

The VOTER

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

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

lwvcnm.org (505) 884-8441



Join us for the **75th Anniversary** of LWVCNM
Immediately following the Annual Meeting

May 6, 2023

Sheraton Uptown Hotel
2600 Louisiana NE, Albuquerque

~ Come for the Business of the League from 10 to Noon & Stay
for the Celebration, Lunch, and Silent Auction from Noon to 2 pm ~

Keynote Speaker: Roberta Cooper Ramo

Pioneering Woman Attorney, 1st Woman President of the American Bar
Association and American Law Institute

Lunch for Members: \$50 p/person -or-
\$75 p/person to *show your extra support
with a dollar for every year of LWVCNM
progress and achievement!*

Lunch for Non-member Guests: \$75

RSVP for Annual Meeting and/or 75th Anniversary Lunch by May 1:

1. Call the office and leave a voicemail (505) 884-8441, or
2. Email lunch@lwvcnm.org, or
3. Go to our website lwvcnm.org and fill out the form.

Remember to indicate if you would prefer a vegetarian or non-vegetarian lunch option if you are attending the Anniversary Lunch. You can pay on the website or by sending a check to LWVCNM, 6739 Academy NE, Ste. 124, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

League of Women Voters® of Central New Mexico Annual Meeting Agenda

May 6, 2023 10 AM – 12 PM Registration begins 9:30 AM

Introductions
Moment of Silence
Registration Committee Report
Adoption of Agenda
Recognition of Board
Presentation of Budget
Program Presentation
Election of Board
Other Business
Directions to Board
Volunteer Recognition

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.

IMPORTANT!!

Membership Corner

If you have not renewed your annual dues yet, you will be **ineligible** to vote on issues at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on May 6th.

Exceptions include Lifetime members and Student members who do not have to pay dues.

Emails will be sent to everyone who has not yet paid 2022-2023 dues as a reminder to pay them before April 20th.

The LWVCNM is pleased to welcome Roberta Cooper Ramo as our Keynote Speaker on the occasion of our 75th Anniversary.



Roberta Cooper Ramo graduated from the University of Chicago law school in the mid-1960s and couldn't get a law firm job because she was a woman. From that difficult beginning, she has earned the highest recognition in the legal profession over a 50+-year career. She was the first woman president of the American Bar Association (ABA) and of the American Law Institute (ALI). Roberta is recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*® in Arbitration and Mediation. Locally, she was selected as "Lawyer of the Year" in Albuquerque for Arbitration in 2017 and Mediation in 2018.

Several of Roberta's many accomplishments stand out as particularly relevant to LWV values and concerns, especially in the area of diversity, equity, and inclusion. For example, when she could not find a job in North Carolina law firms because she was a woman,

Roberta spent two years teaching constitutional law at historically black Shaw University in Raleigh. In the 1970s back in New Mexico, she represented Nancy Lopez, winning the right to play on her high school boy's golf team. As ABA president, she supported the continuation of the Legal Services Corporation's ability to provide legal help to the poor and launched the ABA's commission on domestic violence. As ALI president, she championed the first-ever Restatement of American Indian Law.

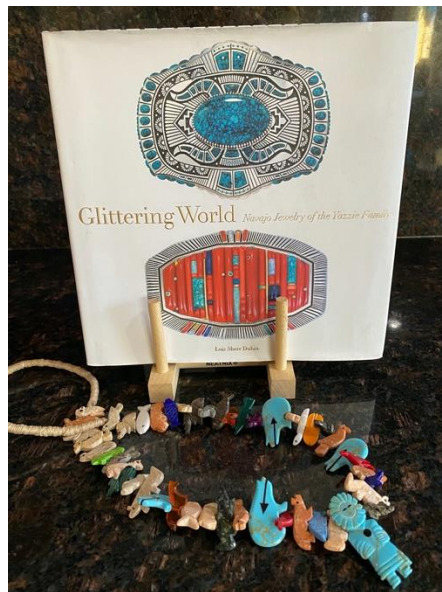
Roberta has given extensive public service in New Mexico. For example, she has been a UNM Regent and chair of the Regents, chair of the board of Think New Mexico, chair of Albuquerque Economic Development, now AREA, and board member of the Santa Fe Opera. Roberta and her husband Dr. Barry Ramo are also long-time contributors to the LWVCNM Voter Guide.

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico chapter was founded in Spring 1948 and has been continuously active for 75 years, serving the counties of Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, and Valencia.

Another exciting feature of our 75th Anniversary celebration will be a Silent Auction of wonderful donated pieces, the proceeds of which will go toward ongoing LWVCNM projects.



A few examples of the treasures awaiting your bids!



If you have items to donate, please contact Betsy Carlson, Co-Vice President, Development, at carlsonbetsy@icloud.com.

Thank you!!

NOMINATIONS TO THE LWVCNM BOARD

According to the Bylaws, four officer and three director positions are elected at the annual meeting in odd-numbered years. The following members have been nominated to fill these positions:

Co-President	Donna Sandoval (2 nd term)
Co-President	OPEN
1 st Co-Vice President – Voter Guide/Advocacy	Karen Wentworth (1 st elected term)
1 st Co-Vice President – Voter Guide/Advocacy	Lani Desaulniers (1 st term)
4 th Co-Vice President – Development	Betsy Carlson (1 st elected term)
4 th Co-Vice President – Development	Mary Mulvany (1 st elected term)
Secretary	Vivian Skadron (1 st term)
Elected Directors (3)	Jeanne Logsdon (1 st term)
	Terry Quinn (1 st term)
	Lindsey Ritscher (1 st term)

Biographical Statements of Nominated Officers:

Donna Sandoval, CGFM, CISA, CISM has served one term as Co-President of the LWVCNM as well as volunteering for the Treasurer position in 2022. She has 28 years of experience in state and local government finance, currently serving as the Controller for the City of Albuquerque. She has been active in a number of professional government accounting and auditing organizations, including the AGA at the national, state, and local levels. Donna has a BBA in Accounting and an MBA in Management Information Systems. In 2019 she became a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), and in 2020 a Certified Information Security Manager (CISM). As a League member, she volunteered for the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) committee. She is also a member of the Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting Committee for the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) at a national level. She was born and raised in Santa Fe and now lives in Albuquerque.

