

The VOTER

FEBRUARY 2024

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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 Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Series'

FEBRUARY EDUCATIONAL MEETING



WHEN: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8th from Noon – 1 PM

WHERE: In person/Zoom, LWVCNM conference room, 6739 Academy Rd NE (ample lot parking)

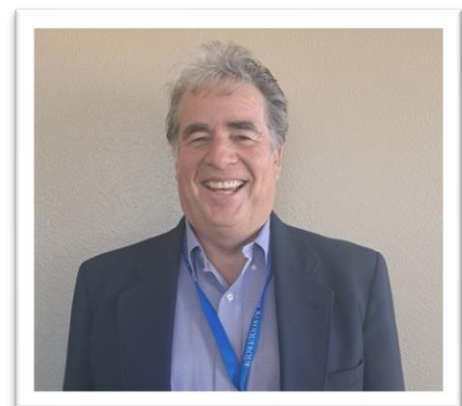
TOPIC: A Place to Call Home When You Don't Have One, Can't Afford One, or Can't Find One: Affordable Housing/Homelessness and Regional Plans to Address the Issue, Part Two.

SPEAKER: Joseph Montoya, Deputy Director of Housing for One Albuquerque.

Albuquerque and Bernalillo County are experiencing many problems related to a housing shortage – people living on the streets, individuals and families “couch surfing” with friends and families, and limited housing available for people new to the area, thus stifling economic development. It affects quality of life, physical and mental health, economic development, and many other issues.

This is the second of a two-part series on the housing crisis here, how it's affecting our community, and what the various agencies of the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County are doing to solve these problems.

Joseph Montoya, Deputy Director of Housing, Family and Community Services, joins the City of Albuquerque after a 20+ year career in affordable housing development in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. He most recently served as the Community Development Director for the County of Santa Fe where he established a new housing trust fund. Over the course of his career, Mr. Montoya has facilitated the creation of over 10,000 units of affordable housing. He also brings extensive experience in economic development and sustainability initiatives. Mr. Montoya completed his undergraduate degree, as well as a Masters in Planning and Public Administration, at the University of New Mexico.





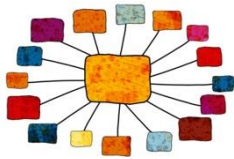
**The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico
Cordially Invites All New Members (2022 & 2023)
to a New Member Reception**

Let's get to know one another and learn what the League is all about!

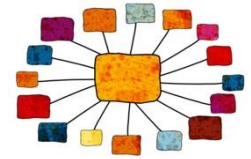
Sunday, February 11, 2024 2:00pm to 4:00pm
At Betsy Carlson's home: 1931 Rio Grande Blvd NW, Albuquerque
Light Refreshments and drinks served

Parking is available on the street or in the Sunshine Florist Shop lot; 1901 Rio Grande Blvd NW (2 houses South of the event) Easy walk to the event from there.

Please RSVP to Liz Shields at eliza44@yahoo.com



LWVCNM Program Planning Meeting



**Please Join LWVCNM members Saturday, February 24th from 10 AM - 12:00 Noon
for a Zoom conversation regarding recommending issues for future LWV Advocacy**

LWVCNM invites all members to participate in the 2024 Program Planning meeting on Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 10:00 am -12:00 via Zoom. The objective of Program Planning is to evaluate current LWV Positions and consider current topics of interest to local residents.

If you would like LWV to have an official position on an issue of interest permitting advocacy influencing legislation, you need to attend LWVCNM Program Planning. Current state and local positions appear in your gold 2023-24 LWVCNM Member Handbook (NM pp. 8-33, CNM pp. 36-39).

Would you like LWVCNM to study or advocate for/against these issues?

- Safe Outdoor Spaces for the homeless population (*Affordable Housing*)
- Zoning and Economic incentives providing equitable access to drugstores and groceries in underserved areas (*Land Use, Economic Development*)
- Financial resources permitting domestic violence victims to attain independence from abusers for self and family members (*Children and Families*)
- Support services including respite and financial resources for Caregivers (*Healthcare*)
- Environmental Justice (defined as "a social movement to address environmental injustice, which occurs when poor or marginalized communities are harmed by hazardous waste, resource extraction, and other land uses from which they do not benefit") (*Environment*)
- Other issues impacting our communities.

