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The VOTER

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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

Many of you are already aware that changes at our current office, which eliminated use of the conference room, precipitated our July, 2021, move to an office in the complex at 6739 Academy Boulevard NE. This new location will offer both a small conference room (for up to eight persons) and a spacious conference room seating up to 50 persons. The larger conference room will serve as the location for unit meetings. *Voter Guide* distribution is second major reason the LWVCNM requires conference room access.

LWVCNM eagerly anticipates return to in-person meetings later this year. During our June 12, 2021, annual Calendar Planning Meeting, LWVCNM decided that September, 2021, is a reasonable target date for this. The new office offers kitchen facilities. This will allow us to have catered luncheons available for members to purchase. Members will also have the option of providing their own lunches. This should eliminate the continuing dissatisfaction with hotel service or menu options voiced by many members.

Logistics required prior to moving the unit meetings to the new office include evaluation of the audio-visual equipment available in order to determine whether hybrid in-person/Zoom virtual attendance is feasible. The virtual Zoom meetings which LWVCNM held this past year during the pandemic have allowed presentations by more diverse speakers by making the commute to Albuquerque optional.

LWVCNM plans to meeting during July to discuss the requirements and roles for the online Vote411 which will cover the November, 2021, elections in our four-county region, i.e., Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, and Valencia counties. The filing deadline for candidates is August 24, 2021, but questions for candidate races can be specified prior to that deadline. League members are encouraged to participate in this important voter education effort. This meeting will take place at our new Academy office location. Members interested in participating should call the LWVCNM office at 505-884-8441 to express their interest, and they will be notified when the meeting is scheduled.

Continued on page 3.....

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. If you need help with Zoom, please reach out to our Zoom host, Starlyn Brown, at sbrown@unm.edu.

July 8—Monthly meeting at noon: APD Forward (Speaker: Dr. James Ginger, Independent Monitor for the DOJ Consent Decree)

August 12—Monthly meeting at noon: Think New Mexico (Speaker: Fred Nathan, Executive Director)

September 9—Monthly meeting at noon: Voter Education, Part One

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

LWVCNM Observer Report Summaries of May and June City of Albuquerque Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) Meetings

May 18, 2021, 5-7 p.m.

Significant issues addressed during this session:

- **New Gateway Centers Update**—Lisa Huval, of CABQ Family & Community Services—Staff have been holding outreach meetings in the community to discuss the scope of services to be provided at the recently purchased Gibson facility (formerly Lovelace Hospital; 50,000 sq. ft.). Current plans include providing a hub for health and behavioral services for the community as well as respite care and emergency shelter for homeless individuals.
- **Hospital Meeting Update**—Lt. J. Gonzales, APD, plus staff from the Crisis Intervention Unit and Albuquerque Fire and Rescue, met with behavioral health staff at Kaseman Presbyterian Hospital to address policies for dropping off

Continued on page 3

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....

WE WANT YOU—to be a member of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico!!!

We want to welcome younger workers to our League. Diversity in our membership is essential for LWVCNM to continue to thrive. Over the coming year, we will be selecting different meeting locations and times in order to accommodate those in the workforce. If you have suggestions for locations that would be convenient for a large number of potential League members, please contact us. (Karen Douglas: email ug90t@unmalumni.com; phone 505-263-32297 or Donna Sandoval: email donnamsandoval@aol.com; phone 505-463-0014) If you have never attended a League meeting, or if you know of someone who may be interested, we would love to have you come to our events. We need your input and participation in the LWVCNM!

CABQ MHRAC Meeting Observer Report Summaries, continued from page 2...

Clients for emergency psychiatric services. The need for better communication at the time of hand-off between officers and medical staff was identified. Law enforcement officers currently have three options for these transports: Kaseman, Lovelace, and UNM.

June 15, 2021, 5-7 p.m.

