

October 2022

The Voter

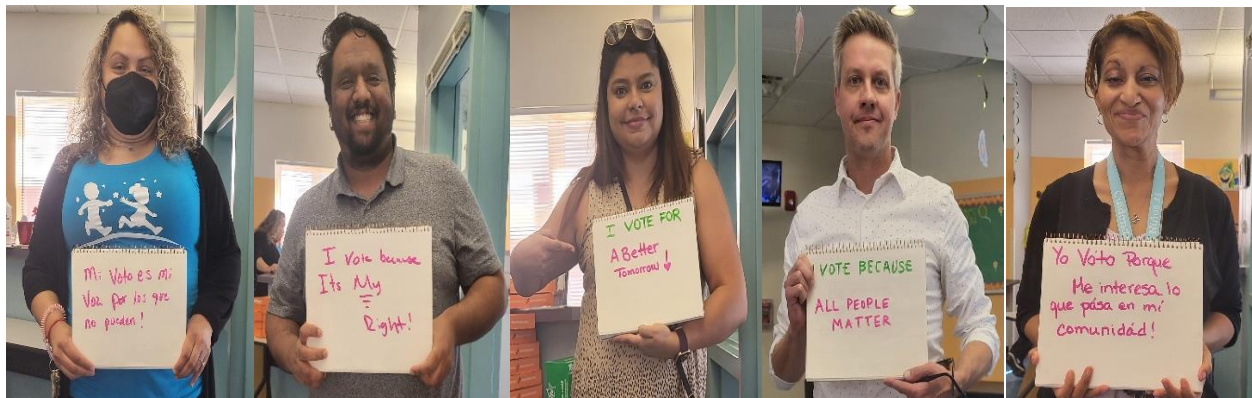
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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

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Message About The Voter By Starlyn Brown

Have you been thinking that you missed the September 2022 Voter? Or wondering what happened to it? Due to unforeseen circumstances, we were not able to create a September 2022 Voter. You will also notice that the format of the October 2022 Voter is very different. This newsletter is a collection of articles in a much more basic format, focusing on important monthly highlights.



Voter Registration Event at Cuidando Los Niños

Monthly Co-President Message

September & October Election Activity

Karen Douglas & Donna Sandoval

Midterm election years are always a welcome demand of LWVCNM to offer services vital to public participation in our democracy. 2022 has brought more LWVCNM challenges in many aspects of LWVCNM contributions than prior years, reflecting the general complexities of the 2022 midterm elections.

Voter Guide and **VOTE411.org** activities have predominated the fall agenda and distribution challenges continue for the LWVCNM four county region (Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, and Valencia), heightening concerns that LWV still has opportunities to re-educate the public regarding our nonpartisan and nonprofit role for educating the electorate. A special thank you to all of the LWVCNM members who made contributions in support of this vital project.

September 8 Educational Meeting Recap -- Voter Education, Part One—Mid-Term Elections from the LWVCNM Four Counties' Perspective Panel Discussion. As the political landscape heats up on the runup to the mid-term elections, our county clerk offices are focused on one of the most vital functions of our democracy, to administer the safe and fair elections. The Voter Education, Part One panel brought together representatives from Bernalillo and Valencia Counties to share the lessons learned during the primaries and any newly adopted procedures. The panel had a lively discussion about the challenges in the upcoming midterm election and how LWVCNM can help in the upcoming elections. Valencia County Clerk Mike Milam and election administrators Candace Teague (Valencia County) and Nathan Jaramillo (Bernalillo County) each express the challenge of hiring poll workers for the upcoming election. With the heavy pre-election workload at the regional county clerk offices, the LWVCNM deeply appreciate their participation.

September LWVCNM Voter Registration Events included:

- National Voter Registration Day Tuesday, September 20, 2022, Alvarado Square, Bernalillo County Government Center, Albuquerque; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Cuidando Los Niños – September Fall Open House on Wednesday, September 21st
- Democracy Coalition Rally – Saturday, September 24th, 10 am – 12 noon

