

April 2022

The VOTER

Vol. 87 No. 4

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO
6739 Academy Rd. NE, Suite 124, Albuquerque, NM 87109

MONTHLY CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT

by

KAREN DOUGLAS AND DONNA SANDOVAL

The May 2021-2022 LWVCNM year was again restricted by the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, which inhibited our activities and opportunities to collaborate. The recent lifting of the New Mexico mask mandate by Governor Lujan Grisham has again offered League members the promise of an in-person Annual Meeting on May 14. Cancellation of the August 26, 2020, Suffrage Centennial Banquet due to Covid restrictions was a great disappointment to most members. Many had volunteered long hours toward planning this celebration.

We are now rejoicing in the resumption of opportunities to rejoin friends and colleagues in person during this 2022 election year. Those attending the Annual Meeting will be given a gift of an art book arranged by Jennifer Black, our 3rd Vice-President/Program, and generously donated by Edward Ripp, bookseller and LWVCNM member. During the pandemic, Jennifer has managed our monthly programs, moderated our annual Calendar Planning and Program Planning meetings, and maintained our communication with those members joining us monthly via Zoom.

LWVCNM is also very fortunate that Starlyn Brown, retired IT manager from the University of New Mexico, assumed the LWVCNM office director, Zoom host, and webmaster responsibilities. Starlyn has been devoted to maintaining LWV information available to the electorate and to providing the venue for monthly LWVCNM unit meetings, which always include announcements of upcoming events. We also appreciate her efforts to manage LWVCNM Topics subscriptions.

The LWVCNM Voter newsletter has continued to offer vital information to our members during this period of isolation and has been ably published this year by Anne Pierce-Jones.

The January, 2022, LWVCNM Criminal Justice Reform concurrence with the California Position will revise the 2019 LWVNM Administration of Justice Position and may permit reevaluation of the Central New Mexico League's level of participation in the APD Forward Coalition initiatives. Additional 2021-2022 LWVNM Position concurrences will be evaluated by delegates to the LWVNM 2023 Convention and will be included in the LWVCNM 2023 Annual Meeting *Voter*. Please continue to review the quarterly LWVNM *La Palabra* newsletter for updates on state initiatives and decisions.

LWVCNM Leadership**Co-Presidents:**

Karen Douglas
Donna Sandoval

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

Karen Wentworth

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:**

Karen Wentworth

LEAGUE CALENDAR

This month's calendar includes one Zoom event (April 14), followed by two in-person events (April 30 and May 14). For the Zoom event, 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

April 14 (Thursday), noon, on Zoom—Our own Lora Lucero will speak about Climate Change.

April 30 (Saturday), in person at 6739 Academy Blvd. NE, Albuquerque—**LWVNM Council** (Details and registration information are found in the Spring, 2022, issue of *La Palabra*.)

May 14 (Saturday), 9:00 a.m., in person at Sheraton Uptown Hotel, 2600 Louisiana Blvd. NE—**LWVCNM Annual Meeting with Brunch**. (See formal call to meeting on page 3 of this newsletter for additional information.) Brunch is complimentary for members, \$25.00 for guests. Brunch reservations required; see below for instructions.

The deadline for the monthly Voter remains the 15th of each month. Please submit your articles to Anne Pierce-Jones, **VOTER** editor, at apiercejones@outlook.com.

TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION FOR THE ANNUAL MEET-

ING BRUNCH: Please call the office (505-884-8441) by Monday, May 9th, and leave a voicemail with your name, requesting Annual Meeting brunch reservation, OR Email lunch@lwvcnm.org OR sign up at lwvcnm.org

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MONDAY, MAY 9.

OFFICE HOURS

Closed until further notice due
to Covid concerns.

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

SAVE THE DATE!!

LWVNM Council

Saturday, April 30, 2022

6739 Academy Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM

**(Details and Registration Information located in Spring,
2022, La Palabra)**

Call to LWVCNM Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 14, 2022

**The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico
invites**

ALL MEMBERS

To our 2022 Annual Meeting

**Location: Sheraton Uptown Hotel
2600 Louisiana Blvd., NE, Albuquerque, NM**

Guest Speaker: Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller

Schedule of Events

Registration: 9:00 to 9:30 a.m.

Business Meeting: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Brunch: 11:30 a.m.

League of Women Voters® of Central New Mexico

Annual Meeting Agenda

May 14, 2022

Sheraton Uptown Hotel, Albuquerque

9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Introductions

Moment of Silence - George Richmond

Registration Committee Report

Adoption of Agenda

Recognition of Board

Presentation of Budget

Program Presentation

Election of Board

Other Business

Directions to Board

Volunteer Recognition

Brunch (Complimentary for LWVCNM members; \$25 for guests)

Speaker

Rules for Annual Meeting

- 1. No person may speak twice to the same motion until all who wish to speak have had the opportunity to do so.**
- 2. Each speaker is limited to two minutes.**
- 3. All motions must be made in writing and a copy given to the Secretary.**
- 4. Only members in good standing will be allowed to speak on a motion. Please remember to identify yourself by name.**

If there are no objections, these are the rules.

