

The VOTER

MARCH 2023

VOL 88, NO. 3

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

LWVCNM Message from the Co-Presidents

Karen M. Douglas & Donna Sandoval

LWVCNM initiated the first annual Board retreat February 4th to reevaluate our direction and priorities to better engage members in post-Pandemic ventures. Results from the member surveys seeking preferred venues appealing to a greater segment of the membership offered a mixed message, noting that attendance during monthly meetings via Zoom was not including those desiring in-person socializing with opportunities to reconnect with prior friends and acquaintances and increase involvement in LWVCNM efforts. Betsy Carlson and Mary Mulvany, Development Committee Co-Chairs, recommended outreach to seek funding from interested voters reviewing the widely distributed Voter Guide.

The 75th LWVCNM Anniversary celebration planned for May 6th following the Annual Meeting seeks additional volunteers assisting Jeanne Logsdon to ensure a momentous event for both LWV members and community leaders who interact regularly with LWV and appreciate our contributions to the electorate. Both Jeanne Logsdon and Karen Wentworth have been thoroughly reviewing LWV historical information in our files with a planned transfer to the Archives of the UNM library and these resources will offer a narrative of LWVCNM milestones and achievements for the Anniversary celebration.

Greater member involvement is also desired for our annual winter Program Planning meetings which define those issues and stances permitting LWV Advocacy in support of legislation. This Position formulation defines our Advocacy of legislation which shapes our culture or limits our freedom and promotes protection of our rights as citizens. LWVCNM expects our current Positions may be curbing our communication of solutions to problems within our community or state. Local Studies or Concurrence with other LWV Positions from Program Planning are open to adoption by LWVCNM members during the Annual Meeting or local league Delegates to the State Convention (for state Positions). LWVCNM will again seek member recommendations to increase participation in this Program Planning process.

MARCH MEETING

Thursday, March 9, Noon—1 PM, Zoom ONLY

Sunshine Month presents ***Searchlight New Mexico***

Transparency and Open Government are critical policies for the League from Washington DC to local communities. To recognize the League's commitment to a transparent government — one that does not hide things from the people and does not conduct business behind closed doors — we have a special March unit meeting devoted to Sunshine. LWVCNM is excited to welcome staff from ***Searchlight New Mexico***, an online “independent, nonprofit and nonpartisan news organization that strives to uphold high standards of fairness and accuracy.” Find *Searchlight New Mexico* and its content at <https://searchlightnm.org/>

Searchlight has articles on a variety of topics, including: Criminal Justice, Education, Environment, Health, Housing, Immigration, Government and Tribal Affairs. *Searchlight* has also produced a number of series guaranteed to cause a reaction from smiles to anger to fear to cursing to gratitude to tears, all because these series touch upon issues that impact and affect New Mexicans, and alert us to things happening or not happening that we did not know about in the first place.



Managing Editor [Amy Linn](#) has written about social issues and child well-being 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.

Quoting from its website: *Searchlight New Mexico*, a registered 501(c)(3) organization, is dedicated to investigative and public service journalism in the interest of the people of New Mexico. Its mission is to deliver high-impact investigative reporting to inspire New Mexicans to demand action on systemic problems that plague our state. *Searchlight* believes that great reporting can motivate all New Mexicans to confront racial and economic inequities, government corruption and negligence, and abuses of power.

Staff writer [Lindsay Fendt](#) got her start covering the environment as a reporter for The Tico Times in San José, Costa Rica. She covered human rights, immigration and the environment throughout Latin America before moving to Colorado in 2017 for the Scripps Fellowship in Environmental Journalism at the University of Colorado. Lindsay worked as a freelancer before joining *Searchlight* and is finishing a book about the global rise of murders of environmentalists.