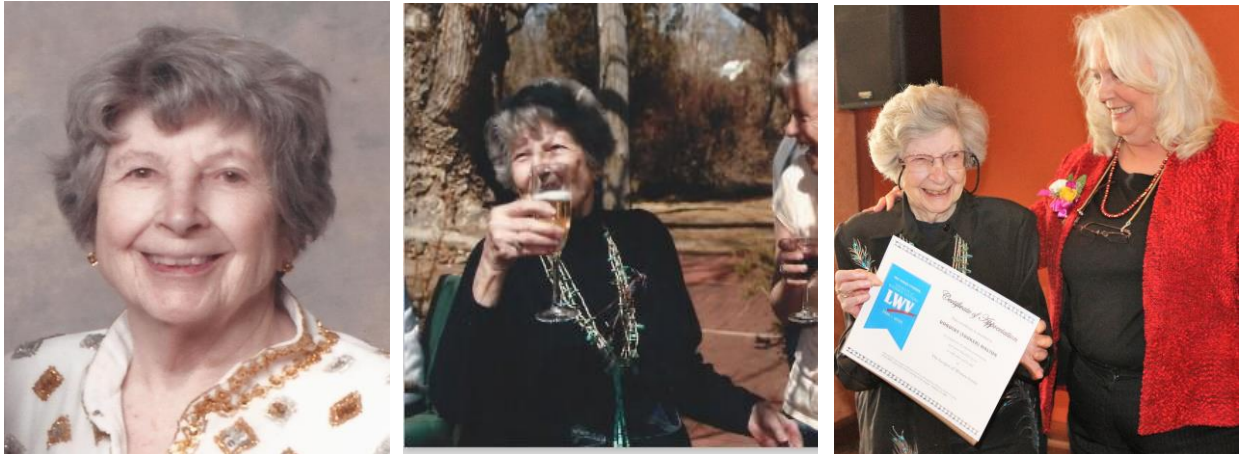
Election activities have included the LWVCNM sponsoring two forums. A **September 28, 2022 Valencia County Candidate Forum 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.** Webinar host Mary H. Smith, moderated by Ellen Kelly, timekeeper Gina Mahfouz and question sorters Karen Wentworth and Karen Douglas. A second **Valencia County Candidate Forum was held Monday October 3rd 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.** Webinar host Linda Miller, moderated by Mary H. Smith, timekeeper Mary Templeton, and question sorters Stacy Tompkins and Michelle Meaders. Recordings of both forums are available to watch on our website lwvcnm.org.

On Wednesday morning October 12, Dr. Meredith Machen, LWVNM Chair of the Immigration Committee and Co-Chair of the Education Committee, will address the Rio Rancho Fair Winds community. Interested LWVCNM members are welcome to attend and should contact Karen Douglas kmdouglas@q.com.

The October 13, 2022 general educational meeting will be virtual and feature online journalists providing insight and recommendations regarding mis- and disinformation appearing in public media (see separate article).

The November 10th general meeting will also be virtual and feature Kerry Bass, Executive Director of Center for Electoral Quality and Integrity, presenting “International Standardization of Election Processes.”

Our Sincere Condolences to the Family, Friends & Colleagues of Dorothy “Tooker” Walker



Dorothy “Tooker” Walton, 99, League of Women Voters Life Member, died September 11, 2022 at home in Los Ranchos, New Mexico. She will be remembered in the October 13 Requiem Service (streaming through St. John’s Facebook page) at St. John’s Episcopal Cathedral, 4th and Silver, Albuquerque.

It was during WWII when Tooker was recruited for a special one-year program at Virginia Tech, becoming an aeronautical engineer and helping the war effort by working at Glen I. Martin (later Lockheed Martin) computing balance points for jet airplanes.

She met and married Capt. James K. Walton in the 1950’s. Her husband’s last posting was in Bismark, ND, “a true army outpost.” Wanting to meet people, she joined the League of Women Voters. After her husband retired, they moved to Albuquerque in 1968, and Tooker rejoined the League only to become membership chair shortly after her arrival. As she said, “They got a live one and decided to use her.” She worked on the Salute to Albuquerque dinner, a successful fundraiser for the League.

Working on the League’s Voters Guide was a priority for her. She wanted to educate voters on whom to vote for and why. In addition to League work, Tooker

was a competent seamstress and enjoyed playing Duplicate Bridge. She was inducted into the Albuquerque Senior Hall of Fame in 2006. She was a member of the Cathedral of St. John.

In lieu of flowers, a contribution to her favorite charities would be appreciated: the League of Women Voters® of Central New Mexico, Planned Parenthood, Sandia Prep School and The Cathedral of St. John.

Monthly Educational Program Voter Education Part 2 The Mis- and Dis- Information Challenge Zoom-Only

The October 13, 2022, general meeting will feature Trip Jennings/NM In Depth and Amy Linn/Searchlight NM, both online journalists, providing insight and recommendations regarding mis- and disinformation appearing in public media. Allegations or suspect reports may be either perceived as factual due to prior experiences and information but there may also be intent to mislead the public to affect outcome of future decisions or impact financial resources. LWVCNM members will learn methods to identify questionable information and to counter preconceived ideas, which could lead to faulty conclusions or ill-advised actions.

Amy Linn serves as Managing Editor of Searchlight NM and has written about social issues and criminal justice throughout her career, starting at the Miami Herald and including work for the Philadelphia Inquirer, San Francisco Examiner and Bloomberg News. She was the recipient of an Alicia Patterson Journalism Fellowship to write about teenagers on death row; the resulting stories appeared in The New York Times and other publications. Amy has been an editor at Outside Magazine, Wired and the San Francisco Chronicle, where she was associate national editor. She has also freelanced for national magazines and been a case investigator for the Montana Innocence Project.



Amy Linn



Trip Jennings

Trip Jennings serves as Executive Director of NM in Depth. In 2012, Trip Jennings co-founded New Mexico In Depth, whose mission is to produce investigative, data-rich stories with an eye on solutions that can be a catalyst for change. Prior to that, he worked at newspapers in Georgia, California, Florida and Connecticut covering everything from public corruption and a governor going to federal prison to gang violence to the 2001 anthrax attacks before moving to New Mexico in 2005. From 2005 to 2012, he covered New Mexico politics and state government for the Albuquerque Journal, The New Mexico Independent and the Santa Fe New Mexican, respectively. In addition, he earned a Master's of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga.