ANNUAL REPORTS

The Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs are pleased to provide the following reports of their activities for the 2021-2022 year.

First Vice President (Karen Wentworth):

This has been an unusually busy year for publications. The Voter Guide and VOTE411 committee had to deal with two municipal election cycles—once in November and one in March. We are now hard at work preparing for the primary election in June.

The communities in Bernalillo, Torrance, and most of Valencia County held municipal elections in November. The five communities in Sandoval County, as well as Bosque Farms in Valencia County, held municipal elections in March 1. LWVCNM provided an online guide on VOTE411 for each election.

For the last several weeks, the VOTE411 committee has been hard at work gathering information for the statewide primary election in June. A sub-committee created questions for candidates to answer. Other volunteers loaded information into the VOTE411 software and tracked down contact information for candidates, and another group called the candidates to remind them to answer the questions.

The Central New Mexico League sent questions to all the candidates in Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, and Valencia counties. Other leagues worked to send questions to the candidates in their areas. Together with the League of Women Voters of New Mexico, we are covering the entire state, which means collecting information and answers from every candidate in every race in New Mexico. We are the only organization that does this.

We also have a new *Who's Who* publication, which we delayed publishing this year so we could collect contact information on the winners of the March municipal elections. Ashley Benning is doing an outstanding job of assembling this publication. She would welcome any volunteers who would like to help in this ongoing effort.

We also welcome volunteers who would like to work on VOTE411 and printed Voter Guide information for the general election in November.

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico has gone through a few name changes, but we have been putting together and distributing Voter Guides in the Albuquerque area since the early 1950s. That means we have been educating voters for generations. It's a wonderful legacy, and we would like everyone in the League to have a chance to be a part of it. Anyone interested in working on the *Who's Who*, VOTE411, or the printed Voter Guide may contact Karen Wentworth.

Second Vice President/Membership (Cassandra Spacek):

We are glad to have welcomed 30 new members in 2021. As of March 1st, we have 182 members.

Happily, with the loosening of COVID restrictions, we are able to consider bringing back our traditional and new in-person events, such as "Coffee with the Board", for new members to engage directly with our board in a casual setting that promotes the exchange of information and ideas. We also look forward to being able to personally meet at other League events, such as our monthly speaker luncheons and our Annual Meeting in May.

We were very busy in membership last year. Our annual *Membership Handbook*, which includes

Annual Reports, continued from page 5...

Important national, state, and Central New Mexico League information, was sent out to every LWVCNM member in June. Our national database preparation for the January accounting by the National League was completed; the results determine the amount of fees owed by LWVCNM to both the National and the New Mexico State Leagues. We processed some 200 renewal letters to our members in August and followed up as needed with letters, emails, and phone calls. On a daily basis, we also initiate and process new memberships and member renewals, ensure that member information is kept up to date, and answer any questions and solve any problems of our members and potential members.

We hope that our new members, as well as more of our continuing members, will become actively involved in our League programs and activities, and we welcome your participation and enthusiasm! You can speak to any one of our board members or request a copy of our *Volunteer Opportunities* for information about volunteering. Please consider inviting a friend or acquaintance to our monthly meetings. Our members are the solid foundation of the League, and it is because of you that we are able to make a positive difference in the world.

Third Vice President/Program (Jennifer Black):

Calendar Planning

The monthly educational program schedule held steady via Zoom through the COVID challenges of the 2021-2022 program cycle. A group of members met on Saturday, June 12, 2021, to map out program topics/speakers from August, 2021, through September, 2022. While in-person contact has been missed, the meetings on the second Thursday of each month covered a wide range of topics and dynamic speakers, with attendance ranging from ten to 40+ participants.

Watch the May issue of *The Voter* for the date of the 2022-2023 meeting. All CNM members are invited to attend to offer topic/speaker suggestions. We look forward to moving to a hybrid meeting model for the next program cycle—with an option to attend in person at the CNM office conference room or to continue to attend via Zoom.

Program Planning:

On Saturday, January 22, 2022, CNM members met to discuss annual Program Planning at the local chapter level—the education and advocacy concepts to be considered for adoption to move the League’s mission forward. The program planning process is the first step in creating the positions that allow each of us, as League members, to participate in our democracy.

The meeting opened with a casual “getting to know you” segment. Since many of the attendees have never met in person, it was a great way to get to know League colleagues better and an excellent meeting icebreaker. Remembrances of George Richmond were also included, and Karen Wentworth reviewed the status of the Sandoval and Valencia Counties Voter Guide project.

