



La Palabra

The newsletter of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico
Volume 60, No. 4 Spring 2013
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The League of Women Voters of New Mexico, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Call to State Convention - 2013

May 18-19, 2013 - Las Cruces, NM
Hosted by the League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces
Hilton Garden Inn, 2550 Don Roser Dr

Schedule

Saturday, May 18

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 12-1 p.m. | Registration and Silent auction begins. |
| 1- 2 p.m. | Lunch
Speaker: Jake Rollow, Field Representative,
Las Cruces Office, U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich
Topic: U.S. Immigration Reform |
| 2-5:30 p.m. | First Plenary Session |
| 6:30 p.m. | Banquet
Lorenzo's Pan Am, 1753 E. University Ave.
Speaker, Former Governor Garrey Carruthers
Ph.D., and Dean, College of Business, New
Mexico State University
Topic: New Mexico Economy and the Early
College High School |

Sunday, May 19

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 8- 8:30 a.m. | Registration |
| 8:30 a.m. | Second Plenary Session |
| 9 a.m. | Silent Auction Ends |
| 1 p.m. | Convention 2013 Adjourns |

Registration Form and additional information is on page 15.

Please bring this issue of *La Palabra* with you to the convention.

LWVNM Board Leadership Team Report --Spring 2013

By Meredith Machen

Since the 2011 convention, the LWVNM Board has been using a Leadership Team model in lieu of a president or vice president, and the experiment has taught us many valuable lessons. There is no question that the Leadership Team has worked successfully with the elected and appointed board members, committee members and other key individuals to carry out the League's nonpartisan political action, advocacy activities and voter education. Through consensus-based decision-making based on state and national positions, the team has determined policies and actions to carry out the League's mission through three legislative sessions and the general election; has conducted year-round activities to increase community involvement, generate visibility; and has developed awareness of our organization. For the sake of more expedient responsiveness, the board has decided to return to the traditional structure with a president and vice president at the 2013 convention, but it will preserve this shared decision-making model to the greatest extent possible. The goal is always to have as many members as possible engaged in analyzing

issues, examining the information available and making broad-based, collaborative decisions representing the voice of New Mexico's League members.

In addition to frequent e-mails and periodic conference calls with each other and the rest of the LWVNM Board, the Leadership Team has made it a point to post more information on the LWVNMAction e-mail distribution list. If you have not signed up to be on the LWV Action list, you can do so by emailing your address to webmaster@lwvnm.org. We are also sending out *La Palabra* and action alerts through Constant Contact, and we are using our Facebook account more often and our Twitter account occasionally. Reporters and legislators are seeking our opinions more often because they know we are working together in the public interest. Requests to put items on the agenda for a board meeting or electronic consideration should be sent to leaders@lwvnm.org. A brief overview of the item with the information necessary for the discussion should be included with the request. League members are clearly making a significant difference in public policy. We urge you to get even more involved. Thank you!

2013-2014 Nominees

Editor's Note: The following is the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates for 2013-2015. The committee consisted of Mary Wilson (chair), Rebecca Shankland and Andrea Targhetta.

President:	Meredith Machen
Vice Pres:	Richard Mason
Secretary	Chris Burroughs
Treasurer:	Cheryl Haaker
Director (Fundraising):	Carol Tucker Trelease
Director (Program):	Judy Williams

Off-Board Volunteers:

Facebook/Twitter:	Karen Wentworth
Natural Resources:	Barbara Calef (who will be on Board as LA President)
Voters' Guide:	Andrea Targhetta (if no other volunteers)

Silent Auction – Convention

The Silent Auction held at Convention time is a fund raiser. Members are encouraged not only to donate an auction item but also to bring some extra cash to buy some of the wonderful items that are offered.

Search your cupboards, storage areas, and households for items in good condition that you can donate to make the 2013 LWVNM Convention Silent Auction a success. Bring them early to the open luncheon meeting on Saturday, May 18. Final bids will be on Sunday morning. Any item not bid upon must be taken home with you.

We appreciate your support and hope to earn lots of dollars for the LWVNM treasury.

Silent Auction Chair is Andrea Targhetta, atarghetta@comcast.net.