Please join LWVCNM for this informative discussion Thursday October 13th at 12:00 via Zoom only.

Membership Corner By Liz Shields

The **Saturday, September 17 New Member Reception** at the home of Co-President Karen Douglas offered the first opportunity for new members to meet the LWVCNM Board since the Pandemic began spring 2020. Board members discussed their portfolios and opportunities for new member involvement.

Members, you should have received your 2022-2023 Member Handbook in the mail by mid-September. Please let me know if you have not received your copy.

In addition to updating the roster the Handbook contains two new items under LWVCNM Policies and Guidelines. One item is the Local Advocacy Guidelines describing the steps that should be taken by members who want to advocate for issues as League members. The second item is the Observer Corps Guidelines describing the work of an Observer and the content of the reports generated by the Observers. Members who are interested in participating in either capacity are encouraged to read these sections.

Errata: My apologies to Mary Templeton whose address in the Roster should be Rio Rancho. Please let me know of any other inaccuracies or updates in the Roster.

Annual membership dues are payable on the first day of October. Dues renewal letters have been mailed to members as a reminder and providing members an opportunity to update the information LWVCNM has on file. Thank you for responding in a timely manner.

75th Anniversary of the Albuquerque LWV Coming Up! By Jeanne Logsdon

Two initial efforts to create a local League of Women Voters in the early 1920s and again in the 1930s were not sustained, but a group of women who had been League members in other states began meeting in early 1947 to discuss whether to form a local Albuquerque League. The Albuquerque Provisional League of Women Voters was officially approved in September, and the Board and officers were formally installed in October 1947. The board president was Mrs. W. C. Porter, who would later become LWVNM's first president.

National League Secretary, Mrs. James Scarborough, visited New Mexico in November 1947 to encourage formation of a statewide League and local Leagues in other New Mexico communities. The first monthly Bulletin of the Albuquerque Provisional LWV reported on her remarks at the November 4 meeting:

“[She] was most enthusiastic about our possibilities for a strong LWV in Albuquerque. She expressed approval of Board appointments and job assignments. At the same time, she stressed that it is not the Board or any of the officers who make the LWV a working force in the Community. It is YOU the individual member who will make the success or failure of the League. Every member participation is the aim of our group.”

The roots of today's League activities are apparent in the first year of the Albuquerque League. Voter education was an important focus. League members participated in voter services at the State Fair and set up voter information stations along Central Avenue before the 1948 election. The commitment to analyze community services resulted in a comprehensive report on recreational facilities that influenced subsequent City actions. The first Observer Corps members were recruited to attend and report on City, County, school board, and conservancy board meetings.

On May 3, 1948, the League groups in Albuquerque and Los Alamos were granted League status by the National League. The state League was not formally recognized by the National League until May 1950. So LWVCNM has some celebrating to do in 2023 to commemorate 75 years of continuous service!

Report from the Observer Corps

APD Forward By Karen Douglas

APD Forward and the CABQ/DOJ Consent Decree progress has been marked by DOJ/CABQ Consent Decree adjustments lowering the number of paragraphs (there are 276 measurable paragraphs in the Consent Decree) requiring quarterly reporting due to continued APD compliance Documents Related to APD's Settlement Agreement — City of Albuquerque (cabq.gov). and Justice Department and Albuquerque Police Department Provide Policing Reform Progress Report | USAO-NM | Department of Justice.

The External Force Investigation Team (EFIT) Federal Court hearing 10/5/22 will include testimony regarding the 3rd and 4th EFIT quarterly status reports with CABQ & DOJ response and opportunities for AMICI testimony. The EFIT was established following the US DOJ Stipulated Order due to lack of progress in the APD Internal Affairs [investigating alleged officer violations including excessive Use of Force (UOF)] and the APD Training Academy for limited translation of lessons learned into both Cadet and sworn officer curriculum and training.

The 9/22/22 Valley CPC presentation addresses the downtown CABQ corridor and will include both the civic and cultural benefits featured downtown and the current crime level, which deters visits by many CABQ residents and visitors. Panel members include Maria Wolfe, Coordinator of the Downtown Echo Program, Sergeant Lowry, Downtown Safety Substation, and Peter Rice, Editor of the Downtown Albuquerque News.

ACLU-NM (APD Forward lead organization) screened the film “Racially Charged: America’s Misdemeanor Problem” on September 19th, highlighting the disparity of black and brown Americans committing misdemeanor offenses resulting in death by law enforcement or burdensome sentences or fines limiting their ability to succeed later in life. The screening was followed by a panel discussion featuring the ACLU-NM’s Legal Director Leon Howard, Disability Rights New Mexico Staff Attorney Max Kauffman, New Mexico Fines and Fees Justice Center’s Deputy Director Amber Ferrell (?) and Barron Jones, ACLU Senior Policy Strategist.

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