The Meet and Greet was followed by a welcome and announcements by Karen Douglas, Co-President. A brief review of the 2021 Program Planning session was led by Jeanne Logsdon, who updated the

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Annual Reports, continued from page 5...

group on the Climate Action concurrence position approved in 2021. The position is located on page 34 of the CNM Member Handbook. Karen Wentworth followed with an update on the Advocacy Committee and the need for growing the CNM Observer Corps.

Although no new studies were proposed, Karen Douglas presented the LWVNM concurrence positions on Criminal Justice, Healthcare, Broadband Digital Equity, and Immigration Reform. The state position on Criminal Justice Reform will be presented for official adoption at the 2023 LWVNM Convention, but can be used for interim advocacy with LWVNM Board approval. There have been no program additions to the 2021-22 Member Handbook. LWVNM positions adopted by concurrence with other state leagues will appear in the April, 2023, Annual Meeting Voter and will be voted on by delegates to the 2023 LWVNM Convention.

The two national level concurrences (Healthcare and Broadband Equity) will be advanced at the LWVUS Convention in June, 2022. The request by state and local leagues for the LWVUS to increase its lobbying efforts to support legislation for comprehensive immigration reform and expanded paths to citizenship will also be presented at the June, 2022, National Convention.

The meeting concluded with an open discussion on state/national Voting Rights legislation and the need to expand CNM's active volunteer base as a top CNM priority. While mobilizing volunteers is challenging in the best of times, the challenge is exponential in the pandemic environment. Next steps suggested were Board focus/action on member outreach.

Office Manager/Webmaster/Zoom Host (Starlyn Brown):

It has been a very busy year. We moved to a new office location and gained a large conference room. Office volunteers have been answering and responding to messages. Most have worked remotely; some have worked in the office. Their contributions throughout the year have been invaluable. The League continues to be a respected and valued source of information for the public.

We are now able to hold hybrid meetings, which are both in-person and via Zoom, in the conference room. This capability makes it possible for people to attend meetings based on their comfort level. We hope to be meeting face to face once again in the coming year.

We are redesigning our website to make it easier to use and to navigate. We are making frequently requested information more accessible by including more links. In addition to the monthly *Voter*, recordings of monthly Zoom meetings, with the presenter's permission, are also available. Election information has been added and maintained throughout the year.

Sustainability/Climate Change (Jeanne Logsdon):

The Environment and natural Resources Committee (ENRC) began its work in May, 2021, after League members approved the Climate Change Action position by consensus with the California League's position. Our committee has seven members and welcomes all Leaguers who care about the environment.

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Annual Reports, continued from page 5...

During the past year, we have written eleven articles for *The Voter* about various aspects of Albuquerque's Climate Action Plan, as well as several articles for *La Palabra* on environmental topics. We have also engaged in local advocacy by encouraging our League president to sign two petitions in support of the City's ban on plastic bag usage by retailers. Committee chair Jeanne Logsdon also spoke in support of the ban at the Albuquerque City Council meeting and participated in LWVNM's Action group to track environmentally related bills at the 30-day session of the 2022 Legislature.

Committee member Lora Lucero will be the featured speaker at the April, 2022, luncheon meeting on the topic of "The Grandchildren Are Watching—The Time for Climate Change is NOW!" Lora volunteered to be a LWVUS observer at the November, 2021, United Nations summit on climate change (COP26). Lora and Jeanne are also members of the LWVUS Climate Action Plan Team.

Treasurer (Denise Blood):

Early in our new fiscal year, we found that our office space was taken over by a new owner. They would not honor agreements we had with the former owner, so we felt it best to move to new space. We found lovely new space with far better amenities at 6739 Academy Road NE, Albuquerque. We were able to get out of our lease, and moved on July 26, 2021. We arranged for new business insurance with better coverage at a better price.

Continued restrictions due to the COVID pandemic caused us to continue to suspend monthly luncheons. There was no expense or income in that area.

Required reports were filed with Bernalillo County, the New Mexico Attorney General, the New Mexico Secretary of State, and the IRS. Membership payments and donations to LWVCNM were deposited. Donations made through United Way are deposited online into the LWVCNM account. Bills were paid promptly. Payments were made for the Member Handbook, Voters Guide, and the Who's Who Directory. Per Member Payments were made to LWVUS and to LWVNM based on 2020-2021 membership data. Monthly financial reports were presented to the Board of Directors. The Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year 2021-2022 (May through April) will be presented at the Annual Meeting because the fiscal year ends April 30.

The Budget Committee has proposed the 2022-2023 budget presented for approval at the March Board meeting be presented in the April Voter for adoption at the 2022 Annual Meeting.

Online banking is used to assess regularly the account balances and monthly statements.