Local League News from the Presidents

Central New Mexico --

Shelly Shepherd & Sandra Browne

In December the LWVCNM board consolidated units, deciding to close the Manzano del Sol Unit. On Dec. 9 the League held a legislative reception at the home of Carol Tucker Trelease. Program Planning was held Jan. 12, led by Karen Wentworth at the home of Peggy Howell. A LWVCNM Board Retreat was held following Program Planning to discuss priorities and revise the Two-Year Strategic Plan. On Jan. 23 Gayle Prinkey arranged for LWVCNM to conduct a candidate forum for Albuquerque Public Schools, which was moderated by former LWVUS President Mary Wilson. Also in January, the 2013 Member Handbook was published and distributed, thanks to Laura Stokes and her committee, Kathleen Altobelli, Therese Quinn and Cheryl Haaker. In February the LWVCNM board voted to propose two new State Studies that were recommended at the Program Planning meeting. One study is to look into what kinds of mental health treatment is available in New Mexico and how well they fill the need. The other study is to explore into whether the Judicial Branch in the state is adequately funded to do the job it is tasked to fill. In February the 2013 *Who's Who* was published in time to be available for League Day at the Legislature, thanks to Margaret Krahenbuhl and her committee, Pati Brummett, Merri Rudd, Laura Stokes and Andrea Targhetta.

On March 17 the League held a Hello, Dolly! fundraising theatre event, followed by a League of Women Voters' birthday party reception. On March 18 the LWVCNM was presented a Women's History Proclamation by City Councilor Benton at the city council meeting that evening. On May 4 LWVCNM will hold an Annual Meeting at the MCM Elegante, 2020 Menaul N.E in Albuquerque. Registration will begin at 9 a.m., and the business meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. A brunch with a speaker will follow the business meeting.

Greater Las Cruces -- Bonnie Burn

The new year started with a public presentation, Campaign Financing after Citizens United, held on Jan. 8, from 6:30-8 p.m., in the Las Cruces

City Council Chambers. It was broadcast on the city's government channel, CLC-TV, and rebroadcast during the month. Viki Harrison, Executive Director, New Mexico Common Cause, and our local League partnered to focus on the large amount of money involved with the 2012 general election. Peter Ossorio, attorney and League member, gave an overview of the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. Jason Marks, former Public Regulation Commissioner, described his experience with public funding for his commissioner's campaign. Former New Mexico State Senator Stephen Fischmann gave information about his experience in the New Mexico legislature with campaign financing. Viki Harrison spoke about Common Cause's focus on election protection and campaign finance transparency. I made a short presentation about the LWVUS position on campaign finance and the efforts undertaken by the League since the Citizens United decision.

Members of the Affordable Housing Committee have been observing the meetings of the Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority. Based on the fact that southern New Mexico has not received an appropriate share (based on population and need) of Low Income Tax Credits for new development, a letter was written to the Mortgage Finance Authority (not to be confused with the New Mexico Finance Authority), asking that their selection criteria be evaluated to assure equity among all regions of the state. In December 2012, the committee wrote a letter to the city council asking that funding be found for the Housing Trust Fund. Subsequently, the city councilors voted to transfer \$200,000 from the general fund to this fund. In another letter to city council, we applauded their move. With approval of the local board, the committee is proposing that LWVNM adopt the LWVGLC affordable housing position by concurrence of delegates at State Convention. Christina Little and Vicki Simons are co-chairs.

Members of the Education Committee focused on identifying potential legislation affecting education related to the adopted LWVGLC education position (October 2011). We met with Dr. Steven Sanchez, Associate Superintendent for Learning, Teaching, and Research, Las Cruces

(Continued on page 4)

Presidents' Reports

(Continued from page 3)

Public Schools, to discuss two specific issues:

(1) the process for calculating the A-F grading system (2) the new plan for evaluation of teacher performance that incorporates measurement of student academic growth in the classroom. He also provided a list of critical issues related to LCPS that was to be addressed in the 2013 New Mexico Legislative Session. Jane Asche and Sue Cain are co-chairs.

Education Committee members also organized a Legislative Action Plan to advocate for education positions during the 2013 New Mexico Legislative Session. Committee members participated in the LWVNM Action electronic mail discussion group and joined the weekly conference calls. Roberta Gran, director of Membership and committee member, organized a legislative action telephone tree to maximize constituency impact.