On March 9, LWVCNM welcomes two *Searchlight* staff who will discuss the challenges of obtaining public records in a state that habitually denies them to journalists and citizens, often in violation of the IPRA law. They can also talk about how New Mexico's government officials routinely stonewall the news media, refusing to give interviews and hiding behind PIO officers who release as little information as possible. And they can touch on the general reluctance to speak to the media, even by ordinary citizens. People are (rightfully) worried about retaliation, dogpiling and doxxing on social media, which makes them reluctant to publicly express a point of view. These are difficult times, and those who speak out are vulnerable to attack in ways they never have been before.



Thank You 2022 Candidate Forum Volunteers!

This is months late, but I wanted to express my thanks to all those volunteers who helped with the Election 2022 candidate forums. The trainings we did last summer produced a good-sized stable of volunteers to help with candidate forums, and I can honestly and enthusiastically say that everyone who volunteered to assist with forums did so with skill, attention to detail and great humor!

Thank you everyone. I'll start with the Zoom webinar tech staff: **Linda Miller** and **Starlyn Brown**. The three of us had lots of laughs and a bit of aggravation as we tried to learn how to conduct a Zoom webinar in a way that made the League proud. **Starlyn** set up a League email address to allow the public to submit questions in advance of the forums, and this was a huge benefit. **Linda** hosted most of the webinars and competently addressed more technical issues than we imagined, and all of the forums went well. I can't speak for Linda and Starlyn, but I have forgotten every single thing I learned about Zoom webinars! Zoom forums would have been impossible without these two amazing women.

In September, LWVCNM offered two *Village of Corrales* candidate forums for mayor and council. An enormous thank you to our Timekeeper extraordinaire **Cheryl Haaker**, and serious but pithy Question Reviewers **Karen** and **Steve Wentworth**, each of whom ensured a positive experience and are invaluable to the League's participation in candidate forums.

In September and October, we offered two *Valencia County* candidate forums for the NM House, and county commissioner, sheriff, assessor, magistrate and probate judges.

Ellen Kelly skillfully moderated the September forum, ably assisted by Timekeeper **Gina Mahfouz**, and Question Reviewers **Karen Douglas** and **Karen Wentworth**. In October, we had great help and attention to detail from Timekeeper **Mary Templeton** and Question Reviewers **Stacy Tompkins** and **Michelle Meaders**.

Finally, in October we offered a *Bernalillo County Sheriff* forum, with our awesome Timekeeper **Stacy Tompkins** and "awesome-er" Question Reviewers **Michelle Meaders** and **Mary Templeton**.

All of these volunteers were so professional, enthusiastic and able that I was repeatedly reminded how important it is for the League to provide quality voter education to our communities. Each and every volunteer did a fantastic job and showed viewers how reliable the League is for such forums. Sincerely and from the bottom of my heart, and to quote President Biden, "this is not hyperbole," I send my deepest thanks to the 2022 forum volunteers, and look forward to even more League members joining our forum collective for future candidate forums.

¡Muchas gracias a todos!

-submitted by Mary H Smith



LWVCNM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Karen Douglas & Donna Sandoval

1st Vice President/Vote411.org:

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Starlyn Brown

Advocacy Team/Observer Corps:

Karen Wentworth

The Voter Editor: Michal Mudd

LWVCNM CALENDAR

MARCH 9 (Thursday) NOON – 1 PM

LWVCNM Monthly meeting, Zoom ONLY

Sunshine Month presents:

Searchlight New Mexico – a discussion with Managing Editor Amy Linn and Staff Writer Lindsay Fendt.

APRIL 13 (Thursday) NOON – 1 PM

LWVCNM Monthly meeting, Zoom ONLY

Earth Day Month: Watch for upcoming details on a Climate Change/Environmental topic.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6th (Saturday) LWVCNM Annual Meeting and 75th Year Anniversary Celebration!

In person at the

Sheraton Uptown Hotel,

10 am to 2 pm

(to help with organizing this event please contact Jeanne Logsdon at jlogsdon@unm.edu.)

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

Please submit your articles for the monthly Voter by ~ the 15th of each month to:

VoterEditorMichal@gmail.com.



Time to renew your membership?

If so, please click on the following link and renew your membership using PayPal at

<https://www.lwvcnm.org/join-renew/>

Or you may fill out the membership form at [Join / Renew](#) and mail it with your check to:

League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico.

