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The VOTER

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

NEW ADDITION TO LWVCNM ROLL OF HONOR: JAN STRAND



The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico (LWVCNM) proudly recognizes the many contributions of Jan Strand during her tenure with LWVCNM and is pleased to add her to the LWVCNM Roll of Honor along with many other distinguished LWVCNM leaders. Jan has been a LWVCNM member since October, 2013, and many remember her influence as LWVCNM Treasurer and Parliamentarian and her initiation of an experimental Unit meeting quarterly at the Neighborhood in Rio Rancho. During Jan's tenure as LWVCNM Treasurer, merger of the LWVCNM 501(c)(4) [Operations] and the 501(c)(3) [Education Fund] followed a Member Resolution adopted by the membership at the 2018 Annual Meeting. Anne Browne, LWVCNM member and attorney, submitted the LWVCNM bylaws adopted at the June board meeting to the Secretary of State, Corporations Division; and the merger was approved on June 26, 2018. LWVCNM now functions as a non-profit 501(c)(3). The Operations Account was closed in 2018, and the funds were deposited in the prior Education Fund Account. The name on the account (at Nusenda) is now League of Women Voters®, Inc.; bylaws changes were approved by LWVCNM membership at the May, 2019, Annual Meeting.

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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

Announcement re: Future Meetings: With the ever-changing COVID environment, we are stepping thoughtfully into the new frontier as we begin the return to in-person meetings. While the upcoming Annual Meeting is in-person, we will continue to keep our eyes on the evolving situation. **There are three possibilities for upcoming meetings—In-person, hybrid (in-person and Zoom combined), and Zoom-only. Depending on the meeting type, speaker/moderator preference, and potential COVID concerns, we will select one of the three options. Please watch *The Voter* and *Topics* announcements for each program/event.** We appreciate your patience as we work out the best scenario for each meeting.

May 14 (Saturday), 9:00 a.m., in person at Sheraton Uptown Hotel, 2600 Louisiana Blvd. NE—**LWVCNM Annual Meeting with Brunch.** Brunch is complimentary for members, \$25.00 for guests. Brunch reservations required; deadline is Monday, May 9th.

June 11 (Saturday), 10:00 a.m. to noon, Zoom only—LWVCNM Calendar Planning Meeting. Come and share your ideas for topics and speakers for our monthly educational meetings through September, 2023. This is a great opportunity to let us know what you would like to learn about in the upcoming LWVCNM program year. We look forward to planning another timely program schedule with and for you. Can't attend the meeting, but have a program idea? Send your idea to jblack8162@gmail.com. (Please watch for Zoom information for this meeting in upcoming *Topics* announcements. 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.)

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.

OFFICE HOURS

Closed until further notice due
to Covid concerns.

The VOTER Editor:

Anne Pierce-Jones
apiercejones@outlook.com

NEW ADDITION TO LWVCNM ROLL OF HONOR: JAN STRAND, continued from Page 1...

Jan Strand, Professional Registered Parliamentarian, has been a member of the NM State Association of Parliamentarians (NMSAP) since 2002. She has served in every officer position of NMSAP. Jan was president of the NMSAP from 2007 to 2009 and is a past president of the Albuquerque Parliamentarian Unit. Jan served for many years as a chairman of the Youth Committee at the state, unit, and national levels, leading and encouraging youth participation. She has coached parliamentary youth teams across the state, traveling hundreds of miles to schools in rural communities. Jan initially practiced basic parliamentary procedure when she joined a 4-H club at the age of nine. This led to holding office in every organization to which she has belonged. She regularly presents seminars at local, state, and national conferences and serves organizations as a parliamentarian, including both LWVCNM and LWVNM.