The Impediments to Voting in Doña Ana County Study Committee is completing its first year of study and will be asking for a one-year extension to complete the study. During the first year, the committee completed an online literature search and developed a survey questionnaire that seeks to determine why people who are eligible do not register to vote. In collaboration with New Mexico Communities in Action and Faith, CAFé, the survey will be distributed in English and Spanish to identified organizations involving the Hispanic community. Thereafter, the surveys will be distributed to African American and Asian voters in the county. Data will be analyzed during the second year, and through consensus unit meetings a local position will be developed.

Our pamphlet, *Who's Who*, a directory of locally elected officials, was updated after the results of recent school board election were certified and has been distributed throughout the county.

This is my final year as president of the Greater Las Cruces League. In closing, I want to thank members of the state board, local League presidents and league members who have assisted and helped me make the League successful during my four years as President. Members who are passionate about the League never fade away; so I expect to see

all of you again in some other capacity.

Los Alamos Report -- Barbara Calef

In January the LWVLA held a forum on the school bond election. The school district needs additional funds to pay for renovation and replacement of many 40 and 50 year-old structures. Voters received their ballots in the mail and approved the bond. The annual Legislative Preview co-sponsored by the LWVLA and the American Association of University Women provided an opportunity for our legislators to discuss their priorities for the upcoming session. After re-districting, Los Alamos is served by two senators rather than three, and both Carlos Cisneros and Richard Martinez participated in the event. Our new representative, Stephanie Garcia Richard, also participated. In addition to our legislators, the League always invites speakers who can address specific League concerns. Dick Mason explained the important issues in designing the health insurance exchange, and Marcela Diaz of Somos Un Pueblo Unido argued against repeal of the statute permitting undocumented immigrants to acquire drivers licenses.

Since September the monthly Lunch with a Leader program has been held in our main library with \$10 box lunches provided by the Los Alamos Co-op. The venue serves us very well as it is centrally located and very quiet. At the January program Tom Ribe, Executive Director of Caldera Action, reported on the history of the Valles Caldera National Preserve, which is currently run by a board of trustees appointed by the president. If the preserve is not able to become self-sustaining by 2015, it will become a part of the Santa Fe National Forest unless Congress acts to transfer oversight to the National Park Service, the outcome preferred by Caldera Action and many Los Alamos residents.

During subsequent LWL meetings, the new library manager explained the impact of e-books on libraries. Also the Principal Planner in the Los Alamos Community and Economic Development Department talked about the steps he is taking to continue updating the county's comprehensive plan.

The San Juan-Chama Project (SJC) diverts water from San Juan River tributaries across the Continental Divide through a series of tunnels and other structures into the Chama River Basin, from

(Continued on page 5)

Presidents' Reports

(Continued from page 4)

which it flows downstream to users along the Rio Grande. In recent years Albuquerque and Santa Fe have constructed large projects to utilize their share of the San Juan-Chama water, but Los Alamos has been leasing its annual share of 1200 acre-feet to the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District to maintain in-stream flows.

During a presentation to a joint meeting of the Sierra Club and the League of Women Voters, Jack Richardson, the Project Manager for the County's San Juan Chama Water Utilization Study, explained why Los Alamos should move forward to utilize its water rights despite the fact that the County's groundwater rights of 5,541 acre feet per year seem to be adequate for a stable population of 18,000 and a laboratory committed to conservation. There is the perpetual risk that some of our current wells will become contaminated by LANL activities. The aquifer is sustainable, but would benefit from resting, and some of the wells need to be replaced.

Furthermore, the county is seeking to increase the population by 7,000, and LANL wants the flexibility to compete for projects requiring a high volume of water. LANL expects to open a supercomputing facility within a few years that will use a significant amount of water. And finally, there is a desire to secure the water rights through beneficial use before they are claimed by one of the larger cities as drought and population growth makes water in the state ever more precious.

The county is now preparing to drill a test well near the rim of White Rock Canyon to intercept groundwater flowing from the Jemez before it reaches the Rio Grande. If data from the well convince the Office of the State Engineer of the connection between the groundwater and the river, the San Juan-Chama water rights will be invoked. If the OSE does not approve, the well can still be used for groundwater production based on the county's groundwater rights. Depending on its productivity, up to two additional wells may be drilled along the canyon rim.