6739 Academy Rd. NE, Suite 124

Albuquerque, NM 87109



It's All About Planning...

Fifteen LWVCNM members met on Saturday, February 11 for the annual Program Planning meeting. Program Planning is the first step in creating the positions that allow each of us, as League members, to participate in our democracy. Program Planning ultimately leads to assisting in the preparation of draft legislation, to having a voice in the legislative process, either through support or opposition to legislation, and providing the basis to collaborate with other organizations to promote responsible government.

The agenda for the meeting:

- Brief Review of Last Year's Program Planning Session
- Presentation of Proposals for New Studies (no new proposals were presented)
- *Draft Nuclear Study Proposal* and the State Issues Currently Under Study: Tribal Issues and Judicial Selection
- Open Discussion

The *Draft Nuclear Study Proposal*, as presented by Karen Douglas, elicited lively discussion, and also served as an excellent learning tool about the intricacies of the Program Planning process.

Actionable items to be kept on the LWVCNM radar for 2023:

- Input to Karen Douglas regarding the draft Nuclear Studies proposal. Karen is very open to suggestions before her presentation to the state Board, as well as to any members who would be willing to join the study if the State Board accepts it.
- Bring up the idea of focusing on a specific topic for a series of monthly meetings at the annual Calendar Planning meeting (date to be determined shortly) vs. different topics each month, i.e. a more in-depth look at the homelessness and affordable housing issues.
- Review of our local CNM positions for outdated positions or positions that need to be augmented. The goal is to review our positions and present suggested changes at next year's Program Planning meeting.
- Consider an in-person Program Planning meeting for 2024 with a "meet and greet" social component.

~Jennifer Black

Member Venue Survey

THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN!

Since the advent of COVID, the monthly educational meetings have been held solely on Zoom, but these meetings were historically hosted at a hotel with a social luncheon component. The LWVCNM Board circulated a Member Venue Survey in-person at the Holiday Reception and through an online version via *Topics* announcements/the February *Voter* newsletter.

The survey provided members with three options as we begin a new year:

- Continue in the Zoom-only environment
- In-person at the League Office with a box or brown bag option
- Return to a hotel venue with served luncheon

Members were also asked if they would occasionally attend an evening meeting to better accommodate our working members.

The results were fairly evenly split between the three venues, with comments leaning towards a “mix” of all three venues if that option had been given—rotating between the three venue options. Almost all survey respondents would attend an evening meeting, with the majority preferring Zoom-only in the evening.

With these results in mind, we will begin working towards returning to in-person meetings, with Zoom-only meetings continuing when it is the speaker or meeting coordinator’s preference, as well as adding in occasional evening meetings.

Our March and April meetings were pre-planned for a Zoom-only before the survey was circulated. The Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 6 will be held in-person. Starting with the Thursday, June 8 monthly meeting, we will begin to look at each monthly meeting and decide which venue seems most appropriate.

You spoke, we listened...and reintroducing an in-person venue option is an exciting prospect for 2023.