Karen Wentworth is retired from the University of New Mexico where she did crisis communication, promotion of faculty research, and media relations. She also worked in the NM Economic Development Department and spent 25 years as a radio/television journalist, primarily at KOAT. She grew up in Clovis, New Mexico and graduated with a Master's Degree from Eastern New Mexico University. She lives in the North Valley with her husband, Steve, a retired general contractor. Karen is fascinated with the structure of government and the art of governing in a democracy. She has served as Co-President and volunteered for the 1st-Vice President position in 2022. She has worked extensively on the Voter Guide for a number of years.

Lani Desaulniers is a family physician who began work with the Indian Health Service in Zuni, New Mexico in 1985 to fulfill a 2-year National Health Service Scholarship obligation. She continued to work with the Indian Health Service in Albuquerque for 29 years – with a special focus on diabetes care and education. She received her AB degree from Harvard University and her MD from the University of California at San Francisco. She currently works part-time as a consultant to the Indian Health Service Diabetes Program, and as a locum tenens provider in regional tribal clinics. She has been a director on the LWVCNM Board for several years, taking charge of distribution of the Voter Guides. She is stepping forward to Co-1st Vice President to work on Voter Guides, Vote 411, and Advocacy. Her special interest areas are health, nutrition, education and voter rights.

Betsy Carlson is recently retired from a career as a commercial insurance broker in Albuquerque. She is the mother of 3 adult daughters and grandmother of 8. Betsy was raised in Albuquerque and attended the University of New Mexico. She has been active in social issues and is past president of many organizations. She was appointed as Co-4th Vice President for Development of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico in fall 2022 and is also on the Board of the Women's Housing Association.

Mary Mulvany has been a member of LWVCNM for many years. She has volunteered in a number of ways to help the League. Most recently, Mary accepted the appointment to Co-4th Vice President for Development with Betsy Carlson. She has also helped with the Observer Corps, History Committee, Voter Guides, and Nominating Committee.

Vivian Skadron is a Life Member of the League of Women Voters. In her years of League service, she served on the Foreign Policy, Voters Service and Education committees becoming president of the Fort Wayne, Indiana LWV. Upon moving to Albuquerque in 1999, Vivian devoted time to Voters Service activities and wrote several articles for The Voter on the 100th anniversary of the League.

Biographical Statements of Nominated Directors:

Jeanne Logsdon began her involvement with LWVCNM after retiring from the University of New Mexico. She contributed to the national League's study of Money in Politics and has worked on LWVCNM's Voter Guides. She has been an appointed director on the board for several years. Her major focus is climate change. She chairs LWVCNM's Environment and Natural Resources Committee. She also has participated in the state League's Action Committee for the 2022 and 2023 legislative sessions. Finally, she is working on the Archives Project to organize our historical materials for submission to UNM's Center for Southwest Research at Zimmerman Library.

Terry Quinn joined the League in 2003, serving as director for a year before becoming treasurer from 2004 to 2008. She has been on the membership and budget committees for many years. She has volunteered regularly to edit the Voter Guide. Terry has been an office volunteer and the bulk mail go-to person. She likes having a variety of involvement with the League and has missed the in-person contact with the vibrant, interesting League members.

Lindsey Ritscher was born in Santa Paula, California in 1948 and graduated with a degree in history from the University of California in 1970. She married later that year and lived in New Haven, CT while her husband did a postdoc at Yale University. When he finished, they moved to Ossining, NY, where she served one term on the School Board, and then to Marietta, OH where she joined the League of Women Voters for the first time. Lindsey also finished work on her teaching certificate and eventually got a Masters degree from Marietta College. She then spent 21 years teaching World Studies/World History at Marietta High School. She retired to Albuquerque in 2013 to be closer to family and again joined the League of Women Voters and enjoyed the luncheon meetings. She served on the nominating committee in 2019 and volunteered in the office for a number of years. She has also tutored reading with OASIS and enjoys hiking with the Albuquerque Senior Center's Hiking Group.

ANNUAL REPORTS

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

Co-Presidents' Report - Annual Meeting by Karen Douglas & Donna Sandoval

The May 2022 Annual Meeting was the initial in-person LWVCNM event held since inception of the Covid Pandemic March 2020. This meeting initiated a partial resumption of normalcy, but some measures to communicate and conduct LWVCNM business during the Pandemic, including Zoom meetings, have forever altered the landscape of LWV interactions.

The upcoming May 6, 2023 Annual meeting will again be held at the Albuquerque Sheraton Uptown, where LWVCNM members had gathered in May 2022. The event will be followed by the celebration of LWVCNM's 75th Anniversary May 3, 2023 (see articles on pages 1 - 4).

Recognition of Jan Strand's many valuable and comprehensive contributions to LWVCNM operations by her May 2022 addition to LWVCNM Roll of Honor drew additional attendees to the 2022 Annual meeting, celebrating her well-deserved award. Election of Officers welcomed many new, energetic members to the ranks of LWVCNM Board portfolio holders with fresh and innovative ideas that have strengthened LWVCNM efforts to educate and inform our members and community while continuing to operate within the framework of LWV policies and procedures. Reintroduction of the LWVCNM Observer Corps was discussed by Karen Wentworth, 1st Vice President and Advocacy Committee Chair, and additional members were recruited to observe government meetings.

The 2022 mid-term elections drew many members to contribute to both publication of the hardcopy Voter Guide and online VOTE411.org information. However, fewer visits to the online resource than anticipated resulted in reflection and critique for future improvements and recognition that a substantial fraction of the electorate will always prefer the hardcopy edition. Candidate Forums managed by Mary Henrie Smith also served as a resource to better inform the electorate and links posted to the lwvcnm.org website increased public availability for those with schedule conflicts. Additional Candidate Forum Volunteers are still needed. Although winter 2022 Candidate Forum training sessions supplemented the ranks of Moderators, Question Sorters, and Timekeepers, more are required to fully staff future forums.