Jan is originally from Plainview, Minnesota, near Rochester. She earned her B.S. degree in Home Economics Education from the University of Minnesota and her M.S. in Family Studies/Human Development from Texas Tech University. Jan previously lived in Roswell and rural Santa Fe, NM. She taught middle and high school and set up specialized programs in mental hospitals in Minnesota and Nebraska. Her husband served on the city council in Roswell. During Jan's last year of teaching in Roswell (1979-80), she served on Mrs. King's Committee on the Family and connected with the Human Services Dept, etc. Following a molestation case in a family day care home, Jan established and directed a non-profit childcare resource and referral agency. Jan organized a task force that conducted a community-wide survey. With data and testimonials, she collaborated with Albuquerque Carino Program at the YWCA and testified before the Legislative Finance Committee and other House and Senate Committees during the session. This resulted in funding. Jan worked with a similar task force to establish another non-profit board that funded a nursery for the children of high school students and chaired that board for four years. She later served on the board of NMOAPP (begun by Mrs. King) as well as on Governor Caruthers' Task Force on Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting. Following her husband's death in early 1990, Jan established and directed a non-profit childcare resource and referral agency in Albuquerque to serve corporate parents. Both CCR&R programs continue to sponsor the childcare food program (a government program), so this has involved working with the Children, Youth, and Family Department. She set up the accounting systems for these agencies and reported to state and federal agencies, continuing through state and federal audits. Jan has two sons and two grandsons.

MONTHLY MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

by

Karen Douglas and Donna Sandoval

The May 14th Annual meeting is among the upcoming LWV events which will welcome your participation and involvement. Please refer to the April 2022 LWVCNM Voter (hardcopy) and bring your copy and your recommendations to the Saturday event which initiates in-person interactions precluded by 2020-22 Covid restrictions.

The April 30, 2022, LWVNM Council has been scheduled as a Hybrid event with in-person venue at the new 6739 Academy office building in the large lower-level conference room. Observers are welcome to attend (but must register) to increase their knowledge of ongoing LWV initiatives continuing throughout the pandemic months.

The flexibility offered by Zoom virtual meetings has resulted in many LWV members who now prefer the remote option. Therefore, during the summer months Zoom will be available for remote CNM monthly meeting attendees. If Pandemic conditions permit, a hybrid option will be utilized with in-person venue at the LWVCNM building. The hybrid option would offer a selection from two meal options, or members could bring the entrée of their choice. LWVCNM members attending the June 11, 2022, Zoom Calendar Planning meeting will have an opportunity to recommend speakers and topics for summer 2022-23 monthly presentations as well as voice their preferences for remote vs. in-person attendance when public health conditions permit.

The April 14th LWVCNM Luncheon Unit presentation by Lora Lucero provided insight into the international climate talks Lora attended as an LWV delegate. Lora also offered an educated perspective regarding the Hydrogen Hub alternatives currently under consideration by NM government officials. Each year LWVCNM observes April Earth Day considerations by hosting a speaker discussing our environment and human impacts influencing sustainability.

Early voting for the June 7th NM Primary election begins at the County Clerk locations on May 10th, with expansion to other early voting locations on May 21st. LWVCNM will have the Vote411.org website available on May 2nd, with candidate responses to questions for a more informed electorate.

LWVCNM welcomes involvement of our valued volunteer workforce and appreciates those who consider the many opportunities to contribute to our community. You may discuss your interests and the available opportunities with leaders both during the May 14th Annual Meeting or evaluate as your time permits at <https://www.lwvcnm.org/volunteer-opportunities/>

JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (JEDI) UPDATE

The JEDI group last met in January, 2022, and was scheduled to meet on April 24 to continue efforts to increase diversity in the League and next steps with the Tribal Law Study. The JEDI has five members: Rebecca Alvarez (Coordinator), Brittany Dutton-Leyda, Joanna Velasquez, Eileen Van Wie, and Donna Sandoval. If you are interested in joining JEDI, please contact Donna Sandoval.

EDUCATION & AWARENESS IN ALBUQUERQUE'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Education plays a vital role in shaping public opinion on addressing climate change and the sustainability of Earth's natural resources. Albuquerque's 2021 Climate Action Plan (CAP) identified seven recommendations that deal with the challenges in communicating complex technical information -- and correcting misinformation that denies scientific facts -- about the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels.

Four recommendations relate to mobilization about the climate emergency facing us and are priorities to work on in the near-term:

- 1) Annually convene regional climate action summit led by frontline and Indigenous communities.
- 2) Routinely monitor progress toward activities impacting greenhouse reductions (e.g. new tree plantings, City and utility renewable energy usage and production, etc.) by creating a data dashboard on the City of Albuquerque Sustainability Office website.
- 3) Publish daily vehicle emissions data (actual or estimated) and correlate it with daily ozone and particulate pollution data. Allow for visualization of numerical data through the use of a color-coded map.
- 4) Partner with local media to launch a climate action public service announcement campaign to educate on climate change challenges and opportunities for action.