~Jennifer Black



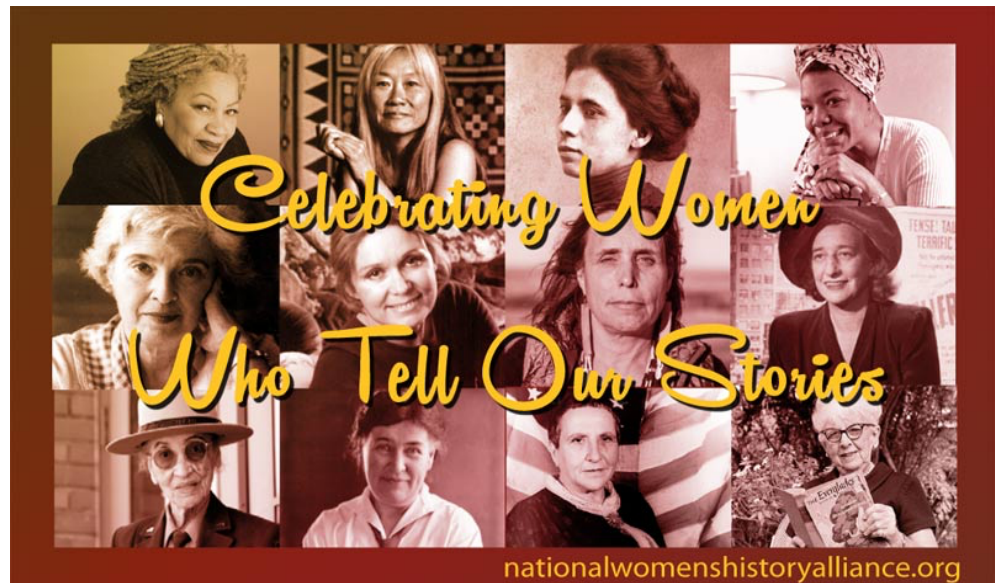
Don't forget!

*The 2023 Who's Who brochures are now available
in the LWVCNM office, at Albuquerque libraries,
and on lwvcnm.org*



Who's Who
A Political
Directory

**March is
Women's History
Month
Spotlighting the
Contributions of
Women Past and
Present**



We've come a long way!

In New York City on March 8th, 1857 female textile workers marched in protest of unfair working conditions and unequal rights for women.

Fifty plus years later in 1910 there was one day to recognize women called the International Women's Day. Jump to 1978 when the Sonoma County California School District participated in Women's History Week, organized around the International Women's Day. In 1979 a fifteen-day conference on Women's history took place at Sarah Lawrence College. Making progress! In 1980 President Jimmy Carter issued a presidential proclamation making the week of March 8th Women's History Week.

From 1981 to 1986 there continued to be a week in March designated as Women's History Week by presidential proclamation. The next big leap came in 1988 when one week in March became the entire month of March. There has been a presidential proclamation every year since.

The National Women's History Alliance nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org is an expansion of the National Women's History Project, which started in 1980. The theme for March 2023 is

"Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories"

It is amazing how many different methods and mediums are used to tell a story. Authors, songwriters, scholars, teachers, playwrights, performers, artists, and all the women in our lives tell us stories from their own perspective.

All you need to do is actively look and listen.



APD Forward: Civilian Police Oversight Agency Events

January 2023

Karen M. Douglas

IMR16 improvement over IMR15 quarterly Independent Monitor Report - APD Deputy Commander Bret White, APD Compliance and Oversight Division

- The CASA (Court Approved Settlement Agreement, aka Consent Decree) includes 276 measurable paragraphs and reports compliance on 3 levels:
 - Primary (approved Policy in place);
 - Secondary (Policy adequately incorporated into APD Training); and
 - Operational (Policy incorporated into Field practice.
- During IMR Q16:
 - Primary compliance 100%; Secondary 99% (increase 2%); Operational 80% (10% improvement);
 - Specific UOF (Use of Force) – additional 18 paragraphs in compliance,
 - UOF evaluated on 3 levels:
 - Level 1 (Show of Force, no weapon, no injury, PO returns to duty within 1.5 hour)
 - Level 2 (causes injury or could reasonably be expected to cause injury)
 - Level 3 (serious injury or death, or could reasonably be expected to cause death)
 - 4 paragraphs covering PO Misconduct managed by APD Internal Affairs (now staffed by civilians with 2 sworn POs/Subject Matter Experts)
 - Paragraphs 212-219 measure data reporting and APD now uses Benchmark Analytics, also used by >15 Police Departments nationwide
 - Crisis Intervention Unit (responds to mental health emergencies with CABQ Community Safety Department) – additional 5 paragraphs in compliance
- Questions regarding continued CASA compliance following departure of EFIT (External Force Investigation Team – oversees APD Internal Affairs & APD Training Academy; was required by the 2021 DOJ Stipulated Order against CABQ) – Commander White indicated IM & EFIT both reported that IA improvements were now internalized and EFIT lessons learned incorporated into APD training.