Significant issues addressed during this session:

- Lt. Cmdr. Emily Jaramillo reported on Behavioral Health transport by Albuquerque Fire & Rescue (AFR). A new policy was approved permitting AFR transport for behavioral health services as an alternative to police transport in situations where there is not a safety issue.
- Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Dept.—Jasmine Desiderio, new Deputy Director, gave an update on plans for staff training in the newly formed department. MHRAC board members will review training protocols and materials.
- Gateway Center Update—Lisa Huval, Deputy Director of Housing & Homelessness, reported on plans for services at Gibson Health Hub. Additional community meetings have been held, and a workgroup with service providers and neighborhood representatives has been created. Operational planning will address safety, entrance/exits, and overnight occupancy. Conditional Use Zoning approval will be required. City Councillor Pat Davis has proposed an ordinance limiting the number of shelter beds to 30. Multiple attendees expressed concerns that this cap would limit the capacity of the center to provide shelter for families and respite care for medically fragile individuals. Further information can be found on the Gateway Center webpage.
- Crisis Intervention Training for APD—Lt. Matt Dietzel of APD reported on the status of Enhanced Crisis Intervention Training (ECIT) for field officers. Currently 42% of the force has had this training. Recent review of responses to behavioral health calls revealed that 65% of those calls included an officer with ECIT training.
- Emergency Communication Center (ECC)—Erika Wilson, Director—New protocols for dispatch from 911 calls are being developed to define which calls will be directed to the ACS Department. They will be dispatched with/without co-response by APD or AFR to calls involving inebriation, homelessness, addiction, and mental health. The State of New Mexico is also preparing to launch the “988” Suicide Prevention Hotline in July, 2022, so additional coordination will likely be required.
- Monthly meetings every third Tuesday, open to the public. Next meeting: July 20, 2021, from 5 to 7 p.m.

—Submitted by Lani Desaulniers

A Preliminary Look at the Program Calendar: August, 2021 through September, 2022

A calendar planning meeting was held on Saturday, June 12, to discuss topics for the upcoming program year. Below are the topics tentatively scheduled by the fifteen meeting participants. This is a program roadmap. Topics may shift as the year progresses. When we leave the Zoom-only environment, additional programs/unit meetings may be added back into this monthly schedule.

Until we are settled into the new office and have a better understanding of the new conference room's meeting technology for a hybrid meeting format (combination of Zoom and in-person), *we will plan on staying Zoom-only through September.* The conference room will seat 50 people. This may allow us to hold our monthly meetings at the new office facility. We will keep you updated as the move progresses and we settle into the new office.

Thursday, August 12, noon—Think New Mexico—a results-oriented think tank whose mission is to improve the lives of all New Mexicans, especially those lacking a strong voice in the political process.

- Confirmed Speaker: Fred Nathan, Executive Director

Thursday, September 9, noon—Voter Education, Part One

- Proposed Speaker: Board of Education/County Clerk's Office

Thursday, October 14, noon—Voter Education, Part Two

- Proposed Speaker: Panel representing a selection of municipal bodies with candidates in the November election, i.e., APS Board of Education, CNM Board of Education, Water Districts

Wednesday, November 10, noon—Consumer Fraud/Identity Theft

- Proposed Speaker: Representative from Attorney General's Office or APD

Thursday, December 9, noon—Priority legislative issues, highlights of first Senate term

- Proposed Speaker: The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan, U.S. Senator, or another Federal legislator, based on availability

Thursday, January 13, noon—A New Year of Advocacy: The League's State Legislative Advisory Agenda and An Update on Redistricting

- Proposed Speaker: Dick Mason, League of Women Voters of New Mexico Action Chair

Thursday, February 10, noon—Homelessness/Affordable Housing Issues

Thursday, March 10, noon—Let the Sunshine In: Ethics and Government Transparency

Thursday, April 14, noon—Earth Day Month/Focus on Climate/Environmental Issue(s)

Saturday, May ???—Annual Meeting (Date TBD). Decided to hold off on proposed topic/speaker, as relevant topics "reveal" themselves as the date draws nearer.

Thursday, July 14, noon—Focus on Proposed Constitutional Amendment, Permanent Funding for Childhood Education via the Land Grant Permanent Fund

Thursday, August 11, noon—Vote ER, Healthcare-based Voter Registration

Thursday, September 8, noon—Engaging the Youth/Young Adult Voter

Watch upcoming issues of *The Voter* and *Topics* Announcements for confirmed program descriptions and speakers...and, hopefully, we will be seeing you in person soon.

Submitted by Jennifer Black

Learning about Albuquerque's 2021 Climate Action Plan

At the April 2021 LWVCNM monthly lunch meeting, Albuquerque's Sustainability Officer Kelsey Rader told us that the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) would be presented on Earth Day, April 22. Well, that day came and went with very little attention given to the updated plan in the media. I recently contacted Kelsey Rader to ask about next steps in implementing the CAP. She is working with various City departments this summer and expects to hold a public meeting on implementation in August or September.