(cont.)

The proposed budget for May 2023 – April 2024 was a joint effort of the board and reflects our initiatives for the coming year including Voter Services and the Development Committee.

APD Forward involvement 2022-23 noted APD progress toward satisfying the 276 measurable paragraphs of the 2014 Consent Decree between U S DOJ and CABQ. Addition of the External Force Investigation Team required by the 2021 DOJ Stipulated Order against CABQ have been followed by marked APD improvements – this Stipulated Order action followed continuing deficiencies in both APD Internal Affairs evaluating APD for disciplinary actions resulting from sustained Excessive Use of Force charges and APD Training Academy failure to incorporate lessons learned into APD Cadet training and Sworn Officer operations. LWVCNM was among the APD Forward Coalition signatories to the winter 2022 petition supporting NM Legislators passage of Senate Bill 252 addressing Excessive Use of Force by Police Officers.

JEDI Committee Update

Rebecca Alvarez will end her two-year term as Committee Chair in May. The Committee voted to have Joanna Velasquez as our incoming Committee Chair. Joanna is one of the original members of the JEDI committee. We look forward to the coming year with Joanna as our leader.

First Vice-President Report **by Karen Wentworth**

This was a most unusual year for the VOTE411 and Voter Guide Committees. We put together voter information for three elections!

Sandoval County communities are transitioning into the new statewide election schedule and the seven incorporated communities in the county all held local municipal elections in March. As part of their transition, they also included local school board elections. Valencia County also had several small communities in this election.

Then, before we knew it, we were preparing for the statewide primary elections in June. We did an online only guide on VOTE411 for this election. In November we printed a Voter Guide for Bernalillo and Sandoval counties. Valencia County was so impressed by the information in VOTE411, that they elected to pay printing costs for their own guide, using our information. We had great difficulty contacting the county clerk in Torrance County and were not able to work with her during the November election, but many of the candidates were happy to be included in our online guide.

Members of the League saved us by very generously donating during the 2022 election cycles. We were surprised by a major increase in the cost of printing the guide as the result of a nationwide newsprint supply line problem, but there is no indication the cost will go down this year.

We again had problems in persuading Republican Party candidates to respond to questions in VOTE411. Part of the problem was the state Republican Party chairman's instructions to candidates that they did not need to respond because he considers us a partisan publication.

We are not partisan and never have been, but it is a strong reminder to be as neutral as possible when dealing with candidates.

Our Voter Guide committee divided up the non-responsive candidates so we could call and try to persuade them to reply to our questionnaire. I drew Solomon Peña, a republican candidate for NM House of Representatives. He was very impatient when I spoke with him and he told me to put down "I stand with Trump" as the answer to every question.

I explained that he needed to access VOTE411 using his own password to answer the questions, and that it was probably better for his future constituents if he thought for himself when he answered. He hung up on me.

Peña lost his election. But he was so angry about his loss, he is now in the Metropolitan Detention Center charged with hiring several 'hitmen' to shoot at the homes of two county commissioners and a state senator. This was a sharp reminder that our political climate is very volatile, and we have to remember to be respectful to everyone, no matter what we are thinking.

I am working with Ellen Kelly to explore whether we can find media partners to work with us on the 2023 municipal elections. The LWVNM Education Fund will once again underwrite the costs of VOTE411.

The election will be in November.

(cont.)

Advocacy/Observer

The observers are now sending their reports to Linda Miller so she can post them on the website. They will also appear in the monthly Voter. We are observing:

1. Albuquerque City Council
2. Albuquerque Public Schools
3. Bernalillo County Commission
4. Sandoval County Commission

We would like to have observers for:

1. Valencia County Commission
2. Village of Los Lunas
3. Village of Bosque Farms
4. Town of Belen
5. Town of Peralta
6. Town of Rio Communities
7. Torrance County Commission
8. Town of Estancia
9. Town of Moriarty
10. Town of Mountainair
11. City of Rio Rancho
12. Middle Rio Grande Council of Government

Observers are currently watching the City of Albuquerque and County of Bernalillo work out a joint powers agreement to form a housing authority to finance middle and low income housing in Bernalillo County.

Second Vice-President Annual Report by Liz Shields

Membership

Thirty-nine new members joined the League in 2022 including 6 new Student members. As of March 9th, there were 177 members on our national roster. As COVID fears diminished we were able to host a Reception for new members in September and met several new comers who have provided invaluable assistance to the League, especially during the election period. We are also grateful to new member, Michal Mudd, who stepped in on short notice as our new Voter Newsletter editor. In December we hosted a Holiday Open House for members thanks to Donna Sandoval's generous hospitality. It was an opportunity for old and new members to meet, greet and reconnect. We look forward to meeting again in person at our Annual General Meeting and 75th Anniversary Celebration on May 6th.

Our annual Membership Handbook, which includes national, state, and LWVCNM information on positions, policies and leadership personnel as well as our membership roster was sent out to LWVCNM members in September. Dues renewal letters were sent in September to our members, except to our Lifetime and Student members.

New members receive a Welcome letter, a Member Handbook, a list of Volunteer Opportunities and an updated 2023 version of Who's Who, a directory of our representatives at all levels of government in Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties. We are also reaching out to new members with specific information on volunteer opportunities through phone conversations and small coffee meetings and are delighted that our new members are becoming actively involved in our League programs and activities. Our members are the foundation of the League, and it is because of their involvement that we are able to live the motto "Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport."

Third Vice-President Annual Report by Jennifer Black

Calendar Planning

While COVID challenges gradually diminished through the year, the monthly educational program schedule continued on Zoom-only through the 2022 program cycle to respect ongoing concerns of our membership and speakers regarding in-person meetings. While in-person contact has been missed, the meetings on the second Thursday of each month continued to cover a wide range of topics and dynamic speakers with attendance ranging from ten to 30+ participants. A group of members met on Saturday, June 11, 2022 to map out program topics/speakers from September 2022 through August 2023.

