

June 2021

The VOTER

Vol. 86 No. 6

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

MONTHLY CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT **by** **KAREN DOUGLAS AND DONNA SANDOVAL**

LWVCNM had 11 delegates to the LWVNM Convention that took place April 24 and 25, 2021. Many observers also viewed the Zoom meeting deliberations. Extensive revisions to Program, which serve as the basis for League of Women Voters Advocacy were presented and evaluated during proceedings. These included revision to the New Mexico Education position addressing disparities, Election Procedures, Reproductive Health, and Transfer of Federal Public Lands. The new Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage Safety position that resulted from a four-year committee study and member education effort was approved by delegates. The current Judicial Study was extended, and delegates approved a new 2021 study proposal for Tribal Law Codification at the State level.

The LWVCNM 2021 Annual Meeting, held May first, included a supplement to the current program, with Jeanne Logsdon presenting the Climate Change Action position by concurrence with the LWV of California position and approval by LWVCNM members in attendance. This new LWVCNM position now permits the LWVCNM to be an active participant in the City of Albuquerque's efforts to update the 2009 Climate Action Plan. Previous recommendations from Mary Wilson to establish active LWVCNM committees could serve as the basis for supplementing future LWVCNM program additions. Alan Ramos, LWVCNM Advocacy Chair, addressed members. He discussed both committee advocacy plans and the Observer Corps coordination for 2021, including evaluation of meetings of government bodies and distribution of reports for LWVCNM member education.

Our new officers and directors assumed office and welcome recommendations for improving services for both the LWVCNM membership and the four-county LWVCNM electorate. The new officers, along with their contact information, are listed on page 2 and will serve from 2021-2023.

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THE VOTER is published monthly by The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico
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LWVCNM Leadership

Co-Presidents:
Karen Douglas
Donna Sandoval

**1st Vice President/
Vote411.org:**
Vacant

**2nd Vice President/
Membership:**
Cassandra Spacek

3rd Vice President/Program:
Jennifer Black

**4th Vice President/
Development Committee Chair:**
Vacant

Treasurer:
Denise Blood

Secretary:
Ashley Benning

Voter Services Chair:
Cyprian Devine-Perez

Voter Guide Distribution:
Lani Desaulniers

Sustainability/Climate Change:
Jeanne Logsdon

**Office Manager/Webmaster/
Zoom Host:**
Starlyn Brown

**Advocacy Team/Observer
Corps:**
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.

June 10—Monthly meeting at noon: League Members Share Different Perspectives on the 2021 NM Legislative Session

June 12—Calendar planning meeting

July 8—Monthly meeting at noon: APD Forward

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. [Please reach out to our Zoom Host, Starlyn Brown, at sbrown@unm.edu if you need help.](#)

Calendar Planning Invitation

Please join the LWVCNM on **Saturday, June 12, 10 AM-Noon**, for our next Calendar Planning meeting. We met in August 2020 to plan our monthly educational meeting topics and speakers through September 2021. **Please bring your ideas for topics and speakers for October 2021 through May 2022.** Hopefully, we will be meeting for lunch again at some point during this next program cycle. In the interim, **watch for the Zoom information for this June planning session.** We look forward to planning another timely program schedule with and for you.

Jennifer Black, 3rd VP

OFFICE HOURS

Closed until further notice due
to Covid concerns.

The VOTER Editor:
Anne Pierce-Jones
apiercejones@outlook.com

CO-PRESIDENTS' MONTHLY REPORT, continued from page 1....

2021 will offer voters the opportunity to participate in municipal elections. Karen Wentworth will continue to be responsible for the hardcopy Voters' Guide committee off-board. LWVCNM still seeks a first Vice President to assume responsibility for the online Vote411.org information regarding candidates in the four-county LWVCNM region (i.e., Bernalillo, Sandoval, Valencia, and Tarrant counties).

Starlyn Brown is our new LWVCNM Office Manager. Linda Adcox-Kimmel managed the office very capably during the pandemic months and provided a transition to Starlyn's term prior to moving to Maryland. Starlyn has previously worked as an IT Manager, and will serve as the LWVCNM Webmaster and Zoom Host in addition to serving as Office Manager.

Following former U.S. Senator Tom Udall's address during our May 1st Annual Meeting, LWVCNM members offered farewell wishes to those leaders moving from New Mexico during the pandemic. Individual members offered fond remembrances to, and discussed tribulations shared during their LWV careers with, Andrea Targhetta, Jan Strand, Diane Goldfarb, and Linda Adcox-Kimmel. These leaders' departures will leave a void in our hearts along with continuing challenges to provide comparable substance to LWV. We all wish them the best for the future as they resettle in other states and desire to maintain contact.