Santa Fe County -- Judy Williams **Activities**

The League published two *Voters' Guides*, one for the Santa Fe Public Schools election and one for the Santa Fe Community College election. Both were

printed in the Santa Fe New Mexican as a one-page, full-size insert.

We also held one candidate forum for the public schools election and two for the community college election (14 candidates registered for the two positions).

We are advocating for combined school board and community college board elections. We sent a letter to both entities in November 2012, and having had no reply, we are sending a follow-up letter now that both 2013 elections are over.

League members are continuing to monitor the city of Santa Fe's new Charter Review Committee.

Constant Contact request

The Santa Fe League is interested in the survey feature of Constant Contact. Is there a possibility that LWVNM would purchase it? The price structure is Tier 1, up to 5,000 responses - \$15/month, or \$72 for 6 months. or \$126 for 12 months. There is also a 60-day free trial version.

Program Planning

The League's Program Planning meeting occurred on Feb. 9. We are recommending continuation of several local studies. In addition, we reviewed the LWVNM positions and have several questions:

PRC position: PRC position modifications were discussed. Several revisions were proposed in order to clarify language (see attached edited position). Changes include splitting item three into two parts to clarify and clarifying the legislature's role in budgeting for the PRC.

Redistricting position: The group discussed the part of the redistricting position that supports the redistricting plan "to be considered by the legislature." The group asked about the reasoning behind that statement and would like to know if it could be stricken from the position. Cheryl Haaker, chair of the redistricting study, has been queried on this, and we are awaiting a response.

Education position: Was there any study of providing early childhood development and related services for infants and children from birth to three years of age? The group cited the extensive research and evidence that this is a critical period in children's lives which needs more attention. It was agreed that the LWVUS early education position is sufficient for advocacy here.

Budget for 2013-2015

League of Women Voters of New Mexico Profit & Loss Budget Overview FY 2013-4 and FY 2014-5

Final Approved

	LWVNM PMP	12	12.00	13.00	assume State PMP increase for 2014-15
	Budget by FY	Current Projected	2013-4	2014-5	Discussion
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
A. Contributions					
	From Members	30.00	100.00	100.00	most contributions go to Ed Fund
	From Non-members				
	Total A. Contributions	30.00	100.00	100.00	
	B. Fundraising Events/Mailings	0.00	0.00	0.00	
C. Local League PMP					
	1. Central New Mexico	2,700.00	2,322.00	2,503.00	assume no change in # members
	2. Las Cruces	1,032.00	846.00	912.00	assume no change in # members
	3. Los Alamos	968.00	732.00	785.00	assume no change in # members
	4. Santa Fe	1,530.00	1,464.00	1,578.00	assume no change in # members
	Total C. Local League PMP	6,230.00	5,364.00	5,778.00	
	D. MAL Dues	340.00	340.00	340.00	assume no change
E. Other Income					
	1. Special Events	0.00	0.00	0.00	unless we plan these
	2. Interest	4.59	10.00	10.00	does not include Reserves interest - reinvested
	3. Convention Auction	0.00	700.00	0.00	swag
	4. Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Total E. Other Income	4.59	710.00	10.00	
I. Grants					
	PAVP	0	1,000.00	944.00	See "Balance Sheet" below for PAVP
	Total I. Grants	0.00	1,000.00	944.00	
	Total Income	6,604.59	7,514.00	7,172.00	
Expense					
A. Board Administration					
	1. Meeting space	0.00	28.50	28.50	
	2. Meeting travel	0.00	50.00	50.00	reimburse Board attendees
	3. Training	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Total A. Board Administration	0.00	78.50	78.50	
B. Delegate expenses					
	1. LWVNM Convention	300.00	400.00	300.00	2013-4: 8 travel to LC@\$75 ea; \$50 for travel
	2. LWVNM Council	160.00	200.00	200.00	2013-4: register 8 at \$25ea
	3. LWVUS Convention	1,600.00	1,050.00	2,250.00	2013: register 3 at \$350ea; travel \$750ea
	4. LWVUS Council	0.00	1,400.00	0.00	2 delegates in DC - assume \$700 ea
	Total B. Delegate expenses	2,060.00	3,050.00	2,750.00	
C. Fundraising expenses					
	1. Events	0.00	0.00	0.00	Suggest we drop this category altogether
	2. Mailing	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Total C. Fundraising expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
D. Member services					
	1. MAL services	0.00	0.00	0.00	We should do more - a Handbook??
	2. Newsletter printing	1,491.10	900.00	800.00	newsletter printing needs to be reviewed
	3. Mailing services	149.80	125.00	100.00	fewer excess copies
	4. Newsletter Postage	112.65	100.00	75.00	fewer mailings
	5. Newsletter editor's expense	0.00	25.00	25.00	
	6. Membership development	0.00	50.00	50.00	
	7. MAL PMP	418.50	263.50	263.50	
	Total D. Member services	2,172.05	1,463.50	1,313.50	
E. Operating expenses					
	1. Office use	600.00	600.00	600.00	
	2. Office supplies	0.00	20.00	20.00	
	3a. Constant Contact suppo	200.00	252.00	252.00	assume nonprofit 12mo prepay@\$21/mo