As we cautiously move away from the COVID environment, a Member Venue survey was distributed to query our membership on venue preferences: continuing with Zoom-only, in-person meetings at our office conference room with a boxed lunch or brown bag option, and returning to an in-person hotel luncheon venue. The results were split between the three options, with many respondents requesting a mix of the three venue options. Respondents were also open to occasional evening meeting to better accommodate working members. With these results in mind, we are working hard to plan for various venue options in the coming months.

The 2023-24 Calendar Planning meeting will be held on Saturday, June 11, 10 AM—Noon, location TBD. All CNM members are invited to attend a creative brainstorming session to offer topic/speaker suggestions, as well as venue ideas or any new program concepts to engage the LWVCNM membership.

Program Planning

Fifteen LWVCNM members met on Saturday, February 11, 2023 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.

While no new position studies were presented by meeting attendees for discussion, Karen Douglas, LWVCNM Co-President, presented the Draft Nuclear Study Proposal and LWVNM state issues currently under study: Tribal Issues and Judicial Selection. The Draft Nuclear Study Proposal elicited lively discussion, and also served as an excellent learning tool about the intricacies of the Program Planning process. The Nuclear Study proposal is now winding its way through the LWVNM Program Planning process. Watch *The Voter* and *La Palabra* for updates on the Nuclear Study Proposal.

Nominating Committee Report **by Jeanne Logsdon, Nominating Committee**

Officers

The Bylaws specify that in odd-numbered years the following Officer positions on the Board will be elected at the May annual meeting:

- President or Co-Presidents
- First Vice-President
- Fourth Vice-President
- Secretary

Each position is for a two-year term. The elected individual can serve up to two sequential terms in the same position. Please refer to the Nominations to the LWVCNM Board on page

Directors

The Bylaws state that three new directors are elected at each annual meeting. Each elected Director serves for a two-year term and can serve up to two sequential terms in the same position. Note that appointed Directors serve one-year terms. Such appointments are often made at the first Board meeting after the annual meeting.

2022-23 Elected Directors Status

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Starlyn Brown (2020-22; 2022-2024) | Continuing for 2023-24 |
| 2) Gina Mahfouz (2022-2024) | Continuing for 2023-24 |

List of Current Appointed Directors

- 1) Linda Miller

Annual Office Manager/Webmaster/Zoom Host **by Starlyn Brown**

This year has been full of changes and learning opportunities. We replaced the ancient office computer, replaced the color printer, and installed a high volume black and white printer donated by Michelle and Don Meaders. We have new office volunteers who continue to work remotely and in the office. Many thanks to Kalya Cotkin, Eileen Grass, Terry Quinn, Linda Miller, and MaryEllen Smith who volunteer their time every week.

The November 2022 mid-term election kept us very busy. We received numerous phone calls asking for information. Many callers informed us that the Bernalillo County Clerk's office and the Secretary of State's office referred them to us as a trusted source.

We implemented a redesigned lwvcnm.org website. Site navigation and links to sources of information are more accessible. Recordings of monthly meetings and the Candidate Forums are now on YouTube and more easily accessible from our website. Election information was added and maintained throughout the year. We continuously make improvements based on new needs and suggestions.

We have continued to use Zoom only for most meetings. However, we anticipate more hybrid meetings in the future to accommodate both in-person and remote access. We have hosted several hybrid meetings in the conference room; most were successful. The technology in the conference room has changed several times, forcing us to re-learn how to use it each time. We have persevered and feel comfortable going forward. We added the Zoom Webinar feature for two months to conduct Candidate Forums. They were well attended and very successful.

Treasurer’s Report by Donna Sandoval

The reports for the year-ending April 30, 2022 were submitted for LWVCNM, including:

- IRS 990 Postcard Return
- NM Attorney General Charitable Organization Report
- Secretary of State Certificate of Good Standing

Membership payments and donations are accepted on the LWVCNM website or by check mailed to the office; both are deposited timely. The donations funded the Voters Guide, Member Handbook and Who’s Who Directory. The league received a grant of \$1,000 through NationalVoterRegistrationDay. The LWVCM paid per member payments to LWVNM and LWVUS. The monthly treasurer’s report with all financial activity is provided at each board meeting.

The proposed budget for May 2023 – April 2024 is presented with actual expenses through February 2023.

	Actual May 2022 - Feb 2023	May 2023 - April 2024 Proposed Budget
Revenue		
Dues	6,573	9,600
Contributions	11,779	20,000
Luncheon	1,100	5,000
Grant	1,000	-
Voter Guide Contributions	23,339	-
Total Revenue	43,791	34,600
Expenses		
National Dues	4,944	5,000
State Dues	2,009	2,000
Who's Who	668	1,200
Voters Guide	22,479	
Printing	158	300
Insurance	-	500
Bulk Mail Permit	300	300
Office Rent	7,168	9,000
Telephone	79	100
Office Supplies	676	800
Voter Services Supplies	-	200
Forum Webinar Supplies	-	160
Zoom	246	300
Development Committee	-	600
Member Handbook	-	1,200
Luncheon - annual meeting	1,942	5,000
Convention Registration	775	-
Miscellaneous	260	200
Move to Savings	-	7,740
Total Expenses	41,704	34,600

BYLAWS REPORT

As The League of Women Voters® of Central New Mexico continues to evolve and adapt, our Bylaws need to do the same. The following proposed revisions to the LWVCNM Bylaws allow for a Vice President office to be filled by Co-Vice Presidents, add clarification to existing Bylaws, and remove outdated language. Added language is underlined, deleted language is struck through.

Article III. Membership

Sec. 2. Types of membership. The membership of the LWVCNM shall be composed of voting members including Student Members attending high school, vocational school or college. ~~at least half-time.~~

ARTICLE I. Board of Directors.