Those desiring to chair or serve as study committee member will be offered guidance and support to prepare a study proposal for approval by members during the 4/20/24 Annual Meeting (this requires study proposal publication in the Annual Meeting Voter issued 3/15/24). Please participate in LWVCNM discussions Feb. 24th to revisit existing LWV Positions or initiate a study addressing community issues.

Report of the Co-First Vice Presidents - January 2024

by Lani Desaulniers and Karen Wentworth

The Voter Guide committee has created an online VOTE411 *Voter Guide* for the March 5th Municipal Elections in Sandoval County (Cuba, Jemez Springs, Rio Rancho, and the Town of Bernalillo). We will also produce a PDF for the races which will be available on the LWVCNM website in February.

We are working with the state league to define how we will participate in VOTE411 for the June Primary Election. We have proposed hosting more candidate forums.

Here is our workplan for the remainder of the year:

General Election

- Apply for state grant to support printing guide
- Fundraising effort in spring
- Identify member volunteers to assist with *Voter Guide* project in spring. Solicit additional volunteers at Annual Meeting
- Create VOTE411 Guide, Print Guide, and PDF
- Work on promoting guide and resources more broadly into the community (social media, flyers, posters, partnering with organizations)

We welcome any, and all, volunteers who would be willing to help with the *Voter Guide*. We have many tasks to be done, both large and small. We are especially in need of members who can assist with publicity. Please contact Lani Desaulniers, Karen Wentworth, or the office staff if you are interested in learning more.

Women's History Month 2024 Special Event

Albuquerque Museum Exhibit Tour & Happy Hour

Welcome Women's History Month on **Thursday, February 29th, 4 PM at the Albuquerque Museum**, 2000 Mountain Rd NW. We will meet in the museum lobby to begin our tour of the special exhibit, *News For The People: Local Journalism in the 1970s*.

The exhibit curator, Jonathan Wright, will lead the tour. *News for the People* explores how journalism informs and protects democracy. The exhibition considers various media that presented journalism, from newspapers to radio and television, during the turbulent social issues of the 1970s, while also considering how these media formats became popular and changed over time. The exhibit highlights the rich history of local journalism by utilizing a visual timeline of journalism objects, publications, and photographs. **The museum requested an archival edition of the publication that today is known as the League's *Voter Guide* to be featured in the exhibit.**

After the exhibit tour, we will make our way down the road to the Sawmill Market to share a Happy Hour together in celebration of Women's History Month. Purchase your drink and snacks, and then meet us upstairs on the west end. Members are welcome to join us at the Happy Hour even if they cannot join the tour. (*cont.*)

There is typically street parking available near the museum, as well as space in the parking structure and the Albuquerque Hotel parking lot across the street from the Museum. The Sawmill is walking distance from the Museum. If walking is not an option for you, park near the museum, then look for a spot in one of the Sawmill lots.

Reservations are required by Sunday, February 25. The exhibit tour is limited to 25 participants. If more than 25 registrations are received, we will begin a waiting list and contact those on the waiting list to let them know if there were cancellations. If you make a reservation and find out you cannot attend, please let us know so we can update the waiting list. *Please note: While Women’s History Month doesn’t officially begin until March 1, we are celebrating a day early as the exhibit closes on March 3 and Mr. Wright was not available over the final weekend.*

Please register online at <https://www.lwvcnm.org/museum-tour-registration/>, by email at lwvcnmoffice@gmail.com or by phone at (505) 884-8441.

MEET OUR EXHIBIT GUIDE Jonathan Wright, the Assistant Curator of History at the Albuquerque Museum. He previously studied Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the University of Leeds, England. During his time at the University of Leeds, Wright was the Editor for the History Student Times. Wright relocated to Albuquerque, New Mexico and continued his studies at the University of New Mexico where he graduated with his Master’s in History in 2021. His research and interests range from early modern mapmaking to 20th-century journalism and media. Wright works closely with the Curator of History, Alicia Romero, on exhibition research and planning. As well as caring for their current collection while monitoring incoming acquisitions, Wright states, “I enjoy working with the museum to explore Albuquerque’s rich history and look forward to showcasing how important local history is to the communities of New Mexico.”