In anticipation of this public meeting and also to provide context for the specific strategies in the CAP that will be covered in future issues of *The Voter*, here are several important aspects of the process and guiding principles that help to explain the reasoning for certain strategies, priorities, and timelines.

Collaborative Process

The 19-member task force was selected to represent a diverse cross-section of the community. Meetings were facilitated by New Mexico First and held over a 6-month period with input and information provided from many sources. From an initial list of 130 strategies, the task force received feedback in public surveys and meetings and were able to narrow the number of strategies to 50. The strategies cover 6 categories: sustainable buildings; renewable energy; clean transportation; economic development; education and awareness; and climate-conscious neighborhoods and resources.

Guiding Principles

An explicit concern about equity guided the work of the climate change task force, beginning with the criteria for selection of its members. In particular, a major effort was made to engage with representatives of "frontline" communities, which are defined as "communities that will be impacted 'first and worst' by the effects of climate change. These communities include Indigenous, Black and other communities of color, as well as communities of low-income and other groups that face greater exposure to pollution and climate hazards with more limited resources to respond." (Albuquerque's 2021 CAP, p. 8.)

To guide its work, the task force agreed upon the following five principles:

1. Center all climate mitigating actions in communities with an explicit commitment to equity, inclusion, and accessibility. Decisions and action must be taken in partnership with, rather than on or for, frontline communities.
2. Climate issues are interconnected, and Albuquerque must strive for and implement high-impact solutions that address multiple challenges with coordinated strategies.
3. Move beyond policies that focus primarily on the role and responsibility of individuals and look at larger systemic issues.
4. Protect and respect agricultural land and water use.
5. Support state and other policies that strengthen the City of Albuquerque's commitment to social justice. (Albuquerque's 2021 CAP, p. 11.)

Future articles in *The Voter* will describe the strategies identified by the task force. Contact me if you would like to become involved in the LWVCNM's Environment & Natural Resources Committee.

Submitted by Jeanne Logsdon, jlogsdon@unm.edu, 505-710-3886



June 9, 2021, Federal Court Hearing Summary

(Transcripts from the full 8-hour hearing will be available in July, 2021.)

Judge Browning presided over the June 9, 2021, hearing evaluating the status of APD compliance with the 2014 DOJ Consent Decree. The Consent Decree (aka CASA, Court Approved Settlement Agreement) progress is detailed in quarterly reports by Independent Monitor (IM) Dr. James Ginger and his staff, with subsequent federal court hearing permitting parties in the case (DOJ—Civil Rights Division and US Attorney for New Mexico; City of Albuquerque/Albuquerque Police Department; and AMICI (Community Coalition, APD Forward, and McClendon Subclass). The Albuquerque Police Officers Association (APOA, the police union) usually present testimony also. Highlights during the past year in operational (field officers) compliance and training development and delivery were both insufficient. IM staff have held dozens of consulting Zoom advisory sessions permitting APD—using preferred methods of implementation.

IMR 13 includes 196 recommendations which APD may implement or select alternate methods. APD Training Academy unavailability from Covid restrictions warranted issuance of a delayed schedule, but none was submitted by CABQ. The example offered by the IM was no APD Crowd Control training, now more than three years overdue. Dr. Ginger noted that APD Deputy Chief was engaged in Civilian Police Oversight Agency Force Review Board (City Council appointees) decisions regarding UOF cases. Arrests were made during the reporting period with no probable cause, and multiple simultaneous force options were applied by officers against approved protocol. APD Internal Affairs processing of UOF cases was inadequate: 298 Level 2 and 3 (greater force which could cause injury or death; Level 2 force causes injury, expected to cause injury, or is reported by civilians) UOF cases due were not processed within the 90-day limitations, thus ruling out discipline of officers.

During the IMR 12 quarterly reporting period, 60% of cases were not processed within time limitations. APD is now addressing the UOF case backlog for both completing investigations and imposing discipline. Investigations should evaluate other police officer violations with both aggravating and mitigating circumstances. Minor discipline is evaluated by Command staff at each of the six APD Commands; major discipline is imposed by the APD Chief or Deputy Chief. IM staff noted that APD mental health training was positive and the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee corrected issues from prior APD Crisis Intervention Teams.