APD Recruiting: APD recognizes that POs must employ both community empathy and crime control. There have been a sufficient number of APD applicants, however, many fail the physical fitness, written examination, or background check requirements. Nationwide career fairs are utilized, however, attracting laterals from other police departments is discouraged.

Disciplinary Measures for Excessive Use of Force (Force deemed reasonable and necessary per Graham Standard)

- Each PO requires an annual evaluation of both Physical & Mental Fitness (behavioral health – may be evaluated by qualified APD staff or independent contractor)
- OBRD (On Body Recording Device, aka Body Camera) records on/off settings as well as footage)
- APD uses Early Intervention System requiring supervisory actions and required documentation to discover whether PO undergoing short-term problems or whether policing is wrong career.

Other Discussion

- Compliance & Oversight Division now includes 2 Sergeants & 4 Civilians Investigators but needs 3 Sergeants & 8 Civilian Investigators
- APD has recently added a Crime Prevention Specialist
- APD now includes Tactical Medic Units who are Field Service POs and also certified EMTs with required medical designation.



Observer Corps Report – Albuquerque City Council meeting January 18, 2023 /February 6, 2023

Mary Mulvany/Janet Kirkpatrick

Presentations

Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance (formerly Albuquerque Economic Development Inc.) made a presentation on their work competing with other national markets for jobs. Their website: <https://www.abq.org/>

The CABQ administration provided a presentation on preparations for the Route 66 Centennial Celebration. Route 66's 100th anniversary is 11/11/2026. A timeline for preparation has been established. Festivities will begin in summer 2025.

Council Questions of the CABQ Administration:

- CABQ Department of Municipal Development (DMD) was asked by councilors about Vision-Zero and expenditure of funds gathered from automated speed enforcement. (Vision Zero is a “data-driven safe systems approach to create safer streets”.) Per DMD’s response, monies collected through automated speed enforcement (cameras) are used to cover DMD costs with any remaining money split between the state and city. The city’s portion thus far has been \$216K, none of which has been spent. Funds from other sources, such as Federal grants have been used for study. The city’s share of automated enforcement funds will be used for actual safety projects. More information on Vision-Zero is available at <https://www.cabq.gov/vision-zero>
- Lack of effective communication between CABQ administration and city council was illustrated at both the January 18 and February 6 meetings. During the January 18 meeting, Council members took exception to the document provided to the New Mexico Legislature as City of Albuquerque funding priorities. The council had unanimously passed a list of funding priorities which councilors felt were not taken into account when preparing the list for the legislature. Additionally, some of the items listed as priorities had not been discussed with or approved by the city council. Monthly meetings between the administration and city council members have been held to avoid this situation.
For example, Family and Community Services (FCS) was asked about including potential acquisition of the former Desert Hills residential service campus as a funding priority from the New Mexico Legislature with no prior discussion with City Council. Desert Hills was closed following cases of mistreatment of youth in residential care. The site is located near Sequoia and Coors and has an asking price of \$15 million. The FCS Director indicated the site had potential for use as a youth shelter, sober living facility, and/or for services filling behavioral health gaps. Councilor Bassan expressed concern about providing youth services there given its history. Acquisition of the property would require Council approval. This was further discussed at the February 6 meeting, with councilors expressing concern that money to purchase the facility is being requested from the state legislature prior to having a plan in place.
- During both the January 18 and February 6 meetings councilors asked for clarification about why Albuquerque received funding from the NM legislature for turf that is in use in Rio Rancho for the Gladiators team and other events. The Parks and Recreation department reports that 14 events have taken place using the turf, involving 14,000 youth. The number of Albuquerque youth involved is not available. The city has not yet received reimbursement from the state for this purchase.
(cont.)