******* Mark Your Calendars *******

Please Plan to Attend the LWVCNM

2024 Annual Meeting!

Saturday, April 20th, 2024

Marriott Uptown

Registration begins at 9:30am



LWVCNM ARCHIVES DONATED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO'S ZIMMERMAN LIBRARY

LWVCNM's historical records have been moved to the Center for Southwest Research (CSWR) at UNM's Zimmerman Library where LWVNM's records are housed. League volunteers Karen Wentworth, Jeanne Logsdon, Linda Miller, Joni Ullery, and Dorothy Dickman organized the material into four categories: Publications, Administrative Records, Issues and Activities, and Studies. UNM archivist Samuel Sisneros provided guidance about how to organize the records so that they could become available immediately to library users. (photos attached)

How did this come about?

Since 1947, League officers and members had accumulated a vast amount of paper records about how the organization operated, issues had been investigated, and how to advocate for good government and public services. And we moved this growing batch of records to many different offices over the decades in more and heavier file cabinets. Electronic communication began to dominate over paper-based records around 2015, but that made it more difficult to be sure that those records were being regularly stored in a single place so that they could be retrieved. In 2021, Karen Wentworth and Jeanne Logsdon volunteered to sort through the paper files, identify what materials were only in electronic form, and get all the material ready for donation to the Center for Southwest Research (CSWR) at UNM's Zimmerman Library where the LWVNM archives are housed.



The Archives group: Jeanne Logsdon, Jennifer Black, Dorothy Dickman, UNM archivist Samuel Sisneros, Karen Wentworth, Joni Ullery. (Not shown is Linda Miller, who was taking the photo.)

Karen and Jeanne contacted CSWR to inquire about how to submit League archival material and were referred to archivist Samuel Sisneros. He informed us that the archiving queue was so long that it would be several years before library staff could organize our records. If we wanted them to be available sooner, we could organize the material ourselves into the proper folders and boxes and prepare the Guide that the librarians could enter into their system. This option seemed to be better, but little did we know how long this project would take. Happily, we can report that the project is now finished with the help of additional volunteers, Linda Miller, Joni Ullery, and Dorothy Dickman.



The collection of LWVCNM archives is organized into several categories. The first is our Publications, including *The Voter*, annual *Who's Who* directories, and *Voter Guides*. The second category is Administrative Records, such as board and annual meeting minutes, bylaws, and detailed histories. Issues and Activities comprise the 3rd category. These include many environmental and local government issues over the decades. Finally, our Studies are found in the 4th category. These are records of the in-depth research and discussion on issues identified as potentially needing a formal Position on which to advocate for redress.

And what about adding to these archives? Jennifer Black has volunteered to become our historian who can submit additional material annually so that the archives can be kept up to date.

The CSWR is on the first floor of Zimmerman Library on UNM's campus. Anyone can access them in person by visiting the library. Details about online access will be made available soon.

At left, Samuel Sisneros, UNM Archivist receiving the donated LWVCNM archives.

Remembers Karen Wentworth of the effort, "The archives group was so happy last week to see the boxes of our League history wheeled out the door on their way to the University of New Mexico Center for Southwest Research archives, which already houses the archives of the state League. For 75 years, League officers collected studies, research and information on issues that we use to form positions. We also collected detailed efforts of the League members to raise money, do special projects and shape public policy.

Every time we needed more storage, someone donated a filing cabinet and the problem was solved. But in 2019, faced with a wall of filing cabinets and the need for more, I began working with league member Linda Adcox-Kimmel to begin to try to organize what we had and put it into boxes with the intent of donating it to the University of New Mexico.

But life kept intruding. Covid hit. We were forced to find a new office when the landlord rented out the conference room we used, leaving us with no place to meet at the office. Linda moved east to be with her family. But a new volunteer group magically appeared and over the past two years, we organized, weeded out duplicates and worked to make our archives easy to understand and access.