Challenges for Working Moms, by Donna Sandoval

A key current issue affecting our moms is juggling work, school, and child care—all under one roof. Senior-level women have an added responsibility with work, and during 2020 considered downshifting or leaving the workforce due to COVID-19.

Women in particular have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. Women, especially women of color, are more likely to have been laid off or furloughed during the COVID-19 crisis. They are more likely to be their family's sole breadwinner or to have partners working outside the home during COVID-19.

Specific challenges that may drive women out of the workforce are a lack of flexibility at work and feeling like they must be available to work at all hours. Most of the time, women are responsible for housework and caregiving, which results in their feeling unable to concentrate on work when at home.

In May, 2021, with communities getting vaccinated, we have seen businesses opening and more women required to return to the office. Working women feel the strain of finding child care, and businesses cannot re-open fully because they cannot find people to hire.

What does this mean for women in the workplace? It means that our communities risk losing women in leadership roles and undoing the progress we have made in gender diversity over the years.

Businesses face a difficult time ahead with the need to reinvent the way we work and to be more flexible. We need to focus on the value of women in the workforce. Businesses will need to adjust their policies and programs to better support moms and to provide equal opportunity in the workplace. Our communities have seen unprecedented change because of the pandemic. Now is the right time for businesses to exercise strong leadership and creativity so as to keep and promote women in the workplace.

STRENGTHENING OUR FOCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

At the May 1 annual meeting, LWVCNM members voted to approve a consensus position on climate change, based upon the California League's position. The language of that position provides guidance about specific policies and activities that we can support in our four-county region. We are also forming a new committee to address local environmental and natural resource issues.

Climate Change Action Position

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico supports actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change in order to protect our region from its negative physical, economic, and public health effects. Our actions are to:

- Promote energy conservation and efficiency in transportation, buildings, and infrastructure, including energy efficiency standards and land use policies that reduce vehicle miles travelled.
- Promote carbon pricing by market mechanisms such as cap and trade systems and carbon taxes.
- Promote a clean, low-carbon energy economy that is sustainable, including all forms of renewable energy and transportation infrastructure.
- Promote policies that mitigate impacts of climate change by adaptation in urban, rural, agricultural, and natural settings.
- Promote basic research and technology development, encouraging the use of a portfolio of technologies.
- Promote solutions that ease consequences of climate-related hardships to low- and moderate-income households.
- Promote public access and involvement in the decision-making process.

Formation of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

LWVCNM is now creating an Environment and Natural Resources Committee to focus on policies and practices that affect our local environment. The committee's scope is not only on climate change. It will also include other critical environmental issues, especially maintaining an adequate and clean water supply.

If you are concerned about local environmental issues and want to join this committee, please contact Jeanne Logsdon (jlogsdon@unm.edu). We are in the formation stage and encourage all levels of involvement, such as analyzing policies that come before county commissions and city councils, tracking implementation of energy efficient building standards, and coordinating actions with other environmental organizations. Central New Mexico has an extraordinary natural environment which we all cherish. Let's do our best to sustain it.

NEWS FROM LWVUS.....

VOTE411 Wins Three Telly Awards

Washington (5/28/2021)—The League of Women Voters Education Fund announced today that VOTE411.org, its one-stop shop for election information, has won three Telly Awards. The Telly Awards honor excellence in video and television across all screens.

The videos awarded are:

- [Election Information You Need](#)—Silver Award for Social Video Series: Public Service & Activism
- [Election Information You Need](#)—Silver Award for Social Video: Instructional
- [6 Facts About Voting in 60 Seconds](#)—Bronze Award for Social Video: Public Service/Activism

“The conditions of the 2020 election cycle required our organization to pivot our work entirely online to reach voters in the digital space, and we are so proud of the video series we produced in both English and Spanish to ensure voters had the information they needed to make their voices heard,” said Sarah Courtney, senior director of communication and digital strategy for the League of Women Voters. “VOTE411 served more than 6 million voters in 2020, providing updated information on election dates, changes to polling sites, and nonpartisan candidate guides. It was a pleasure to work with our video partner, Vanguard Communications, to build content that resonated with voters and provided them with trusted election information.”

Since 2006, VOTE411.org has provided essential voter information such as registration deadlines, absentee and early voting instructions, polling locations, candidate information, and more. The 2020 election saw the greatest participation in our nation’s history. During this time, VOTE411 became one of the most trusted elections sites in the country, providing resources to more than 6 million people.

“In...a year like no other, the League of Women Voters Education Fund has continued to defy the limitations of our new world in continuing to create compelling and engaging work,” says Telly Awards Executive Director Sabrina Dridje.