Transit Free Fare Program

O-22-47/O-22-62. After being postponed during the January 18 Council meeting, the ordinances dealing with ABQ Transit's Zero Fares pilot program, transit security, and Sun Van eligibility requirements were resolved at the February 6 meeting. These issues have been on the table since October, 2022. Councilors worked prior to the meeting to consolidate the transit-related proposals. At both the January 18 and February 6 meetings members of the public spoke in favor of retaining the Zero Fares program without requiring passes. No one spoke to eliminate the program.

The end result:

- Requiring an analysis of the data collected during the Zero Fare pilot program after it ends 6/30/2023. The administration must submit to the council an analysis of the pilot program data by 9/30/2023, including a cost/benefit analysis of a fare box-identification system, and the logistics and impact on the drivers of such a system.
- Changing the Transit Department's method of certifying eligibility of Sun Van (Americans with Disabilities Act Paratransit Service) users by no later than 6/30/2023. Users of the Sun Van will be allowed to self-certify as to their qualifying disability.
- Addressing bus/Sun Van security concerns by establishing a short-term tactical plan, a long-range security program, and a security incident tracking system.
- \$1 million was approved for improving Transit security through increased personnel and improved operations.
- \$500K was approved for conducting the required plans and studies.

The final ordinance as approved is available at [O-22-67 Transit](#)

Upcoming Issues:

Proposed Cap on Short Term Rentals.

Although the council did not discuss it at the meeting, the February 6 public comment period included four speakers regarding a cap on short-term rentals in the city. This proposal by the mayor has been in the news. The speakers shared their opposition to capping short term rentals and shared the economic impact short term rentals bring to the city.



Observer Corps Report – Bernalillo County Commission

February 2023

Karen Wentworth

Housing

The Bernalillo County Commission is proposing to form a housing authority with the City of Albuquerque. The final form has not yet been determined, but it may be a joint powers agreement to form the Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative.

Over the last year, Bernalillo County has appropriated more than \$29 million for housing vouchers for low income persons, and subsidized approximately 3,000 rental assistance units with housing vouchers. The county manager said that has caused the county to reassess their strategy of assisting low income persons with housing.

The county now intends to repurpose existing properties into more long-term rental units and to create an additional 1,000 units by 2025. The proposal says units will be distributed in all quarters of the city and county.

(cont.)

League position:

We support the following guidelines for government assisted housing. Assistance for private affordable housing projects under the following conditions:

- The surrounding neighborhood has been involved early in the planning for the project.
- Regulatory variances which may be granted do not permit unsafe or unsightly conditions.
- Design review by a qualified panel.
- A variety of home ownership and rental opportunities in public or private affordable housing projects.
- An adequate maintenance system in all affordable housing projects. This system should include education and training for residents in maintenance skills.
- Encouragement of the formation of tenant organizations.
- Long range planning, accountability, and neighborhood involvements in expenditure of federal community development.
- Block grant funds for housing rehabilitation.
- Leadership in assistance for homeless programs which provide both shelter and services for targeted populations, particularly families and the mentally ill.
- Boarding houses as a way of meeting housing needs.
- Community based residential care for the mentally ill.

County staffing problems

Bernalillo County spends \$83 million a year to operate the Metropolitan Detention Center. Commissioner Steve Quezada is pushing the county to work with the City of Albuquerque, and possibly Sandoval and Valencia Counties, to operate a regional jail facility. He believes this is needed because funding the jail currently takes more than half the county budget. MDC is operating at 45% staffing levels while the county seeks more corrections officers. In addition, about 45% of people who are released from the MDC are facing homelessness.

The understaffing appears to be a county-wide problem.

- Second judicial district court security is operating at 46% of authorized staff levels.
- The Bernalillo County Sheriff's office is down 37 deputies from authorized staff levels.
- Emergency dispatch has 8 vacant position and the county is thinking about combining emergency dispatch with the City of Albuquerque.

The League does not have a state or local position on staffing of government.