Sec. 1. Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers as defined in Article V. Officers of the LWVCNM Bylaws, six (6) elected directors and ~~not more than six (6)~~ additional appointed directors. When an Officer position is filled by Co-Presidents or Co-Vice Presidents each Co-President and each Co-Vice President has one (1) vote. Three (3) directors shall be elected by the general membership at each LWVCNM Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected. The officers and elected members directors shall appoint such additional directors ~~not exceeding six (6)~~, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the LWVCNM. The terms of office of the appointed directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next LWVCNM Annual Meeting. Elected officers and elected directors may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms in a given capacity but may be reelected or appointed in another position.

Sec. 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy, other than in the office of President or one of the Co-Presidents, occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of resignation, death or disqualification may be filled, until the expiration of the term, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. Disqualification may occur in the event that any member of the Board of Directors becomes unable or unwilling to perform the duties set forth in Article V below, or as otherwise have been properly directed by the Board. Such members may be deemed disqualified to hold office by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors. Three consecutive absences from a Board meeting of any member without a reason acceptable to the Board of Directors shall be deemed a resignation.

Sec. 7. An executive committee, as named by the LWVCNM Board of Directors, consisting of the President or Co-Presidents and three other members elected officers or elected directors of the Board of Directors appointed by the Board of Directors, shall act for the Board of Directors between regular meetings, provided that any action taken shall be presented to the Board of Directors for ratification at its next meeting. Three members of the executive committee shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

ARTICLE II. Officers.

Sec. 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the LWVCNM shall be a President or Co-Presidents, a First Vice-President or Co-First Vice Presidents, a Second Vice-President or Co-Second Vice Presidents, a Third Vice-President or Co-Third Vice Presidents, a Fourth Vice-President or Co-Fourth Vice Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer who shall be elected for terms of two years by the membership at the LWVCNM Annual Meeting and take office immediately. The President or one Co-President, the First Vice-President or Co-First Vice Presidents, the Fourth Vice-President or Co-Fourth Vice Presidents and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Second Vice-President or Co-Second Vice Presidents, the Third Vice-President or Co-Third Vice Presidents and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.

Sec. 3. The Vice-Presidents. The four Vice-Presidents, offices may be filled by one Vice-President or Co-Vice Presidents. The four Vice Presidents or Co-Vice Presidents, in the order of rank, shall, in the event of the absence, disability or death of the President or ~~both~~ one of the Co-Presidents, and the remaining Co-President is unable to assume the office of President shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties of the President or Co-Presidents office. In the event that none of the Vice-Presidents or Co-Vice Presidents are able to serve as President or Co-President in this capacity, the Board of Directors shall may elect from the existing board of its members to fill the vacancy. If the President or Co-President(s) vacancies are not filled the board will operate as a Leadership Team as defined in Article V Sec. 6. ~~The Vice-Presidents shall perform such other duties as the President or Co-Presidents and Board may designate,~~

Sec. 6. The Leadership Team. When a President or one Co-President is not elected and the other Co-President or a Vice-President is unable to assume the responsibilities of the President or the vacant Co-President office, the Board of Directors shall govern the organization as a Leadership Team. ~~At the first Board of Directors meeting following the biennial Convention, officers and directors that were elected to serve on the Board of Directors will volunteer, self-select or be nominated to accept the leadership position(s) of President or Vice-President. Two or more individuals may serve in this capacity (Co-President, Co-Vice-President).~~ The Leadership Team shall consist of the remaining Co-President, the Vice-President or Co-Vice President officers, and the Treasurer. A limited number of other elected directors may also be part of the leadership team. The leadership team will identify the responsibilities of each member of the team and have responsibility for the routine business of the LWVCNM (e.g., calling meetings, preparing agendas, chairing meetings). The Board of Directors also recommends the addition of an Executive Committee to conduct pressing business between board meetings, which needs addressing before the next board meeting.

Article VI. Financial Administration.

Sec. 2. Dues.

- a. Annual dues shall be determined at each LWVCNM Annual Meeting by a three-fifths (3/5) vote of active members ~~those~~ present and voting. Dues shall be payable on the first day of October of each year. Any member who fails to pay dues within ~~two (2)~~ three (3) months after they become payable shall be ~~dropped from the membership rolls.~~ declared inactive.
- d. If authorized by the LWVUS Board, student memberships shall be available at a reduced rate for individuals attending high school, vocational school, or college. ~~at least half-time.~~ The LWVCNM Board shall set the dollar payment.

PREVIOUS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO
SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022
Sheraton Uptown Hotel, 2600 Louisiana Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

The 2022 Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico (LWVCNM) was called to order by Karen Douglas, co-president, at 9:37 am on May 14, 2022. All members and guests were welcomed to our first in-person meeting in two years.

Elizabeth Shields, substituting for Ashley Benning, Secretary for the LWVCNM Board, was introduced as official recorder for this meeting. Sonia Lersten was introduced as official reader of the Annual Meeting Minutes. Barbara Posler was introduced as parliamentarian for the meeting. She certified that we had a quorum for the meeting of at least 10 percent of our membership as set by our bylaws. Thirty-eight members out of a recorded membership of 182 and six guests were present.

Introduction of the Board

Members of the Board present were each introduced and asked to stand to be recognized. Present were Donna Sandoval (Co-President/Chair of the LWVCNM Budget Committee), Karen Wentworth (1st Vice President/Vote411.org/Advocacy Team/Observer Corps), Cassandra Spacek (2nd Vice President/Membership), Jennifer Black (3rd Vice President/Programs), Denise Blood (Treasurer), Lani Desaulniers (Director/Voter Guide Distribution), Jeanne Logsdon (Sustainability/Climate Change), and Starlyn Brown (Office Manager/Webmaster/Zoom Host). Anne Pierce-Jones was recognized for her work as LWVCNM Voter Editor. Linda Miller was also recognized for her work in assisting Starlyn, and Judy Binder for her service on the LWVCNM Education Committee.

A Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed in memory of George Richmond, an energetic and memorable member of the League for many years. Karen read a note of appreciation from his widow, Sheila Richmond.

Adoption of the Agenda, Rules of the Meeting

The agenda for the meeting was distributed prior to the meeting through the Topics email list and the April 2022 issue of The Voter. Karen Douglas asked if there were any objections to the agenda. There being none, the agenda was adopted. Following that she read out the rules for the meeting and asked if there were any objections. There being none, the rules were adopted as read for the meeting.

Minutes of 2021 Annual Meeting

Ashley Benning took the minutes for the 2021 Annual Meeting. Sonia Lersten was appointed as reader and has approved the minutes as written. These approved minutes will be filed for record in the League office. Karen thanked Sonia for her time and effort. Sonia has agreed to be the Minutes Approval Committee of one for 2022 Annual Meeting.

Treasurer's Report, Adoption of the Budget

Donna Sandoval, as Chair of the LWVCNM Budget Committee, presented the Treasurer's Report. For the 2021-2022 fiscal year that ended April 30th both Contributions and Handbook Ads were lower than budgeted. However, expenses were also lower as the Luncheon line item was not used due to COVID restrictions. After acceptance and filing it will be reviewed by the Financial Review Committee. Changes in dues for student members were deferred for discussion under Bylaws and Policies. The Proposed Budget for 2022-2023 was presented, and after questions from members for clarification about some of the items in the budget, it was approved by the members present.

LWVCNM Bylaw Changes

Article II. Purposes and Policy

Section 1

Following the LWVCNM Board discussion of Advocacy Committee impact in March 2022 regarding the wording "No substantial part of the activities of the LWVCNM shall be attempting to influence legislation," where "substantial" was defined as >\$400 for the purpose of retaining 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, it was recommended that **no change** be made in the wording. This evaluation was done due to 2021 establishment of LWVCNM Advocacy Committee.

Article III. Membership

Section 2. Types of Membership

Members were asked to approve the deletion of "and associate members" following a 2022 LWVCNM Board discussion which indicated that there is no Associate Member status.

The deletion was approved by the membership.

LWVCNM Policy Changes

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Members were asked to approve the deletion of the words "Associate membership is \$33" due to there being no Associate Member status. This deletion was approved by the members present.

Members were asked to approve the revision of the wording "Student membership is \$12" to read "Student membership is free of charge". The revision was approved by the members present.

Vote411.org Report

Karen Wentworth updated members on the work being done for the upcoming elections by the Vote411 Committee. Information for voters in Bernalillo, Sandoval, Tarrant, and Valencia counties is now available on Vote411.org website. This is a new source of information for voters in those counties.

Voters accessing Vote411.org for the upcoming statewide primary election will be able to view statements by candidates on their primary ballot, assuming candidates responded to the questions the League sent to them.

Program Planning

Jennifer Black reported on the annual Program Planning meeting which took place on January 22, 2022 in-person at the LWVCNM Office Conference Room. This was the first time for members to meet in person in two years and was welcomed by all.

Two updates on 2021 Program Planning decisions were reported. Jeanne Logsdon reported on the Climate Action concurrence position approved in 2021 which supports actions to mitigate and adapt to climate changes in order to protect our region from the negative physical, economic, and public health effects. Details on the actions approved may be found under LOCAL LWVCNM POSITIONS in our Member Handbook. Karen Wentworth reported on the Advocacy Committee and the need to grow the Observer Corps.

No new studies were proposed. Members at the January meeting stressed the need to expand LWVCNM's active volunteer base as a top LWVCNM priority. A sheet with Volunteer Opportunities has been developed including who

to contact, and with special emphasis on volunteering to help with Vote411 tasks, candidate forums, voter registration, and the Observer Corps.

In an update it was reported that the LWVNM Administration of Justice Position was revised in May 2022 following concurrence with LWC California Criminal Justice Reform Position.

Calendar Planning

The calendar planning meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 11, 10 am–12 pm on Zoom only. Members are urged to join and share their ideas for monthly program meetings for the coming year. Early suggestions include a June meeting on Water Issues and July meeting on Early Childhood. The full calendar of events will be published in the new Member Handbook.

Nominating Committee Report

Jeanne Logsdon, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the nominations for Officer and Director position. The Bylaws call for three Officers to be elected in even-numbered years. Elizabeth Shields was nominated for 2nd Vice President/Membership, Jennifer Black was nominated for 3rd Vice President/Programs, and Donna Sandoval was nominated for Treasurer. Detailed information about the nominees was printed in the April *Voter*. Jeanne also noted that 4th Vice President/ Development Committee Chair was still vacant from last year and asked for nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming. The Officer nominees proposed by the committee were voted on, and all were elected.

The floor was then opened for nominees for up to three elected Directors to serve 2-year terms. Gina Mahfouz nominated herself to be a Director. She has been a member since 2019, works full-time, but is willing to attend Board meetings and contribute to making decisions. She was elected as a Director by the members present.

Jeanne also explained that the Board can appoint up to six Directors annually to serve 1-year terms.

The Nominating Committee 2023 will be composed of two Board members and three non-Board members. Board Members: Jeanne Logsdon and Judy Binder. Election of non-Board members was inadvertently omitted, and these will be appointed by the Board.

Directions to the Board

Karen Douglas asked the members for directions to the Board for the coming year. Judy Deutsch responded with a heartfelt plea for attention to health care. She urged for the need to support Single Payer Health Insurance initiatives and the need to work on LWVUS Board to do what is necessary to advance this idea. She mentioned Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes), a collaborative model of medical education and care management that helps clinicians provide expert-level care to patients wherever they live, developed at the New Mexico Health Sciences Center. She also talked about Medicare For All as a health insurance model.