Three recommendations focus on educating the general public about sustainability issues:

- 5) Partner with Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) to make traditional ecological knowledge, climate change and school gardens part of all APS curricula.
- 6) Invest in public education campaigns about mitigating climate change in partnership with frontline communities on a wide range of climate issues including but not limited to: fossil fuels, carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, waste and recycling, climate impacts on ecosystem health, consequences of bio-diversity loss, green jobs, embodied energy, contributions of animal agriculture to greenhouse gases and deforestation, green washing and tainted water supplies.
- 7) Educate residents about the energy and water nexus, as well as waste generation and consumption, to support education campaigns and reduce waste in both the public and private sectors.

How well is Albuquerque doing in achieving its education and awareness goals? Kelsey Rader, the City's Sustainability Officer, reports that some progress is being made. For example, the CAP Implementation Report and Dashboard are in development and will be released in early July. The Sustainability Office has publicized the November 2021 report on the Urban Heat Watch project to over 15 workshops and conferences. No plans are in the works yet for the annual climate summit or publishing daily vehicle emissions data.

A major very recent accomplishment is the opening of the PNM Solar Direct solar farm on the Jicarilla Apache Nation. Albuquerque began working with PNM and other partners on this project in 2019 by agreeing to purchase half to 2/3 of its 50 MW output, and the ribbon-cutting took place on Earth Day, April 22. This contribution increases the City's renewable energy use to 88%, which elevates us to among the highest US local governments for shifting to renewable energy. Publicity is focusing toward the general public to communicate this latest step toward the goal of 100% renewable energy for City operations by 2025.

League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico (“LWVCNM”)

Local Advocacy Committee (“LAC”)

Observer Corps Guidelines

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico (“LWVCNM”) Observer Corps (“OC”) is comprised of League members who serve as observers at public meetings of interest to the League and its members. The OC has several core functions.

- Observing general operations, conduct of meetings, and adherence to open meeting laws.
- Identifying issues that are relevant to League positions, and those that might merit League comment or advocacy. (Issues for which there is no relevant local, state, or national position may be flagged for additional study.)
- Demonstrating that the community is watching government processes, since the Observer represents the public.
- Communicating information to League members.

The LAC provides encouragement and support for the OC. The Observers attend meetings of local political entities (e.g., Bernalillo County Commission, APD Forward) and identify issues of importance related to League priorities and positions. OC written reports are important because they communicate to our membership what is happening in local political entities. We cannot advocate if we are not aware of issues that are or are not being addressed. OC reports can be the catalyst for the issues that the LWVCNM chooses to advocate for or against. In order to make this communication process more efficient and effective, the LAC has developed the following guidelines.

The Observer Report

The report that you generate from your observations of the political entity should follow the attached template (Karen Wentworth’s report on the Bernalillo County Commission meeting). The essential elements of the report are:

1. Identification of the political entity (elected or appointed group or coalition).
2. Date of the meeting.
3. Bullet points listing the important issues discussed.
4. Narrative description of the discussion/decision reached for issues identified by

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Observer Corps Guidelines, continued from page 6...

The OC as relevant to League priorities or positions. This should not be a verbatim recitation of the discussion, but rather a synopsis sufficient to give the reader an understanding of the issue(s) involved.

5. A link to the observed entity's website, where the minutes of the meeting can be found.

6. (Optional) A listing of the League (National, State, and/or Local) positions directly related to the issue(s) discussed.

Submission of the Report

Observer reports are submitted via email to the editor of *The Voter* (currently Anne Pierce-Jones).

Deadline for *The Voter*—the 15th of each month

The editor of *The Voter* will (depending on available space, number of reports submitted, etc.) determine if the entire report will be printed in *The Voter*, or only the title and bullet points of the report with a link to the full report.

Link to Advocacy

Observers typically will work on their own observing public bodies and report back to LWVCNM. Occasionally, an issue will arise that the observer believes should require action. In those instances, please see the Advocacy Guidelines (attached), which detail the ways to proceed.