Proposed Budget for 2022-2023

	2021 - 2022 Budget	2021- 2022 Actual To Date	Proposed 2022 - 2023 Budget
Income - Beginning Balance			
Dues	\$ 10,800.00	\$ 9,728.58	\$ 10,800.00
Contributions	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 12,810.70	\$ 20,000.00
Luncheon	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
LWVNM Office			
Rent	\$ 600.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 600.00
Handbook Ads	\$ 800.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 800.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 800.00	\$ 555.13	\$ 800.00
Voter Guide		\$ 10.00	
From/To Savings	\$ 150.00	\$ 62.56	150.00
Total Income	\$ 38,150.00	\$ 23,891.97	38,150.00

Proposed Budget, continued from page 9...

Expenses			
National Dues	\$ 5,872.00	\$ 5,808.00	\$ 5,872.00
State Dues	\$ 2,385.50	\$ 2,359.50	\$ 2,385.50
President	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -
Board of Directors	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -
Membership	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Public Relations	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Voter Services	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00
Who's Who	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$ -
Voter's Guide	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,618.37	10,000.00
Advocacy	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Insurance	\$ 530.00	\$ 415.00	\$ 530.00
Postage	\$ 200.00	\$ 133.90	\$ 200.00
Bulk Mail Permit	\$ 225.00	\$ -	\$ 225.00
Bulk Mailings	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Office Rent	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,092.61	9,000.00
Telephone	\$ 75.00	\$ 62.68	\$ 75.00
New Computer	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,600.00
Office Supplies	\$ 400.00	\$ 492.83	\$ 400.00
Printing	\$ 500.00	\$ 436.42	\$ 500.00
Internet	\$ -	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00
Member Handbook	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,276.00	\$ 1,200.00
Luncheon	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Pay Pal/Bank Fees	\$ 200.00	\$ 164.59	\$ 200.00
LWWUS Convention Registry	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
LWWUS Convention Exp.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
LWVNM Conv. Reg.		\$ -	
LWVNM Council Reg		\$ -	
Quarterly SS/Med		\$ -	
Sec of St Annual	\$ 12.00	\$ 21.95	\$ 20.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 200.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 50.00
Journal Ad		\$ -	
Total Expenses	\$ 29,149.50	\$ 24,161.85	38,147.50

Proposed Changes to the LWVCNM Bylaws and Policies

2022 Annual Meeting May 14, 2022

LWVCNM 2021-22 Member Handbook

Proposed Changes to LWVCNM Bylaws:

Article II. Purposes and Policy, p.39

Section 1. **No Changes** – March 2022 LWVCNM Board discussion of Advocacy Committee impact:

“No Substantial part of the activities of the LWVCNM shall be attempting to influence legislation”

where Substantial was defined as >\$400 for purposes of retaining 501C3 tax-exempt status. This evaluation was due to 2021 establishment of LWVCNM Advocacy Committee.

Article III. Membership, p.40

Section 2. Types of Membership

(DELETE)

“and associate members”

2022 LWVNM Board discussion indicated there is no Associate Member status.

2021-22 LWVCNM Board Changes to Policies, p.45:

LWVCNM Policies

Membership Dues

(DELETE)

“Associate membership is \$33.”

REVISE

“Student Membership is \$12”

TO

“Student Membership is free of charge.”

NOMINATIONS FOR NEW OFFICERS

Three officer positions are elected in odd-numbered years: 2nd Vice President/Membership, 3rd Vice President/Programs, and Treasurer. The Nominating Committee presents the following members to fill these positions.

2nd Vice President/Membership – Elizabeth (Liz) Shields

Liz Shields moved to Albuquerque in 2021 from Fresno, California to be closer to her daughter and her family whose parting gift to her was a paid membership in LWVCNM. Liz was very active in the League in Fresno, including as Voter Services VP for many years. Born in Northern Ireland, Liz has lived and worked in Botswana and Turkey before moving to the United States in 1970 with her husband, a Peace Corps volunteer she met in Botswana. She became a US citizen in 1977. Sadly, her husband died four years ago after a blissful marriage of almost 50 years. She retired from the Department of Finance and Business Law at Fresno State in 2009 after teaching finance for 30 years and assisting in development projects in Armenia. She looks forward to becoming more involved in LWVCNM activities and continuing her hobbies of travel, hiking, and reading.



3rd Vice President/Programs – Jennifer Black

Jennifer Black retired in 2018, moving to Albuquerque from the Chicago area. Most recently, she was the Communications Director of a large suburban library. Responsibilities included expanding the Library's marketing profile and public relations function, editing and producing the quarterly newsletter (circulation 46,000), developing the Adult Cultural Enrichment and Film series, and coordinating special events. Previously, Jennifer was Director of Membership and Annual Giving at the Chicago Botanic Garden, the largest membership-based public garden in the nation. With the support of a dynamic team for over a decade, Jennifer was instrumental in tripling the Garden's membership family. Jennifer began her career in Washington, D.C. as a legislative analyst for the Federal Government Affairs Division of the 3M Company, fundraising/voter education for a branch of the Israeli Labor Party, and owner of a retail greenhouse in Tel Aviv, Israel. Following in her mother's footsteps in the League of Women Voters, Jennifer served on the Board of Directors of the same suburban Chicago chapter her mother was involved in for many decades. A graduate of Vassar College with a degree in East Asian Studies and the Chinese language, Jennifer is the mother of three sons (including a set of identical twins), a passionate gardener, and an avid collector of cookbooks.