Volunteer Recognition

LWVCNM Roll of Honor Recognition

Jan Strand is the 2022 inductee into LWVCNM's Roll of Honor. Jan has been a LWVCNM member since October 2013 and her influence has had reaching effects as Treasurer and Parliamentarian as well as her initiation of an experimental Unit meeting quarterly in Rio Rancho. During Jan's tenure as Treasurer, the merger of LWVCNM Operations under 501(c)(4) guidelines and the Education Fund under 501(c)(3) guidelines was adopted by the membership in 2018, and LWVCNM now operates as a wholly 501(c)(3) tax deductible entity. For members that means that all dues and donations are tax deductible.

Jan's work as a Professional Registered Parliamentarian meant that she has served for many years leading and encouraging youth participation in parliamentary procedures, traveling throughout the state to schools in rural communities. She also has been heavily involved in family and child services seeking and being successful at funding nonprofit childcare resource and referral agencies as well as funding for a nursery for children of high school students. She set up the accounting systems for the resource and referral agencies to comply with state and federal audits. We are thankful for her generosity in sharing her many talents with LWVCNM and wish her success in her future endeavors.

Sophia Wolinski was also recognized for her work as an additional volunteer contributor. Sophia is a student graduating from Albuquerque Academy and going to Georgetown University in Washington DC next year. She has been active on our Instagram account helping to bring LWVCNM into 21st century social media circles. She was wished good luck in her new adventure.

(cont.)

Other Business

1. Observer Corp Guidelines

Lani Desaulniers presented information on the Observer Corp and Observer Corp Guidelines. League members may serve as observers at public meetings to observe general operations, the conduct of meetings, and adherence to open meeting laws. They may identify issues that are relevant to League positions and those that might merit League comment or advocacy. Their presence demonstrates that the community is watching government processes. They will also communicate information from these meeting to League members.

Observers may attend the meetings in person, by Zoom, or by watching recordings of the meetings.

The Observer report should contain the identification of the political entity, the date of the meeting, listing of the important issues with short descriptions if relevant to League priorities, links to the observed entity's website, and a listing of League positions directly related to the issue(s) discussed. These reports should be submitted via email to

the Voter editor for publication in the monthly newsletter. The deadline for submission is the 15th of the preceding month.

The full text of the Guidelines is printed in May 2022 Voter (pages 6 and 7) and will be added to the 2022-2023 Member Handbook.

Karen Wentworth proposed the motion to adopt the Observer Guidelines as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unopposed.

2. Advocacy

Jeanne Logsdon presented the Advocacy Guidelines developed by the Local Advocacy Committee to assist members who wish to advocate on a local public issue. The guidelines aim to help members understand when and how LWVCNM can engage in local advocacy as a nonpartisan and impartial organization. She used as an example LWVCNM support for the plastic bag ban.

LWVUS sets priorities for advocacy every year, and state and local Leagues are encouraged to advocate and lobby for these priorities. If a local League wishes to advocate or lobby for a nonpriority issue, it must get support from both the state and national Leagues. Detailed guidelines may be found in *LWVUS Impact on Issues 2020-2022*.

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LWVCNM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Co-Vice Presidents/Development:
Betsy Carlson & Mary Mulvany

Treasurer: Donna Sandoval

Secretary: Ashley Benning

Voter Services Chair: Gina Mahfouz

Voter Guide Distribution: Lani Desaulniers

Sustainability/Climate Change: Jeanne
Logsdon

Office Manager/Webmaster/Zoom Host:
Starlyn Brown

Advocacy Team/Observer Corps:
Karen Wentworth

LWVCNM CALENDAR

LWVCNM Monthly meeting April 13, NOON
Earth Day Month: Norman Gaume, president of the Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates, will provide an overview of the New Mexico Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force recommendations. ZOOM only.

Saturday, May 6th 10 AM - Noon
LWVCNM Annual Meeting

Followed by 75th Year Anniversary Celebration!
Noon – 2 PM

April 29-30, 10 AM – 4 PM,
LWVNM State Convention, Los Alamos & virtual

June 10, 10 AM
LWVCNM Calendar Planning meeting

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 Michal Mudd, Voter Editor, at VoterEditorMichal@gmail.com

APRIL MEETING



Water Is the Focus of the April 13 LWVCNM Meeting, Noon - 1 pm, Zoom



How's this for a dramatic statement? "*NEW MEXICO IS THE DRIEST IT HAS BEEN IN OVER 1,000 YEARS.*" This assessment comes from the 2022 report of the New Mexico Water Policy and Infrastructure Task Force, which was formed by the State Engineer to make recommendations to implement the New Mexico 50-year Water Plan. The diverse group of Task Force members reached broad consensus on an integrated approach to water governance and presented their recommendations to the 2023 Legislature.

One of these Task Force experts, Norman Gaume, has been invited to provide an overview of Task Force recommendations and how well they fared in the recently concluded legislative session at our monthly luncheon meeting on April 13 from noon to 1 pm. The meeting will be held via ZOOM.

Gaume currently serves as president of the Middle Rio Grande Water Advocates, following a distinguished career as a water engineer, manager, and planner. He served as manager of Albuquerque's Water Resources Department from 1990-97 when the San Juan-Chama water project was designed. He was later appointed the director of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission and has been an advisor to the Rio Grande Compact Commission, which oversees the allocation agreement between Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. Mr. Gaume received the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government Dixon Award in 2016 for his work to protect the Gila River.

OBSERVER REPORTS



Observer Corps Report – Albuquerque City Council meeting 22 February/6 March 2023

Mary Mulvany/Janet Kirkpatrick

Transit

R-23-110 Approving the Transit Department's Service Equity Analysis of Proposed Service Suspensions Due to Staffing Shortages. The Council voted unanimously to approve the Transit Equity Analysis which proposes service suspensions. The analysis is available at Councilor Peña's webpage: [Transit Equity Analysis](#)

Housing

R-23-106 Declaring the City's Intent to Collaborate with Bernalillo County in the Acquisition of Affordable Housing...