League of Women Voters of New Mexico
Profit & Loss Budget Overview
 FY 2013-4 and FY 2014-5

Final Approved

	LWVNM PMP	12	12.00	13.00	assume State PMP increase for 2014-15
	Budget by FY	Current Projected	2013-4	2014-5	Discussion
	4. Postage - stamps	0.00	50.00	50.00	
	6. Website	0.00	20.00	20.00	Domain registration
	7. Copying	0.00	20.00	20.00	
	8. Insurance	425.00	450.00	450.00	
	9. Miscellaneous	10.00	10.00	10.00	Corp register w/PRC, if they will ever accept the check
	Total E. Operating expenses	1,235.00	1,422.00	1,422.00	
	F. Program - Advocacy				
	1. League Day	400.00	250.00	250.00	est breakdown from expenses thus far
	2. Position support	25.00	100.00	50.00	
	3. State Studies	0.00	100.00	8.00	
	4. Legislative Reception	1,120.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	Assume funded by PAVP remains
	Total F. Program - Advocacy	1,545.00	1,450.00	1,308.00	
	G. Grants to Local Leagues				
	1. Voters' Guide Support	0.00			will depend on "the bottom line"
	Total G. Grants to Local Leagues	0.00			
	H. Voter Services				
	1. Other??	0.00	50.00	50.00	was Voters' Key (Ed fund)
	2. Newspaper ads	0.00	0.00	250.00	in major election years only
	Total H. Voter Services	0.00	50.00	300.00	
	Total Expense	7,012.05	7,514.00	7,172.00	
	Net Income/Loss	-407.46	0.00	0.00	"the Bottom Line"
	Balance Sheet	3/6/2013			
	WF Checking	2,548.04			
	WF Savings	7,812.95			
	Total liquid assets	10,360.99			
	Reserves	4,096.99	4,113.38	4,129.83	assume 0.4% interest
	Other Assets	left 4/30/13	left 4/30/14	left 4/30/15	
	PAVP	1,924.00	924.00	-76.00	assuming it's used for Legislative Reception
	Owed from Ed Fund	1,168.11	0.00	0.00	
	Retained earnings	1,677.50	-407.46	0.00	using "Net income/loss" line
	Total "asset adjustments"	4,769.61	516.54	-76.00	

Reports to Convention

2013 Legislative Session

By Dick Mason, Co-Chair Action Committee

As this is being written, we can't fully assess the success of this session. We do know that the Legislature passed 18 LWVNM-endorsed bills, and that is quite a success. But the Governor has until April 5 to sign bills and to date she has only signed two of the eighteen. You can see the status of all LWVNM legislation at <http://www.lwvnm.org/action.html>.

Legislation that was passed included a number of bills relating to campaign finance and transparency; some important natural resources bills; a tax expenditure budget bill that requires that the state list the cost of all the tax breaks given; a number of public education bills and a bill that would create a health insurance exchange as required under the federal Affordable Care Act. The health insurance exchange bill is seriously flawed and allows too much influence from the insurance industry. But the LWV ended up giving marginal support to the legislation because we were able to get a crucial amendment. Some other advocacy groups chose to oppose the legislation. Implementing the health insurance exchange will require constant attention to assure that it represents the interests of consumers.