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Nominations for New Officers, continued from page 8...

Treasurer – Donna Sandoval, CGFM, CISA, CISM

Donna Sandoval has 28 years in state and local government finance. She is currently the Controller for the City of Albuquerque and Deputy Director of Finance & Administrative Services. Prior service was as the Assistant Commissioner of Administrative Services for the New Mexico State Land Office. She was a CFO for three state agencies over her years in state government. Donna has a BBA from UNM with a concentration in Accounting and an MBA from the College of Santa Fe with a concentration in Management Information Systems. She holds three active certifications: Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM), Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), and Certified Information Security Manager (CISM). Donna is a Co-President for the Central New Mexico League of Women Voters and also wants to serve as the Treasurer. She is also an active volunteer for AGA for the past 10 years. She served a two-year term as a director on the AGA National Governing Board and many roles at a regional and local level with the Albuquerque and New Mexico chapters.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO
SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021, VIA ZOOM
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The 2020 Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico was called to order by Karen Douglas, co-president, at 10:01 a.m. on May 1, 2021, and all members were welcomed. Karen Wentworth, co-president, was introduced as running the Zoom software for the meeting.

Ashley Benning was introduced as secretary for the board and official recorder for this meeting. Barbara Posler was introduced as our parliamentarian for this meeting, and she certified that we had a quorum for the meeting of at least 10 percent of our membership as set by our bylaws. The number of participants was 39 out of a total membership of 222.

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Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting, continued from page 13...

Announcements and Introductions

The members of the board of directors were each introduced and asked to raise their hand so the membership could recognize them. A round of virtual applause expressed appreciation for the work of this board. Also recognized for their service were Cheryl Haaker, web mistress, and the office volunteers who have regularly continued to monitor the office phones during the closure caused by the pandemic.

A Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed to remember the members who have passed away since our last annual meeting in October 2020: Carol Tucker-Trelease, Chris Burroughs, and Tanner Gay.

Adoption of Agenda, Rules of Meeting

The agenda for this meeting was distributed prior to the meeting via the Topics email list. Also the April and May issues of The Voter carried information. Karen Douglas asked if there were any objections to the agenda. There being no objections, the agenda was adopted. She then read out the rules for the meeting and asked if there were any objections. Their being no objections to either, the rules were also adopted for the annual meeting.

Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting

Ashley Benning took the minutes for the 2020 annual meeting, and Sonia Lersten was the reader and has approved the minutes as written. The approved minutes will be filed at the League office for the record if anyone wishes to review them. Sonia Lersten has agreed to be the Minutes Approval Committee of one for the 2021 annual meeting as well.

Treasurer's Report

Denny Blood presented the Treasurer's Report. As this is an odd-numbered year, the LWVCNM bylaws, Article IV, section 3, describes that this is a year to review and adjust the two-year proposed budget submitted in 2020. Denny shared the spreadsheet on Zoom and walked the attendees through the adjustments made due to the COVID-19 situation and other immediate issues. Expenses and income that have been disrupted, such as the monthly luncheons, we will assume will be resumed next year, although we cannot predict the time frame. The Voter Guide of 2020 was a big one since it was a presidential election year and the guide covered our entire four-county area. Thus this was a large expense. The current bottom line has us operating at a loss, but if all goes as expected, we should come out of the year with a profit. All taxes have been paid and filings made on time. Since there were no questions or amendments to the budget, it will remain as approved.

There were no dues changes proposed for this year. So the dues will remain the same for 2021.

There were no bylaws changes proposed for this year. So the bylaws will remain the same.

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Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting, continued from page 14...

Program Planning

Jennifer Black reported on calendar and program planning:

While the educational program schedule was interrupted for several months due to the COVID-19 lockdown, monthly speaker programs resumed in August via Zoom. A group of 18 members met on Saturday, August 29, 2020, to map out program topics/speakers from October 2020 through September 2021. While Zoom is not always ideal and in-person contact has been missed, the meetings on the second Thursday of each month covered a wide range of topics with attendance ranging from 11 to 50+ participants. The next calendar planning meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 12, 2021, 10 a.m.-noon. All CNM members are invited to attend to offer topic/speaker suggestions. If you cannot attend but have ideas of suggestions, please reach out the Jennifer via email.

