

June 2022

The VOTER

Vol. 87 No. 6

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

MONTHLY MESSAGE FROM YOUR CO-PRESIDENTS, **By Karen Douglas and Donna Sandoval**

LWVCNM members were pleased to be able to meet in person again, with May 14th Annual Meeting attendance including 38 members and six guests (or members-to-be?). This was our first meeting offering in-person attendance since the February 15, 2020, 100th Birthday celebration. At that event, 93 of us celebrated the monumental achievements of the League of Women Voters (LWV) during our first century. The April, 2022, *Voter* included both the officers to be elected and the changes to Bylaws provisions to be adopted. Elizabeth Shields, newly elected Second Vice-President/Membership, recorded minutes. The Annual Meeting also featured a discussion of the Advocacy/Observer Committee policy adopted. Mayor Keller was the guest speaker. He discussed recent City of Albuquerque initiatives and progress toward relieving homelessness. Recognition included both Jan Strand, an addition to the LWVCNM Roll of Honor (see May 2022 *Voter* article), and Sofia Wolinski, one of the two graduating high school students who had supplemented our LWVCNM Social Media presence with Instagram posts.

LWVCNM now moves forward to summer 2022 events, beginning with the June 9th Luncheon Unit meeting. This will be followed by the annual Calendar Planning meeting on Saturday morning, June 11 (see May 2022 *Voter* article). Both of these events will be remote via Zoom. Plans for hybrid summer unit meetings in the new 6739 Academy Conference Room depend on the status of the pandemic, as case counts have increased in the northeastern United States.

APD Forward activities resumed recently. The July, 2022, Federal Court Hearing will offer opportunities to evaluate status of both the CABQ/APD compliance with the 2014 DOJ Consent Decree and progress noted from the recently instituted External Force Investigation Team advising and supplementing APD Internal Affairs investigators and APD Training Academy practices. The League of Women Voters of New Mexico has finalized the revision of the 2021 Administration of Justice Position to incorporate the California Criminal Justice Reform Position Concurrence earlier this year.

LWVCNM Leadership

Co-Presidents:
Karen Douglas
Donna Sandoval

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

**2nd Vice President/
Membership:**
Elizabeth Shields

3rd Vice President/Program:
Jennifer Black

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

Treasurer:
Donna Sandoval

Secretary:
Ashley Benning

Voter Services Chair:
Vacant

Voter Guide Distribution:
Lani Desaulniers

Sustainability/Climate Change:
Jeanne Logsdon

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

**Advocacy Team/Observer
Corps:**
Karen Wentworth

Director at Large:
Gina Mahfouz

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. 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.

June 9 (Thursday), 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m., [Zoom only—Monthly LWVCNM meeting.](#) Speaker: Kristin Pearthree, Research Scientist with the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. Topic: The Impacts of Climate Change on New Mexico's Water Resources.

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.)

July 14 (Thursday), 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m., [Zoom only—Monthly LWVCNM meeting.](#) Speaker: NM Rep. Deborah Armstrong. Topic: Early Childhood Permanent Fund Amendment—Significant Constitutional Amendment Scheduled for November Ballot.

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



The above photo shows Jan Strand at the May 14, 2022, LWVCNM Annual Meeting, where she was added to the LWVCNM Roll of Honor. Below, Co-President Donna Sandoval presents Jan Strand with a certificate in honor of her being added to the LWVCNM Roll of Honor.



JAN STRAND
BEING
INDUCTED
INTO THE
LWVCNM ROLL
OF HONOR,
MAY 14, 2022

Bernalillo County Commission Receives Report on Sheriff's Office and It Is Not a Pretty Picture

In September 2020, the Bernalillo County Commission was concerned enough about the secrecy within the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office to create the "Sheriff's Office Advisory and Review Board" to increase the public accountability of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's office.