League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico

Local Advocacy Committee

Advocacy Guidelines

The Local Advocacy Committee (LAC) supports the advocacy efforts of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico (LWVCNM) by assisting members who believe that the League should advocate on a local public issue. We are a resource to help members understand when and how the League can engage in local advocacy as a nonpartisan and impartial organization. Advocacy on national and state issues is outside the purview of this committee. However, it is valuable to understand the national guidelines for advocacy and lobbying as they pertain to our responsibilities. The national League takes advocacy very seriously, as can be seen in detailed guidelines on national, state, and local advocacy found in *LWVUS Impact on Issues, 2020-2022* (Attachment). Critical points that pertain to our work on the LAC include the following:

- The national League sets priorities for advocacy every year.
- Local and state Leagues are encouraged to advocate and lobby for these priority issues under LWVUS guidance.
- A local League that wants to advocate or lobby on a non-priority issue must get support from both its state and the national Leagues. The online Federal Action Request Form asks for the following information:
 - The proposed action and the message to be conveyed.
 - The LWVUS position on which the action is based.
 - The timeline for sending the message or signing the letter.
 - Evidence that the issue is a priority for that state or local League.
 - Any relevant additional supporting documents.

In addition to the national guidelines, LWVCNM has several important bylaws and policies that pertain to local advocacy:

- The LWVCNM may act only in conformity with, or not contrary to, the position by the LWVUS and of the LWVNM. (Bylaws Art.IX, Sec. 4)
- Members may act in the name of the LWVCNM only when authorized to do so by the proper Board of Directors. (Bylaws Art. IX, Sec. 5)
- All statements made in the name of LWVCNM require approval of the President/Co-Presidents. (LWVCNM Policies on Statements)
- Upon entering coalitions, LWVCNM shall present in writing its nonpartisan position and request that the LWVCNM name not be used by the coalition without prior approval. (LWVCNM Policies on Coalitions)

It is clear that, while local advocacy is encouraged, it requires careful consideration about the significance of the issue and the likelihood that LWVCNM advocacy will have an impact.

Here is where to find League positions: National positions are briefly described in the Member Handbook. The complete text and historical applications of positions are found in the *LWVUS Impact on Issues: A Guide to Public Policy Positions, 2020-2022*. The 149-page document can be viewed or downloaded at <https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>. State and local positions are found in the annual Member Handbook.

What to do if no national, state, or local positions exist for an issue, or existing positions are outdated: A member may propose the issue for in-depth study in the Program Planning process. The Program Planning meeting is held in January of each year,

Advocacy Guidelines, continued from page 8...

and proposals for studies are approved at the annual membership meeting. Questions about this process to initiate a study should be directed to the Third Vice President.

Process for local advocacy:

Members who want to propose a LWVCNM action to advocate on a local issue are urged to review these guidelines and consider the following eight LWVUS questions for local advocacy:

- Does the League have a position that supports the proposed action?
- Is there broad member understanding and agreement?
- Is it a priority for the League?
- Does the League have a unique role to play or a chance to take the lead?
- Are other organizations or a coalition already working on the issue?
- Is this the best use of the League's resources (time and money), or would they be better spent on other activities?
- Is the timing right? Is action likely in the present timeframe?
- What kind of community involvement would best support the League's efforts?

Additionally, the request/proposal should contain a clear, concise statement of the issue and should contain the results of the research of current LWV positions, as listed above (National, State, and/or CNM) or a statement that this is a new issue (no existing League position).

- If a person is a member of the LWVCNM Observer Corps, they should proceed as follows:
- Observer submits report of meeting to the Committee and to *The Voter*.
 - ◊ The informational report submitted to the Committee should include a request for advocacy action, including any relevant League position(s).
- If action is requested, Committee discusses options. The options are:
 - ◊ Letter to appropriate body
 - ◊ Permission from board to speak on issue, using League position
 - ◊ Work with other groups to achieve desired action (will require board approval)

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Advocacy Guidelines, continued from page 9...

If a person who is not a member of the observer committee requests advocacy, they should proceed as follows:

- Submit a request/proposal to the Committee.
- The Committee will have an informational meeting with the member to learn about the issue and discuss.
- Vote of the Committee to determine what advocacy action is appropriate. Options are:
 - ◇ Letter to members of relevant board;
 - ◇ Public statement before group; or,
 - ◇ Work with other groups to achieve desired action (will require board approval)
- The Committee is not the final word. If the member believes the request should go to the board, the Committee will facilitate that.

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