In fact, with the expert guidance of Jeanne Logsdon and Linda Miller, who did a wonderful job with our master spreadsheet, we were able to work with Center for Southwest Research Archivist Samuel Sisneros and to serve as an example for other community groups wanting to donate their archives.

You won't see our archives there quite yet, but you will soon. In the meantime, these online archives hosted by the University of New Mexico are a wonderful place to explore state history."

LWVCNM BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting will be March 27, 2024.

Please check the Book Club link on the For Members section of the LWVCNM website for the next book selection.

Or call or text Janet at 505-401-2052 for more information.



LWVCNM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Donna Sandoval

1st Co-Vice Presidents/Vote411.org:

Karen Wentworth & Lani Desaulniers

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: Vivian Skadron

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

Directors

Terry Quinn

Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator

Linda Miller

Program

Karen Douglas

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 Michal Mudd at:
VoterEditorMichal@gmail.com

LWVCNM CALENDAR

February 7th (first Wednesday) 5:30 pm

Please note Board meetings have been changed to the first Wednesday of each month.

LWVCNM Board Meeting, This meeting will be ZOOM only.
All members welcome.

February 8th (Thursday) 12 – 1 pm

LWVCNM Monthly meeting, hybrid In-person & ZOOM

The 2nd in a two-part series on Homeless/Housing Issues.

Topic/Title: A Place to Call Home When You Don't Have

One, Can't Afford One, or Can't Find One:

Affordable Housing/Homelessness and

Regional Plans to Address the Issue, Part Two.

Speaker: Joseph Montoya, Deputy Director of Housing for
One Albuquerque

February 11th (Sunday) 2 pm – 4 pm

New member (2022-2023) Welcome Reception (see p.2)

February 24th (Saturday) 10:00 am - 12:00 Noon

LWVCNM Program Planning Meeting

Via ZOOM only. (see details p. 2)

February 29th, (Thursday) 4 pm

Albuquerque Museum Exhibit Tour & Happy Hour

celebrating Women's History Month

at the Albuquerque Museum and Sawmill Market,

Reserve by Sunday, Feb. 25th (see story p. 3)

March 5th (Tuesday)

Municipal Elections in Sandoval County (Cuba, Jemez
Springs, Rio Rancho, and the Town of Bernalillo)

March 6th (first Wednesday) 5:30 pm

LWVCNM Board Meeting, Hybrid LWVCNM office
conference room/ZOOM. All members welcome.

March 14th (Thursday) 12 pm – 1 pm

LWVCNM Monthly meeting, hybrid In-person & ZOOM

Honor Sunshine Week and its national mission to promote
public discussion about the importance of open

government. Guest speaker will be Jeremy Farris, Exec.

Director of the New Mexico State Ethics Commission.

March 27th (Wednesday) 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

LWVCNM Book Club

Please check the Book Club link on the For Members
section of LWVCNM website for book selection location.



January 4, 2024 -- Federal Court Hearing

Karen Douglas

During the years 2010 – 2014, leading up to 2014 Dept. of Justice Consent Decree, 30% of officer-involved shootings involved mental health calls. The Albuquerque Community Safety Department (ACS) was established to respond to those calls not requiring a uniformed police officer. During August of 2023, ACS increased their response hours to 24/7, responding to ~2500 APD monthly calls diverted to their department. Only ~2 out of 20,000 ACS calls to date needed a backup police officer and response from the Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team (ECIT) (both incidents involved domestic violence). The APD Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU) currently responds to mental health calls and projects 50% of these could be resolved by ACS. Currently, ACS receives ~3,000 calls monthly.

There were numerous references during the 1/4/24 federal hearing to a case involving a Level 3 deadly force incident (Crosby) which was out of policy (requiring officer discipline) but APD management reversed an Internal Affairs Force Division (IAFD) finding of excessive Use of Force (UOF) and did not apply discipline.

APD now sees ~600 UOF incidents annually. Level 2 serious UOF incidents have decreased from 12 to 8 weekly incidents during this most recent 18th quarterly monitoring period. The CABQ has now reached 94% compliance with the DOJ Consent Decree with only 3/276 Consent Decree paragraphs monitoring APD continuing to be monitored, with the remaining covered by civilian oversight. CABQ anticipates that during 2026, the DOJ will be ending the Consent Decree (following 100% compliance - APD must sustain this level of compliance for 2 years). APD is now self-monitoring Consent Decree paragraphs previously in compliance via their Data Analytics Unit and CABQ has issued 8 self-assessment reports to date.