In addition to the legislation that passed, we also have to consider the bad things we kept from happening. We helped block any attempt to revoke the law that allows driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants; a variety of anti-choice bills; and any attempt to infringe upon voter rights.

Up until the end of the session we were also successful in blocking legislation giving unwarranted tax breaks to businesses. These tax breaks remove revenues from the state budget that are needed to fund essential programs. At the end of the session (one hour before the end), the Legislative leadership pushed through a package that would reduce the corporate income tax from 7.6 percent to 5.9 percent over the next five years. This was done without any public hearings on the issue and was in complete disregard for the democratic process.

Natural Resources

By Barbara Calef

Two bills passed by the Legislature during the recent session will, if signed by the Governor, achieve important goals of the LWVNM position on water. Our position says that land use and development must be tied to water availability. SB 479 and SB 480 will amend the Subdivision Act to mandate compliance with water availability determinations by the Office of the State Engineer and will extend application of the law to smaller subdivisions.

San Juan Generating Station

After months of negotiations, PNM announced in February an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency regarding plans to reduce production of haze-causing pollution by the San Juan Generating Station. The power plant's owners agree to shut down two of the coal-fired boilers at the San Juan Generating Station; units #2 and 3 rather than #1 and 2 as previously discussed. Number 3 is substantially larger than #1, further reducing the state's carbon footprint. A natural gas-fueled unit will compensate for the loss in electrical production. Selective non-catalytic reduction technology will be installed on the remaining units and they will be permitted to operate indefinitely. The changes are to be implemented by the end of 2017.

PNM also agreed there would be no layoffs and that it would provide more than \$1 million for job retraining and economic development in the Four Corners area. The plan must still be approved by the Environmental Improvement Board and the Public Regulatory Commission. The expected time frame for final approval by the EPA is the end of 2014.

Copper Rule

In 2009 the Legislature amended the Water Quality Act to require that the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) adopt specific rules for the copper mining industry. The purpose of the Copper Rule is to provide the copper mining industry with requirements for preventing groundwater and surface water pollution and to ensure that the industry complies with the Copper Rule rather than have the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the WQCC deal with per-

Reports to Convention

(Continued from page 8)

mit issues on a case-by-case basis.

For eight months in 2012 the NMED conducted extensive meetings with industry, government, and public interest groups seeking input in the development and the content of the proposed rules. A discussion draft of the rule was put out in August. NMED received comments from industry and environmentalists on the August draft and issued a revised draft on Sept. 13. In the September draft, NMED ignored comments from environmental groups and instead adopted industry comments. The Attorney General's Office and several environmental groups have objected that the new draft would permit copper mining companies to pollute ground water underneath their mine sites, contrary to state law and regulations that protect groundwater.

The Water Quality Control Commission will hold a hearing on the proposed rules on April 9. A draft of the proposed Rule is available at the New Mexico Environment Department website.

Board Highlights

By Chris Burroughs, LWVNM Secretary

The LWVNM Board met on Jan. 5 and March 16.

Actions at the January meeting included:

* **Voters Key:** Meredith Machen will investigate printing costs of *Voters Key* and seek quotations that reflect a variety of quantities required. She also will get a price quotation for reprints if more copies are needed later in the year.

* **Membership Report:** Lynn Jones reported that all membership renewal notices have been sent out. Nine renewal payments have been received, and seven continue to be pending.

* **Lobbying Workshop** (Dec. 1) Debrief: Meredith Machen reported that the event was a success, and the League has had requests for the workshop information to be distributed to other organizations.

* **League Day** (Feb. 5) Morning and Lunch Speakers, Schedule and Topics: Board reviewed details of League Day at the Legislature.

* **Policy -- Voters' Guide:** Members reviewed the policy. Among the wording changes that were suggested was moving the statement, "No elected officials or candidates for office and no

political party representatives will be listed as donors or sponsors of League Voter Guides," to number 13 on the list of procedures.

Actions at the March meeting included

* Board adopted revisions to State Studies and Positions policy.

* Bonnie Burn provided an update on the Las Cruces convention. April 30 is the deadline for registration. Board approved registration form.