On Saturday, January 23, 2021, a group of 11 CNM members met to discuss annual program planning on the local chapter level: the education and advocacy concepts to be considered for adoption to advance the League's mission forward. Mary Wilson opened the session with an explanation of the planning process from proposal to board approval to study/consensus/position finalization—with the end result being an advocacy strategy. A review of the previous year's program planning meeting followed this introduction, and Alan Ramos, the new advocacy chair, was introduced.

Three proposals for potential studies were presented. Of the three proposals, the climate action proposal, spearheaded by Athena Christodoulou and Jeanne Logsdon advanced to board consideration. A proposal "to create a LWVCNM position on climate change and to activate a Climate Action and Environment Committee to gather information on and advocate for policies that deal effectively with climate change and environmental issues that affect Central New Mexico" was submitted and accepted at the March CNM board meeting.

The program planning meeting concluded with the agreement that our first priority is to reestablish a substantive committee structure (e.g., Natural Resources, Transportation, Education, Website). Until we rebuild this core group, it will be difficult to take on substantive new projects. The meeting concluded with the thought that a focused outreach to new members may be our first step in rebuilding the committee structure—new member outreach being viewed as the top of the committee pyramid. How to best reach out to new members and reinvigorate the committee structure, COVID-19 challenges notwithstanding, will factor into upcoming board discussions.

Proposal to Approve a Consensus Position

Jeanne Logsdon presented and defended a consensus position on climate change.

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Minutes of 2021 Annual Meeting, continued from page 15...

First she shared some background. Although the National and State Leagues have climate change positions, LWVCNM did not have one. Why should we? The LWV 2020 National Convention declared climate change an emergency. The city of Albuquerque has also become active on dealing with the issue as an emergency and has raised the question of updating the city's climate action plan. Therefore, we should be involved in the discussion as a pressing matter that has a local impact. A two-year study doesn't seem necessary since there is already so much activity occurring around the topic. We do not need to reinvent the wheel, and it will save time to build on an already established position.

The California position was chosen because it is quite detailed and so will provide more guidance as we develop local advocacy.

Jeanne read the proposal to the meeting:

Proposed 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 the 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 traveled.
- 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.

A lively discussion followed as members probed the details of the position, asking about water and plastics—which were considered dealt with by another position (water) or in the application of this position (plastics)—as well as any conflicts with the positions at the other levels of the League. More precise issues that would be points of potential advocacy coming under this umbrella that were mentioned were Bernalillo County land use policies and the issue of sprawl vs. density, particularly with auxiliary dwelling units.

Our timekeeper noted that the discussion was beginning to run long, so Linda Adcox-Kimmel made a motion to approve the consensus position, seconded by Ashley Benning. Members were asked to “raise a hand” to vote, and Jennifer did the counting. There were 30 votes in favor, with 1 no vote and 1 abstention. So the position was adopted.

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Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting, continued from page 16...**Nominating Committee Report**

Donna Rigano listed the committee as herself, Andrea Targhetta, and Mary Mulvany. She offered her thanks to the committee and to Mary, who has agreed to serve again next year. The slate of candidates and officers continuing in their role until next year was posted as a screen share and read off the group. The two open positions for the first and fourth vice presidents were mentioned as well as the need for a PR chairperson. A request was made for any nominations for the first and fourth vice presidents. There being none, Karen Wentworth made a motion to accept the Nominating Committee report, which was seconded by Anne Pierce-Jones. A vote was called with Donna to count. There were 30 yes votes, and so the motion passed.

The next Nominating Committee will include Mary, two members of the board yet to be identified, and any members who wish to be involved.

Report on the Advocacy Committee

Alan Ramos asked to speak to the group to promote the newly re-formed Advocacy Committee. Alan is co-chair with Karen Wentworth. The other committee members at this time are Jeanne Logsdon, Donna Rigano, and Lani Desaulniers. They have had a first very productive meeting on becoming a force to help those who want to advance ideas and assist in creating positions. Part of this initiative is the Observer Corp—those members who regularly attend local administrative meetings and report on those meetings to the League at large. It was noted that many of these meetings have online portals now, which may continue once everyone returns to in-person meetings. There are eight members working as observers at this time. He encouraged all with interest to join the Observer Corp. Contact any of the committee members to find out how. If you have ideas and positions you want to discuss, contact them as well.

DIRECTIONS TO THE BOARD

George Richmond (submitted to Karen Douglas via email): “Currently, the Albuquerque City Council is deemed a “Part Time” position, so the City Councilors are paid about One Half of what their Assistants are paid who are considered full time. Several years ago, the City of Albuquerque became a Home Rule City so they can change their charter, subject to voter approval.

I am directing the Board of the LWV CNM, starting in January 2022 to work to have the roles of City Councilor be made full time and paid at least 50% more than their assistants/support staff.