US DOJ Civil Rights Division (P. Killibrew, JD): Following six years since CASA implementation, the recent regression in UOF improvements is very disappointing. DOJ suggested Contempt of Court or Receivership may be necessary if this pattern continues. DOJ instead imposed a second Stipulated Order for APD training deficiencies. Data are being collected, but not operationalized. DOJ recommendations in the December, 2020, federal hearing included centralization of investigations of excessive UOF.

US DOJ/US Attorney for New Mexico (E. Martinez, JD): Reorganizing Community Policing Councils under the CPOA was an improvement from prior reporting to APD. APD Internal Affairs (IA) Professional Standards Division is doing well in investigation conduct, but not in applying discipline. Officer resistance to serving in IA roles should emphasize that IA experience prepares officers for promotion by improving knowledge of standard operating procedures, systems, report writing, and conducting investigations. Police officers should be able to expect fair, consistent discipline.

CABQ (Sarita Nair/CAO & L. Van Meter, JD, & E. Aguilar, JD): IMR 13 reporting period was prior to the Spring, 2021, hire of S. Stanley, Superintendent of Police Reform, whose responsibilities include APD Internal Affairs and the APD Academy. APD deputy chiefs now devote 40% of their schedules to the CPOA Force Review Board. No additional time is available. The new Albuquerque Community Safety Department (ACS) now takes 911 calls not requiring officers and mental/behavioral health calls, offering police more time to address violent crime. Former APD Chief Geier was still in office during early IMG 13 reporting

Continued on page 7

APD Forward, continued from page 6...

Period. On-Body Recording Device (OBRD, body cameras) compliance improved to 90%. The APD Performance Management Unit collects and evaluates data and completed 6,200 inspections in 2021. The CPOA Force Review Board is now fully staffed by nine civilians. Prior vacancies limited evaluation of UOF cases. Covid restrictions prevented Academy training courses from being delivered. The External Force Investigation Team required by the earlier DOJ Stipulated Order is now selecting the Director. CABQ indicated IMR 13 language was unnecessarily inflammatory.

APD (Chief H. Medina & Deputy Chief Garcia): During 2021 there have been 54 homicides to date (26 as of this date in 2020) and 119 shootings to date in 2021. A new APD Academy Director and Curriculum Director have now been hired. The new APD Ambassador Program outreach to communities with historically poor police relations or previously unheard concerns will promote diversity among APD. Ambassadors are all officers who volunteer for this collateral assignment. Police officers should expect fair and equitable discipline. The 2021 Stipulated Order External Force Investigation Team (EFIT) required 25 IA Investigators. Temporary Commander Lower was assigned to supervise all Internal Affairs officers, but all lieutenants left. PAD dedicates four detectives daily, but six investigative detectives left. There are five of nine openings since January, 2021. Newly assigned investigators have no prior experience and require training.

APD Superintendent of Police Reform (S. Stanley): 264 APD personnel have been infected with Covid; 191 were officers. Nine of 11 APD Internal Affairs positions were vacant; five remain so, thus resulting in the backlog of investigations. Categorizing UOF levels is sometimes difficult, as applying a taser (usually Level 2) three times may cause death (Level 3). UOF and Misconduct cases are separately investigated when both may sometimes apply. To date in 2021, APD Internal Affairs completed 17 UOF investigations and 51 Misconduct case investigations.

APOA (J.D'Amato, JD, & S. Willoughby): Judge Browning addressed the recent APOA "Crime Matters More" campaign, noting city resident responses overwhelmingly agree with this priority. As a result, Judge Browning decided that APOA should be considered among witnesses during the quarterly federal hearings. CPOA Force Review Board recommended discipline when an officer had never been trained on the policy. Officers need adequate training to recognize policy requirements. DOJ complaints regarding the APD Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) should be aware that the CBA does not address the 90-day disciplinary deadline. Sixty officers left APD in 2018, 80 in 2020, and more than 100 have left to date in 2021. Investigation/discipline backlog results from CPOA Force Review Board staffing vacancies preventing meetings and decisions. Research & Polling (Sanderoff) results indicate that 84% of Albuquerque residents are more concerned about the high crime than about police reform. Seventy retired police officers joined APD 3 1/2 years ago and may again retire in July, 2021. APD officers are frustrated, as resources have been diverted from policing to compliance with CASA. Narcotics are tied to violent crime. APD now has only 5 narcotics officers. Covid had a major impact globally, also impacting APD, and should be accepted as justification for delays.