APD Chief Medina testified that there were 125 Force Review Board cases in 2023, including 14 officer-involved shootings - of these 12 involved suspects with firearms. Medina indicated that APD uniformed officers have a positive relationship with civilian Internal Affairs investigators hired to fill officer positions.

The External Force Investigative Team (EFIT) was established due to the 2021 DOJ Stipulated Order with the inception of EFIT I oversight and training 5/2021 supporting both APD Internal Affairs Force Division (IAFD) and Training Academy. EFIT I commitment has now been completed and involved 1202 investigations with the IAFD. EFIT II activities evaluating backlogged UOF cases are ongoing and the EFIT anticipates completion in April 2024 with ~66% of backlog cases involving out of policy UOF (864 – level 2 causing injury or expected to cause injury, and 73 – level 3 deadly force or could result in death).

During January 2023, the Albuquerque City Council amended the ordinance affecting the Civilian Police Oversight Agency (CPOA) and its interim Executive Director in violation of the Consent Decree. CPOA is charged with evaluating UOF investigations and, where sustained, the Executive Director recommending officer discipline. 42 UOF investigations were processed by CPOA from February 2023 to the present. 13/276 Consent Decree paragraphs covering civilian oversight (CPOA) remain out of compliance. In efforts to realign with Consent Decree requirements the Contract Compliance Director will select the Executive Director in winter 2024 and the CPOA has now hired 7 civilian investigators, 3 of them inexperienced. (CPOA – see April 2023 3rd Amended Consent Decree, p. 78 [third-amended-casa-approved-6-2-23.pdf](#) ([cabq.gov](#)))

OBSERVER REPORTS



Observer Corps Report – Albuquerque City Council meeting

8 January 2024

Mary Mulvany /Janet Kirkpatrick

All nine councilors were present at the January 8, 2024 meeting: Louie Sanchez – District 1, Joaquin Baca – District 2, Klarissa Peña – District 3, Brook Bassan – District 4, Dan Lewis – District 5, Nichole Rogers – District 6, Tammy Fiebelkorn – District 7, Dan Champine – District 8, Renée Grout, District 9.

New City Councilors

This was the first council meeting for newly elected city councilors Joaquin Baca, Nichole Rogers, and Dan Champine.

Council President and Vice President

The council voted to elect Councilor Dan Lewis as Council President. The vote was eight in favor (Baca, Bassan, Champine, Grout, Lewis, Peña, Rogers, Sanchez) and one opposed (Fiebelkorn).

The council voted unanimously to elect Councilor Renee Grout as Council Vice President.

Mesa del Sol Building Height

The council voted unanimously to amend the Level A Framework Plan for Mesa del Sol to change the maximum allowable height from 80' to 110' for a specific 30-acre parcel on a case-by-case basis. In this case, maximum height increase is for Kairos Power for a research and development and manufacturing facility. According to its [website](#), Kairos Power's Albuquerque laboratory is designed to test its high-temperature salt technology for reactor coolant. Two speakers spoke in favor of the amendment. No speakers opposed it. [R-23-196](#)

Air Quality Control Board

At the December 4, 2023 meeting the City Council passed a resolution calling for the creation of a joint city/county working group to improve the operation of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Joint Air Quality Control Board. The measure passed by a vote of seven in favor (Benton, Davis, Grout, Jones, Lewis, Peña, Sanchez) and two opposed (Bassan, Fiebelkorn). Mayor Keller vetoed the resolution on December 21, 2023. [R-23-197](#)

At the January 8, 2024 meeting the City Council failed to override the veto due to a lack of a motion to override.

General Comments

- Albuquerque/Rehovot, Israel Sister City. During the general comment period eleven people asked the council members to put pressure on Mayor Keller to sever the Sister City relationship between Albuquerque and Rehovot, Israel, citing concerns over continuing such a relationship with a “genocidal apartheid state.”
- Homelessness/Affordable Housing. Five people spoke about the continued need to address affordable housing and homelessness. One speaker read a poem she had written about the death of a homeless man due to exposure in December.