The reasons are as follows:

Last year I contacted Pat Davis, a City Councilor and then the President of the Council and this year I have contacted Cynthia Borrego, now President of the City Council. Both said that their jobs start at 800 AM and end in the evening, as some of their job functions involve meeting with constituents, in addition to many council meetings and of course, trying to keep current with the activities and needs of the City, both currently and in the future.

I pick next year as this is an election year for the City Councilors in Districts 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 and I do not feel that the councilors wish to be concerned with this issue. Further, by having a well-known and highly regarded organization such as the LWV undertake the review, the likely concern of self-interest on behalf of the councilors is avoided. (The LWV should consider bringing in other organizations such as Common Cause NM, for example.)

Facts to support the LWV CNM taking such steps include:

League of Women Voters NM has a position on paid Legislators as follows:

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Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting, continued from page 17...

Legislature

(Adopted 2019)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports legislative compensation that is fair and reasonable, recognizing that there is a cost to government and that the cost should be paid by the taxpayers of New Mexico.

The League recommends:

1. *paying a salary that is high enough to attract and retain qualified, committed legislators; my emphasis.*
2. providing legislators with adequate legal research and office assistance;
3. requiring legislative procedures and schedules to promote efficiency, transparency, accountability, and public accessibility.

I suggest that LWV CNM concur in the LWV NM position and make it applicable to City Councilors and County Commissioners as well.

Another benefit is that the actions of LWV CNM in this undertaking is likely to generate citizen comments and suggestions which could lead to improvements in the practice of our city government. After all, consider the oft repeated maxim: "Democracy is NOT a Spectator Sport."

Cheryl Haaker (webmistress): Please solicit others to take over the web position. It needs someone younger and more enthusiastic. (General thanks were shared with Cheryl for doing this work for so well for so long and individuals noted their interest in being involved with working on the website. Trish Lopez noted there are some things she would love to improve on the website, and Starlyn Brown would also like to be involved.)

Pitches were also made to promote the various activities to get involved in during the coming year:

Karen Wentworth noted the need for printed Voter Guide volunteers, with work starting immediately after the June 1 special election. (Michelle Meaders expressed interest in working on this.)

Mary Smith noted the desperate need for moderators, timekeepers, and question organizers to staff any potential candidate forums. Those interested should contact her or MaryEllen Smith. (Trish Lopez notes she would love to help staff a forum sometime. Michelle Meaders also expressed interest.)

Jeanne Logsdon asked for those interested in serving on the Environment & Resources Committee for CNM to contact her. (Lara Lucero, Lani Desaulniers, and Michelle Meaders noted their interest in the Comments section.)

The business meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m., and Jeanne Logsdon introduced former Senator Tom Udall as the speaker. After his presentation and Q&A, members stayed on the meeting to express their thanks, best wishes, and farewells to four members who have left or will be relocating soon to be near family after the pandemic: Andrea Targhetta, Diane Goldfarb, Linda Adcox-Kimmel, and Jan Strand.

Notice Regarding Guidelines for Observer Corps and for Advocacy

Guidelines for the LWVCNM Observer Corps, along with draft guidelines for advocacy, will be discussed at the May 14th Annual Meeting. The text of these documents will be included in the May, 2022, issue of *The Voter*, which will be sent out electronically during the first week of May.

Search your boxes!

The Archives Committee is hard at work, putting together information the League has collected about our activities over the last 74 years. We are putting together an archive that will be housed at the University of New Mexico Center for Southwest Research in Zimmerman Library. But there are gaps.

Does anyone have printed Who's Who publications from

2000

2008

2009

2010

2013

2014

Or any Voter Guides from the 1960's, 1970's, 1980's or 1990's? We are hopeful of hearing from some collectors, to fill in some important gaps in our record. If you have any of these, please call the office and leave a message or email us at office@lwvcnm.

The Grandchildren Are Watching - The Time for Climate Action Is NOW!

Thursday, April 14, from noon to 1:00 pm, on Zoom

The April LWVCNM meeting is traditionally devoted to an environmental topic because Earth Day occurs in April. For our April 14 noon meeting, our speaker is one of our own members, Lora Lucero, who attended the UN Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, last November in Scotland. Lora was selected as a LWVUS delegate to COP26.

Lora will report on her experiences as a League observer at this important international conference and follow with what is happening on climate change issues at various levels of government and within the League of Women Voters. In addition to your questions, please bring pen and paper to the meeting to write down what we as individuals can do to address the climate emergency in our own lives.

Lora Lucero is a retired city planner, environmental lawyer, and published writer and editor. She earned a bachelors' degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Washington and worked in several city planning departments in California in the 1980s. Then she attended the Santa Clara University School of Law and graduated with a law degree in 1991. Lora practiced

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The Grandchildren Are Watching, continued from page 10...

environmental law in New Mexico, representing cities and counties on growth and development issues. She also worked as an editor and staff attorney for the American Planning Association. She has authored a number of professional publications and served as editor of *Planning and Environmental Law*. In retirement, Lora has undertaken a number of environmental justice activities.