In January the Commission released its first report. It outlines a sheriff's office that is secretive, unclear about where its efforts are and unwilling to even release basic crime statistics. There is no public information available on the number of murders in Bernalillo County last year or the year before.

Although the sheriff's office has apparently created mental health crisis teams, there is nowhere an account of what they are actually doing, how many calls they are answering, when they are called out, or what circumstances the sheriff's office uses these teams for.

If you look at the Bernalillo County Sheriff's website, it is virtually vacant. The office does communicate on its Facebook, Twitter and Instagram channels, but not everyone has access to these social media sources. The full report can be found in the [Agenda Packet of the Bernalillo County Commission](#), but it requires considerable scrolling to find it. I cannot find it anywhere else on the county website.

The difficult part about this is the Bernalillo County Commission has no authority to require the Sheriff's office to do anything since the sheriff is an independent elected official.

Submitted by Karen Wentworth

June 9th Noon Meeting Topic: "The Impacts of Climate Change on New Mexico's Water Resources"

Climate change is having a significant impact on weather patterns, which in turn affect water supplies in our state and throughout the Southwest. Who better to inform us about these effects than one of the four editors of the recent scientific report to the state commission that is creating a 50-year water plan? Our speaker is Kristin S. Pearthree. Here is her impressive bio:



Kristin Pearthree is a research scientist working in the Aquifer Mapping Program and the Geologic Mapping Group at the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. She has a background in geology, geomorphology, and paleoclimate. Kristin provides outreach support for the Healy Collaborative Groundwater Monitoring Network a program that monitor water levels in wells across New Mexico. She conducts geological mapping using both field work and remote imagery tools. She also served as supporting personnel for the consensus report *Climate Change in New Mexico Over the Next 50 Years: Impacts on Water Resources*, produced in collaboration with the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. Kristin has a B.A. in Geology from Oberlin College and an M.S. in Earth and Planetary Sciences from the University of New Mexico.

Bring your questions about the future of water in New Mexico to our monthly meeting, **JUNE 9, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.** And let your friends know about this topic! It will affect all of our lives for the rest of our lives. A Zoom link will be provided after June 1st.

July 14th Noon Meeting: Significant Constitutional Amendment Scheduled for November Ballot

This November we will be voting on a significant amendment to the New Mexico constitution. The land grant permanent fund is an accumulation of all the royalties the state collects on oil, gas and minerals removed from state lands. It was established when New Mexico became a state and provides over a billion dollars each year to public schools and universities.

This proposed amendment would set aside an additional one and one quarter percent of the majority of the fund for early childhood education and public schools. Part of the money would go to children at risk of failure, to extend the school year and for increased compensation of teachers. About 60 percent of it would go for early childhood education. This is defined as nonsectarian and nondenominational education of children until they are ready for kindergarten.

Rep. Deborah Armstrong, one of many representatives who were involved in passing this legislature, will speak to us on July 14 at our regular lunch meeting about what the legislature intended to do with this amendment.

She will be joined by Ismael Torres, the chief economist for the Legislative Finance Committee, who will discuss the amount of money this would involve and the kinds of decisions the New Mexico Legislature will have to make if the amendment passes in November.

One of the big decisions looming in the background is at what age will the state of NM formally begin educating children. At two, three, four? Should the amendment pass, it has the potential to be life changing for New Mexico families. But what kind of change might it bring? Don't miss this opportunity to learn about an important issue you will be voting on.

Here's a link to the actual amendment: <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/21%20Regular/final/HJR01.pdf>

Because this amendment might affect the long-term financial stability of New Mexico, it will also have to be approved by the U.S. Congress if it is approved by voters in the November election.

We will invite other League members across the state to join us virtually for this important hybrid program.

Wanted...Your Ideas!
Annual Calendar Planning Meeting
Saturday, June 11, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Please join the LWVCNM on Saturday, June 11, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, for our next Calendar Planning meeting. 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.

This planning meeting will be held via Zoom only.

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.)

Submitted by Jennifer Black



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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 |