The Council voted unanimously to approve a resolution stating the City's intent to pursue a Joint Powers Agreement to establish the Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative. The resolution provides for the establishment of the Collaborative within six months. The mayor signed the resolution. R-23-106 is available at [City's Intent to Collaborate With Bernalillo County](#)

Residential Tenant Protection Ordinance

O-22-60. The Council, by a 4-5 vote, rejected an ordinance that would have required landlords to return application fees in certain cases and to make written disclosures of fees. A landlord would have been required to return application fees to an applicant if the unit was rented to someone else prior to the application being processed. The ordinance would have limited rental application fees to \$150. Five property owners spoke against the ordinance, 13 members of the public spoke in favor. See the terms of the failed ordinance at [O-22-60 Residential Tenant Protection](#)

Regulation of Catalytic Converter Secondhand Purchase

O-22-61 Secondhand Catalytic Converter Purchase Ordinance. In an effort to deter thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles, the Council unanimously passed an ordinance which requires entities that purchase secondhand catalytic converters to record the identity of individuals selling catalytic converters. Additionally, they are required to record information about the vehicle from which the catalytic converter is obtained. The mayor signed O-22-61. The ordinance, which outlines the specific record-keeping requirements is available at [O-22-61 Catalytic Converter](#)

Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency Downtown and Railroad Areas Development

EC-223 Approving the Downtowner Development Disposition Agreement. The Council approved a Development & Disposition Agreement with Alb. Downtowner LLC (partners Rembe Urban Design & Development, Insight Construction, and Mullen Heller Architects). The agreement includes land and a \$1.8M financing grant for development of a multi-story project including 208 units. [EC-223 Downtown and Railroad Metropolitan Area Development](#)



Observer Corps Report Sandoval County Commission regular meeting February 22, 2023

Mary Templeton, observer

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

Description of Issues Relevant to the League

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

Additional Comments

Two commissioners opened and closed the meeting during the announcements and discussions section by venting ire about the passage of HB7 in State Legislature. This bill assures access to reproductive and gender-affirming healthcare. The commissioners characterized the bill as taking away parental rights and control, allowing “groomers” to manipulate children toward gender-affirming treatments, and child mutilation (with a focus on female body parts). At one point, one commissioner pointed out a baby in the gallery and told the parents that they no longer have control over their son. He then asked attendees for a show of hands if they believe in mutilating their children. My reading of the HB7 is that it mentions neither minor children nor parents, but addresses actions prohibited of “public bodies”.

Sandoval County Commission Website

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



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

Mary Templeton, observer (via video)

Present: Katherine Bruch (video), Jay Block, Michael Meek (Vice Chair, video), 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

A recurring feature of Sandoval County Commission meetings are public comments by members of Sandoval and neighboring counties regarding elections. This group goes by New Mexico Election Transparency Network or NMET. They advocate for requiring photo IDs in order to vote, frequent voter role purging, prohibition of ballot drop boxes, added restrictions to absentee voting and automatic post-election audits in 10% of precincts. More details are in the Rio Rancho Observer article, “Group Has Been Working to Bring Election Transparency to New Mexico” from March 14, 2023 (<https://robserver.com/group-has-been-working-to-bring-election-transparency-to-new-mexico/>). Commissioners appear to be working with this group to teach them how government works in practice and have expressed openness to constructive suggestions that might improve the County election process.

Sandoval County Commission Website

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



Observer Corps Report Update APS Board of Education meetings, (18 January, 1 February, 15 February and March 2023)

Laura J. Downing

The Board of Education meetings all follow a similar structure: presentation of the agenda, a public forum and then the Board Members discuss Board internal business. I “attend” the YouTube live stream of the meetings; I don’t attend in person. I report on topics most relevant to LWVCNM policy positions.

The public forum section of all 4 recent meetings was dominated by statements (members of the public have a one to two minutes, timed, to make statements) expressing concerns about safety issues at West Mesa High School, reacting to a recent incident where a gun went off in a class. <https://www.krqe.com/news/albuquerque-metro/student-arrested-after-gun-goes-off-at-west-mesa-high-school/> Specifically, a number of students and staff – including teachers reading statements by their students – are concerned about the presence of guns on campus and the potential for more on campus shootings, as well as other criminal activity. Many called for more and better-paid security personnel on campus.

Other issues raised at the public forums were: 1- the need to improve services to immigrant and refugee newcomer students and parents in the APS system. In particular, more information in more languages is needed, along with better, more accessible statistics about refugee student population. 2- owners of private pre-schools are concerned that if APS starts providing pre-school classes, APS will run some of the private pre-schools out of business without really replacing the services they currently provide.

A new development at the 1 March meeting is the return of some of the same people who were attending the public forum in the fall to accuse APS schools of “grooming” students to assume LGBTQ+ identities and of not involving parents enough in counselling and curriculum decisions at schools. (These accusations are obviously not well-founded.) At the 1 March meeting, members of this group attempted to play a video made by Project Veritas, characterized by Wikipedia as a far-right activist group, which supposedly showed a teacher proposing not to share gender identity information with parents. The Rio Rancho Observer has reported on this video: <https://rrobsobserver.com/project-veritas-hits-metro-school/>

The Board internal business at all meetings involved extensive, detailed discussion of developing a strategic plan for APS in order to satisfy the settlement requirements of the Yazzie-Martinez lawsuit, which addressed inequities faced by certain groups of students in the New Mexico public school system: <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/yazzie-martinez-updates/> Specific issues discussed were: how to improve the curriculum to comply with the Yazzie-Martinez settlement; how to define and track interim goals that are intended to insure equity across the school districts (taking into account differences in the economic resources and ethnic makeup of different districts); formalization of a strategic plan defining desired student outcomes. It was emphasized that the community needs to be involved in defining goals and assessing outcomes, to ensure community values are respected and that the Board of Education is held accountable by the affected communities. The discussion involves not only the Board but also APS Supervisor Scott Elder and members of his team, and an outside advisor. I have written the President of the Board of Education to ask if the drafts of the Strategic Goals document can be shared with the LWVCNM.

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.