Photo of Lora Lucero and Great-Grandmother Mary of the White Earth Nation in northern Minnesota at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, November 2021

Are you interested in working on the LWVCNM Primary Election Guide?

The Central New Mexico League of Women Voters is begging to work on our primary election guide. The primary election will be held June 7, but our work is beginning now. The Central New Mexico league covers Bernalillo, Sandoval, Tarrant and Valencia counties. We have more than one hundred races to cover and we need help.

MaryEllen Smith is collecting basic information on the voting process from all the counties in our coverage area. She needs some assistance in tracking down details such as when and where absentee voting applications can be obtained, and where early voting sites will be located.

Our questions committee of Jeanne Logsdon, Alan Ramos and Mary Henrie Smith are working with the state league to come up with questions. They are happy to have help.

Michelle Meadors and new member Scott Baker are on the candidate information committee. They will be tracking down information on candidates such as their websites, so we can input the info on VOTE411.

We do need to find more people who are willing to learn the VOTE411 software so that they can enter information into the system. Cheryl Haaker leads this effort and is looking for a few computer savvy volunteers.

We also need someone to volunteer to do publicity for the primary election VOTE411 online guide. This person will work with local media to help voters find our guide.

There is a lot of work to do over the next couple of months and we are searching for more volunteers. If you would like to help keep democracy in New Mexico on track, please contact [Karen Wentworth](#). There is nothing more satisfying than becoming a part of the solution.

LWVCNM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Because Democracy is not a Spectator Sport....

We need your skills, your enthusiasm, and your commitment to the myriad of projects always underway. From simple clerical tasks to grass roots advocacy, ongoing or project-by project, we can fit your interests to a volunteer job. Expanding our volunteer base is a top priority of LWVCNM.

How to Find Out More About Volunteering?

It's easy: Contact us at 505-884-8441 or lwvcnmoffice@gmail.com Leave a message with your name/phone number and expressing your interest in finding out more about volunteering. We will contact you to match your interests/skills with a volunteer position, explain tasks involved, review time commitment for various positions, and offer training where needed.

Current Volunteer Opportunity Overview

Vote411 has expanded to include primary and general elections in CNM's four county region. This massive effort requires volunteers for the many **Vote411** tasks, which include:

- 1) Question Committee to formulate candidate questions
- 2) Candidate Reminder Committee to encourage candidates to respond to the questions
- 3) Social Media/Publicity
- 4) Data input (training on Vote 411 software provided)
- 5) Proofreaders for the *Voter Guide* (printed version of **Vote411**)
- 6) *Voter Guide* distribution effort needs volunteers to contact sites to stock guides, identify new sites, and deliver the printed booklets.

Candidate forums take planning and need volunteers to act as timekeepers, moderators, and question sorters. Training will be provided.

Voter registration at naturalization ceremonies, local high schools, at special events, and more

Observer Corps participants help insure transparency in local government bodies, an important League priority. League Observers are needed for numerous municipal and county meetings.

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LWVCNM Volunteer Opportunities, continued from page 21...

Who's Who Political Directory is updated after each election. Researchers, editors, and distribution coordinators are all required to assist the Director charged with keeping *Who's Who* current, accurate, and circulated to the communities the Directory serves.

Office Volunteers are needed for a host of administrative tasks including answering phones (in the office or remotely), responding to phone or email requests/questions, process mail, make copies/distribute as needed, help prepare monthly and mass mailings, and assist with meeting preparation. We are looking to expand our roster of regular office volunteers.

Membership Support is needed for basic administrative assistance in the join and renewing tracking/billing process, as well as the annual compilation of the Member Handbook. In the ongoing effort for member recruitment/ retention/ outreach, join the Membership Director in managing and expanding these functions.

Community Communicators to help expand our public relation efforts and social media presence.

Archives Committee volunteer tasks include sorting through League print materials, organizing digital materials, and entering data on an Excel spreadsheet, following UNM's guidelines to prepare League archival material to place into the UNM Center for Southwest Research.

Women's Suffrage Event Committee needs a small group to plan the dedication of a trail marker to honor Julia Brown Asplund, a suffrage leader in New Mexico. The trail marker is one of three in our state. The marker is being placed on the UNM campus by Hodgin Hall. The date of the dedication is not yet set. We hope for late spring or on August 26, Women's Equality Day.



6739 Academy Rd. NE, Suite 124
Albuquerque, NM 87109

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, 6739 Academy Rd. NE, Suite 124, Albuquerque, NM 87109, along with annual dues as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| First member of household | \$65 |
| Each additional member of household | \$33 |
| Student member (proof required) | No Charge |