Observer Corps Report
Sandoval County Commission regular meeting
January 25, 2023. (this was not previously reported in Feb. VOTER)

Mary Templeton, observer (via video)

Present: Katherine Bruch (zoom), Jay Block, Michael Meek (Vice Chair), David Heil (Chair), Joshua Jones

Description of Issues Relevant to the League

Sandoval Master Gardeners update:

Sandoval County contributes to the Sandoval Master Gardeners, who in 2022 contributed over 11,000 volunteer hours to the community around sustainable gardening of food and ornamentals. They also grew and contributed

\$80k and \$40k worth of produce in 2021 and 2022 respectively to county food pantries through the Road Runner Food Bank.

Public Comments:

One constituent invited the commissioners to attend district ward meetings and communicate the issues the Board will take up in the near future so there could be more opportunities for advocacy.

Additional Comments

During the closing Commissioners Discussion in which commissioners address the attendees, one commissioner voiced his support for the HB 110 Voter ID bill, along with his anger about various aspects of national current events such as the media and the Atlanta protests. Attendees applauded.

Sandoval County Commission Website

<https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/commission/>



**Observer Corps Report – Sandoval County Commission regular meeting
February 8, 2023**

Mary Templeton, observer (via video)

Present: Katherine Bruch, Jay Block, Michael Meek (Vice Chair), David Heil (Chair), Joshua Jones

Description of Issues Relevant to the League

No issues relevant to the League were taken up during this meeting.

Additional Comments

During the closing Commissioners Discussion in which commissioners address the attendees, one commissioner warned attendees against using the word democracy to refer to the US because it is his opinion that democracies lead to tyranny.

Sandoval County Commission Website

<https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/commission>



**Observer Corps Report Update
City of Albuquerque Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)**

Lani DeSaulniers

The MHRAC was established in 2015 under the terms of the Court Approved Settlement Agreement (CASA) between the U.S. Department of Justice and the City of Albuquerque. It is an independent body which was created to provide guidance to the City of Albuquerque Police Department (APD) to improve outcomes for “individuals with chronic homelessness and those perceived to be or actually suffering from mental illness.”

The committee works collaboratively, seeking input from the city departments, service providers, and the community to identify and address issues that affect these populations. They also routinely review and provide feedback on APD staff training, policies, and procedures. They currently report regularly to the Independent Monitor for the CASA. (cont.)

Committee members include service providers, behavioral health professionals, attorneys, representatives from APD, ACS, CABQ Family and Community Services, members of community advocacy groups, and peer representatives. Open public meetings are held monthly (currently on Zoom). Meeting links, with the agenda and minutes are posted on the MHRAC website.

Maxwell Kaufmann, an attorney with Disability Rights NM, and Rachel Biggs, Chief Strategy Officer for Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless, have served as co-chairs since November 2021. They have been exploring options with city leadership for the MHRAC advisory committee to gain institutional status by means of a statute of ordinance, which will allow it to continue beyond the tenure of the CASA.

Regular updates from the Albuquerque Community Safety Department (ACS), the Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST), Albuquerque Family and Community Services, Gibson Health Hub and Gateway Center, and Albuquerque Fire and Rescue (AFR) are provided at MHRAC meetings. Matt Dietzel, Acting Commander of the APD Crisis Intervention Team, provides reports on APD responses to behavioral health incidents. Updates from the January and February meetings included:

- ACS Report: ACS is opening a new office at San Mateo and Kathryn. In January, they responded to 2000 calls. They are hiring additional staff to facilitate more extended coverage, and are now working to collaborate with the Bern Co Sheriff's department. (detailed info available on their website <https://www.cabq.gov/acs/transparency>)
- UNM has started construction for new Crisis Triage Center and Psychiatric Emergency Center, which is being developed in collaboration with Bern Co. They plan to begin community meetings to develop plans for services.
- Gibson Health Hub is providing emergency winter beds. In April, they plan to open 50 overnight beds, and a First Responder Receiving Area. The Sobering Center and Medical Respite are scheduled to open in the fall.
- APD presented information about performance metrics being used to report compliance to CASA. The independent monitor continues to track 172/276 elements. APD Commander Dietzel shared that the Crisis Intervention Unit staff have recently been working to file Firearm Protection Orders in accordance with the "red flag" law.

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.