LWV Stands with Jewish and Muslim Communities Against Hate

WASHINGTON (5/26/2021)—Today the League of Women Voters of the United States CEO Virginia Kase issued the following statement regarding the rises in antisemitic and Islamophobic violence across the United States:

“The recent surges in antisemitism and Islamophobia are appalling and unacceptable. We cannot remain silent while our neighbors, friends, and families are targeted and harassed, forced to hide symbols of their faith.

“Antisemitism and Islamophobia are pervasive sentiments that unfortunately are still embedded in the minds and institutions of many Americans. Certain people, motivated by politics, bigotry, or both, have taken advantage of international conflict to promote hateful and violent attacks against Jewish and Muslim Americans. Our Jewish and Muslim neighbors are feeling these attacks in person and online in the form of verbal, physical, and sexual assault and harassment.

“The exploitation of overseas conflict to promote religiously motivated hate is despicable and weakens America as a nation. Jewish and Muslim Americans are important and valued members of our greater national community and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

“The League of Women Voters condemns these attacks on Jewish and Muslim Americans. We stand in solidarity with our Jewish and Muslim communities against discrimination and hate.”



Recent APD Forward Initiatives

APD Forward is a coalition of community organizations led by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) which was formed in 2014 to address the instances of excessive use of force (UOF) by Albuquerque Police Department (APD) officers. From 2010 to 2012, Albuquerque police shot people at five times the per capita rate of New York City. The high profile shootings of James Boyd and Mary Hahn emphasized the need for immediate action.

The 2015 Court Approved Settlement Agreement (CASA, aka Consent Decree) between the United States Department of Justice/New Mexico U.S. Attorney and the City of Albuquerque required APD compliance with the 276 measurable paragraphs of the 344 paragraphs in the CASA. Dr. James Ginger/Public Management Resources—who had been selected for prior Consent Decrees with the Puttsburgh Bureau of Police, the New Jersey State Police, and the Los Angeles Police Department—was chosen to serve as the Independent Monitor for the Consent Decree. He reports to the federal judge (now Judge Browning) with status hearings following the issuance of most quarterly Independent Monitor Reports (IMRs). Dr. Ginger has issued 13 quarterly IMRs. The thirteenth of these was on May 2, 2021 (IMR 13). It indicated lower APD compliance levels than recently reported.

APD CASA Compliance is rated as:

- Primary (Approved policies are in place.)
- Secondary (Officers have been effectively trained to perform i/a/w policy.)
- Operational (Police practice in the field effectively implements policy.)

IMR 13 indicated that both APD Secondary Compliance and Operational Compliance has decreased markedly from prior reporting periods. Federal Judge Browning has scheduled the status hearing for IMR 13 for June 9, 2021. The United States Department of Justice, City of Albuquerque attorneys, the Albuquerque Police Officers Association, APD Forward, and other stakeholders are invited to testify regarding the progress reported to the federal judge by Dr. Ginger.

The AMICI (APD Forward, Community Coalition, and the McClendon Subclass) also participate in regular meetings with the United States Attorney, the City of Albuquerque Attorney, APD Internal Affairs, Civilian Police Oversight Agency (appointed by the City Council), and Dr. Ginger. The next AMICI meeting was scheduled for May 26, 2021.

During the April 20th APD Forward meeting, APD Lieutenant Jennifer Garcia discussed the Community Engagement Unit and the APD Ambassador Program instituted by Chief Medina. The Ambassador Program has assigned 12 officers to the Community Engagement Program. All 12 of these officers volunteered for this collateral duty. The program seeks to build trust as a foundation for positive police interactions. APD Ambassadors are required to complete a 40-hour sensitivity training course and are assigned to groups of residents—including Native Americans, faith-based communities, veterans, the disabled, and others— where there has been a history of negative police perception and/or interactions. Some APD Ambassadors have been assigned as School Resource Officers and meet with first grade classes.

By Karen Douglas

Ready to go to work?

Work will begin in early June on the Voter Guide.

This November voters in New Mexico will be voting on mayors, city councilors, school board members, local bond issues, local water district members and sheriffs. That means we will need many volunteers. The work will be concentrated in the August-September timeframe for the most part. Here's what is needed.

- Volunteers to work on questions for the candidates. (This might be the most fun.) – June, July
- Volunteers to call candidates and remind them to answer the questions on Vote411 – August
- Volunteers to call county clerks, and local water districts to round up the ballot questions. -August, Sept.
- Volunteers to proofread the Voter Guide – Sept.
- Volunteers to help distribute the Voter Guide – Sept. and early Oct.
- Volunteers to register voters – June – Sept.

We need your help.

If you can lend a hand, please email Karen Wentworth at kwentworth17@comcast.net

or call (505) 263-9066. You've been wondering how to get involved and this is a terrific opportunity!



