Excellent communication, teamwork, and organizational skills are critical to success in this position.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR – The director proposes updates to positions if needed and identifies the appropriate process for making updates (through study and member consensus or through concurrence. The director provides guidance for those interested in proposing studies and assists study committees with the proper procedures for developing positions through the board and membership. The director updates the positions document and the program history for the LWVNM website.

Detailed job descriptions, policies, and procedures can be found in the Member Documents section of the .

Please contact the committee if you want more information or are interested in filling any of these positions. Thank you.

LWVNM Nominating Committee, Meredith Machen, Chair (505) 577-6337

Take Action: Support the For the People Act

The For the People Act is the democracy reform bill the American people want and deserve. This legislation will put power back into the hands of American voters by making voting easier and more accessible and by modernizing future elections. Over the last two years, we saw it pass the House of Representatives, but get stalled at the Senate. With the start of the 117th Congress it is imperative that the For the People Act once more become a top priority. The For the People Act addresses some of the most pressing issues facing our democracy because it will:

- Restore the Voting Rights Act
- Modernize our voter registration system
- Update the public financing of elections through small donor matching funds
- Curb partisan gerrymandering, and
- Make campaign contributions more transparent.

Contact your Representative TODAY through the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and tell them to pass the For The People Act. Put control of our government back where it belongs—into the hands of the people.



2501 San Pedro Dr. NE, Suite 216
Albuquerque, NM 87110

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico, a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization is a nonpartisan political organization, that 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, 2501 San Pedro Dr. NE, Suite 216, Albuquerque, NM 87110 along with annual dues as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| First member of household | \$65 |
| Each additional member of household | \$33 |
| Student member (proof required) | \$12 |