AMICI (Community Coalition/A. Maestas, JD; APD Forward/G. Houseplan, JD; McClendon Subclass/P. Cubra, JD): Regression in compliance with CASA indicates deliberate indifference. There was a 35% decrease in compliance with CASA UOF paragraphs during IMR 13 period. Other police forces in the nation can both fight crime effectively and comply with Consent Decrees. Camden, New Jersey, was able both to comply with CASA and to reduce crime.

CPOA (E. Harness, Executive Director): CPOA Force Review Board has been fully staffed since June 10, 2021, and can now evaluate UOF cases. CABQ Office of Equity and Inclusion will now fill the Diversity position.

Submitted by Karen Douglas

Observer Report: Bernalillo County Commission Approves Major Tax Incentive for Flying J Truck Stop

The Bernalillo County Commission has approved, 3-2, a \$1.4 million gross receipts tax reimbursement to Pilot Travel Centers to pay for extension of water and sewer lines to the area of Broadway and Interstate 25. Pilot Travel Centers plans to build a Flying J Travel Center in this area at the southern tip of Bernalillo County. The Commission did not pass an impact fee waiver of nearly \$59,000 that the company had requested.

The economic development incentive was strongly pushed by Commissioner Steve Quezada as a project that will bring jobs to the South Valley area of Bernalillo County. The center is expected to create 75 jobs, most of them as part of a McDonald's restaurant that will be on site. Although the Commissioners approved the tax incentive, they noted publicly that this was done in spite of its contradicting County economic development department policies that require financial incentives to be used for high quality jobs.

The number and kind of businesses in the South Valley have raised environmental justice concerns at the County level because of the concentration of businesses with harmful air emissions.

It appears that the Pilot Travel Centers have not yet applied for an air quality permit, and this observer can find no evidence that they have applied for a zone change.

The League positions most directly relevant are the following:

A local LWVCNM Land Use statement: "Preservation of agricultural lands as such." The current land use of the area where the project will be located is agricultural.

A LWVNM Land Use statement: "Protect the quality of the environment for people at all economic development levels."

A LWVNM Good Government statement: "State and Local governments should provide timely and complete information to their constituents on current topics."

A LWVNM Air Quality statement: "The League supports programs that protect clean air."

Submitted by Karen Wentworth

Dr. James Ginger, Independent Monitor for the DOJ Consent Decree, to Address LWVCNM on July 8th

Dr. James Ginger, Independent Monitor for the Consent Decree between the City of Albuquerque and the US Department of Justice (“DOJ”) concerning excessive police Use of Force (“UOF”) will address the LWVCNM general meeting on Thursday, July 8th, at 12:00 noon (Zoom link to follow). Albuquerque has a Court Approved Settlement Agreement (“CASA”, also known as “Consent Decree”) with the US Department of Justice for APD excessive Use of Force (“UOF”) that was enacted in November, 2014. Dr. Ginger has released 13 quarterly Independent Monitor Reports (“IMR”). The most recent was released May 2, 2021 and evaluated APD/CABQ compliance with the 276 measurable paragraphs of the 344 in the CASA. Federal Judge Browning supervises Dr. Ginger and usually convenes a Federal Hearing to review results; evaluate testimony by US DOJ Civil Rights Division and the US Attorney for New Mexico; AMICI (APD Forward, Community Coalition, and McClendon Subclass); CABQ Attorneys; and APD leadership. LWVCNM has been a coalition member of APD Forward since its inception in 2014.



Dr. Ginger will discuss Problems, Issues, Needs, and Solutions to Court mandated police reforms across the nation, including settlement agreements/consent decrees addressing excessive UOF by police, based on his experience at LAPD, New Jersey State Police, and Pittsburg, PA—all agencies he has either monitored in the past or, as in the case of LAPD, has written the monitoring methodology for use by the parties in a DOJ police reform case.

Dr. Ginger is a former sworn police officer in Evansville, Indiana. He earned his Ph.D. in Public Administration at Virginia Tech in 1984. His dissertation dealt with response modalities for international terrorism using boundary spanning, and “informal” organizations. He has served as the monitor in three police jurisdictions since the late 1990s—Pittsburg, PA; New Jersey State Police; and Albuquerque, NM. He also wrote the monitoring methodology for the Los Angeles Police Department’s monitoring process in 2010.

Dr. Ginger has supervised numerous nationwide training and organizational development programs for local law enforcement during his tenure as Deputy Director of the District of Columbia based Police Foundation. He has also served as Director of the Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville (Kentucky).



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 |