LWVNM Board Directorships Open

There are several positions open on the League of Women Voters of New Mexico Board, and we are inviting members to consider nominating themselves or other interested members with their permission. We would like to find younger members, but youth is not a requirement. We will be happy to train volunteers. We especially need a first vice-president, who would take over the position of president in two years, and a director of voter services to oversee the state's voter guide work starting in 2022.

Directors participate in setting priorities and goals, voter education activities, advancing civil discourse, determining positions, and advocacy efforts. Directors are committed to diversity, equity and inclusion, and non-partisanship.

Learn more about empowering democracy through education and policy advocacy based on League positions. See more in the Member Documents section of our website, lwvnm.org.

Write to nominations@lwvnm.org for more information or to nominate yourself or others. Thank you!

Merideth Machen, Nominating Committee Chair, 505-577-6337

Directory of LWVCNM Board Members and Off-Board Positions

Co-Presidents:

Karen Douglas—Email: ug90t@unmalumni.com; phone 505-263-32297

Donna Sandoval—Email: donnamsandoval@aol.com; phone 505-463-0014

Secretary:

Ashley Benning—Email: apbenning@hotmail.com; phone 512-567-6287

Treasurer:

Denise (Denny) Blood—Email: DC1Jacobs@yahoo.com; phone 917-449-5341

First Vice-President/Vote411.org:

Vacant

Second Vice-President/Membership:

Cassandra Spacek—Email: ccspack@pacbell.net; phone 650-787-4042

Third Vice-President/Program:

Jennifer Black—Email: jblack8162@gmail.com; phone 847-431-1359

Fourth Vice-President/Development Committee Chair:

Vacant

DIRECTORS

Voter Services Chair:

Cyprian Devine-Perez—Email: devineperezcyprian@yahoo.com; phone 914-255-1055

Voter's Guide Distribution:

Lani DeSaulniers—Email: LMDesaul@aol.com; phone 505-573-5498

Sustainability/Climate Change:

Jeanne Logsdon—Email: jlogsdon@unm.edu; phone 505-237-1073

Office Manager/Webmaster/Zoom Host:

Starlyn Brown—Email: sbrown@unm.edu; phone 505-720-4350

OFF-BOARD POSITIONS

Advocacy Team/Observer Corps:

Alan Ramos—Email: aramos@aerlaw.com; phone 213-841-4166

Voter's Guide Editor (hardcopy):

Karen Wentworth—Email: kwentworth17@comcast.net; phone 505-263-9066

Voter/Newsletter Editor:

Anne Pierce-Jones—Email: apiercejones@outlook.com; phone 505-453-8812

**PROGRAM FOR JUNE 10th MONTHLY MEETING:
League Members Share Different Perspectives on New Mexico Legislative Session**

League members have a unique chance to hear about making change happen when Brenda McKenna, a new state senator, and Trish Lopez, a woman who saw a need for change and made it happen, address our Thursday, June 10, monthly meeting. Both women are current members of the Central New Mexico league. Please join us at noon on Zoom for a virtual discussion.



Brenda McKenna is a field representative for the District One Congressional Office. She is a long-time League member. She has served as the LWVCNM Public Relations Director and has volunteered with many environmental and wildlife advocacy organizations. In November, 2020, she was elected to the New Mexico State Senate to represent District Nine. This district includes the communities of Algodones and Placitas, the Town of Bernalillo, the City of Rio Rancho, Corrales, and Albuquerque.

Brenda is from Nanbe Owingeh and lives in Corrales with her husband and three rescue cats. She earned her B.A. from Syracuse University and her M.S. from Central Washington University.

Brenda sponsored nine bills during the 2021 legislative session. Among these was SB 304, which requires the New Mexico Secretary of State to provide geographic mapping information for every voting district in the state. This important piece of legislation was backed by the League of Women Voters of New Mexico.

Trish Lopez joined the League about four years ago. She is a native New Mexican who spent 13 years in the film industry before returning to New Mexico as a new mom. She was inspired to create Teeniors after seeing her own mother struggle to adapt to the digital world. Her business hires tech-savvy teens and young adults who help senior citizens learn technology through one-to-one personalized coaching.

During the 2021 legislative session, Trish used her expertise in social media to help successfully advocate for passage of a bill to allow access to public funding for their campaigns. Trish saw the need for public financing after a custody dispute in Family Court in which she represented herself against attorneys who had contributed financially to the political campaign of the judge who heard the case. She set up a website and began collecting signatures.

Trish's bill was signed into law by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham.

We have a chance to hear how the New Mexico legislature works from two of our members—from a new Senator and from an activist who had a big impact on a specific issue. It will be interesting. We hope you can attend. Look for your Zoom invitation on the Topics listserv.



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 |