Observer Corps Report – Bernalillo County Commission

JANUARY 2024

Karen Wentworth

Bernalillo County Commission Votes to Buy Warehouse to House Voting Machines

The Bernalillo County Commission has approved \$8.2 million to purchase a warehouse at 3900 Vasser NE to house voting machines for the county. The property currently contains offices as well as storage space and the money will go to purchase the furniture and equipment as well as the building.

For decades, Bernalillo County has housed voting equipment at county owned property in the South Valley, in yards that contain the road repair equipment, snowplows, county vehicles and repair shops. It is not clear how soon the move will occur.

Commissioners also passed a resolution asking the NM Legislature to set up enabling legislature for a recently passed constitutional amendment. The amendment would allow the county to spend money on infrastructure projects that can be used by the community.



Observer Report - Sandoval County Commission regular meeting

January 10, 2024

Mary Templeton (by video recording)

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

Description of Issues Relevant to the League

Transportation

The Commission approved the adoption of the Sandoval County Trails and Pathways Planning Initiative, which would provide signage and phone-based interactive maps of existing trails to help runners, cyclists and train passengers connect to local points of interest without motorized transportation. A 30-mile loop connects the Sandoval County/US 550 Rail Runner station in Bernalillo and the Alameda/Rio Grande Open Space, paralleling highways 313 and 528/448.

As background, LWVNM supports improved public access to alternative forms of transportation, such as cycling and walking in lieu of single-occupant vehicles.

Additional Comments

Public Comment

Eight of thirteen speakers commented on elections that took place across the country in multiple states during 2020. An additional speaker requested that Sandoval County add a new legal services office to help county residents understand processes and procedures related to their interactions with the County.

Commissioners Discussion

One commissioner attributed “hundreds of thousands” of US fentanyl deaths to immigrants crossing the southern border over the last three years.

(<https://sandovalcountynm.new.swagit.com/videos/294606 1:48>).

He also claimed that big cities are “putting illegals in schools and they’re pulling the kids out of schools.”

Access to Agenda Documents

Agenda links to supporting documents return "Access Denied."

Sandoval County Commission Website

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



Observer Corps Report, Jan. 9, 2024

APS Board of Education meetings, Dec. 6 and 20, 2023 and Jan. 3, 2024

Laura J. Downing (downinglauraj@gmail.com)

I "attend" YouTube live streams of the meetings, and report on topics most relevant to LWVCNM policy positions.

Public Forum

The public forum has been lightly attended for these meetings, perhaps due to the holidays. The forum continued to be dominated by speakers concerned with books and classes that potentially discuss gender-identity and the availability of gender-affirming counselling in APS schools. Supporters of the LGBTQ+ community continue to speak out in favor of schools as a safe space. Some speakers protested the idea of banning books in schools that discuss discrimination and other sensitive issues. One speaker expressed concerns about gun violence in the schools. The President of the Carpenters' Union expressed support for trades classes in APS schools, to provide non-college prep options.

The Board meetings proper in December took up various end-of-semester business. The continuance of the APS local labor board was approved. Community events were planned to promote the importance of Early Childhood education and improve enrollment in these programs. There were student presentations, involving students from elementary, middle and high schools, about how their school achievement has been improved due to the teaching methods promoted by the new Student Outcome Focused Governance goals. Events were planned to allow for community input in the search for the new APS superintendent. The 3 Board members whose terms came to end at the end of December said their farewells. One item of new business is that Mayor Keller attended the 6 December meeting to propose a collaborative partnership with APS in requesting State funding at the next legislative session to develop more school violence intervention programs.

At the 3 January meeting, the 3 new Board members were sworn in, including the first indigenous Board member, Renalda Tome Warito. Elections to the Board offices were held, and Danielle Gonzalez was elected President; Renalda Tome Warito was elected Vice President; Janelle Astorga, another new member, was elected Secretary; Josefina Dominguez was elected Chair of the Policy Committee and Crystal Tapia-Romero was re-elected as chair of the Finance Committee.

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.