* Board adopted changes to bylaws.

* Board voted to accept a two-year budget as presented.

Alcohol Study

By Jan Bray, Drug Policy Study Committee Chair

For the past year the committee has functioned as the core of a state LWV committee studying Reducing Death and Harm from Alcohol. We have completed our written report. Consensus questions have been approved by the state board and will be discussed by all state Leagues in the coming year.

Voters' Key 2013-2014

By Meredith Machen, Voter Services Director/Editor

If you haven't seen the *Voters' Key* yet, please click on the link on the LWVNM's home page: <http://www.lwvnm.org/reports/VotersKey2013.pdf>. This handy publication was prepared after the 2012 election, and 3,500 copies were printed at the end of January in order to be of use in the Legislative session and beyond. The Key includes the contact information for those serving in the primary state offices, New Mexico state legislators, district judges, and New Mexico's congressional delegation. On League Day, members from all of the local Leagues were given copies for distribution in their communities. Copies were also distributed to many legislators from around the state who wanted them for their constituents. The LWVNM Board decided to forgo the expense of mailing copies to libraries around the state, which we did until 2012, because we found that most people now search for such information online. Through reports generated by Google Analytics, Cheryl Haaker, our trusty webmaster, shared that the LWVNM *Voters' Guide* site for the 2012 Election got 32,000 hits! Many people know to go

(Continued on page 10)

Reports to Convention

(Continued from page 9)

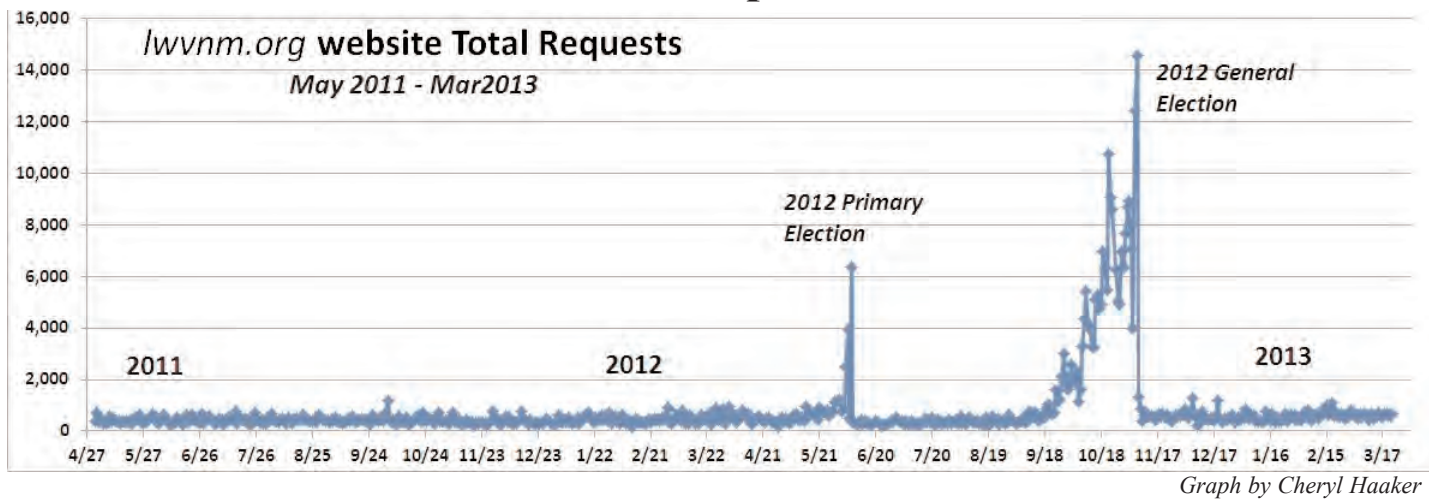
to www.lwvnm.org for complete, accurate information. Please promote this site.

Special thanks go to Dale Yeo, editor, *Who's Who*, LWV of Greater Las Cruces, for all of her careful double-checking of my work. Her successful sleuthing of contact information for some legislators who refuse to use the standard firstname.lastname@nmlegis.gov email addresses was especially helpful. The legislative addresses available through the Legislative Council Service made access much easier for constituents and communication with

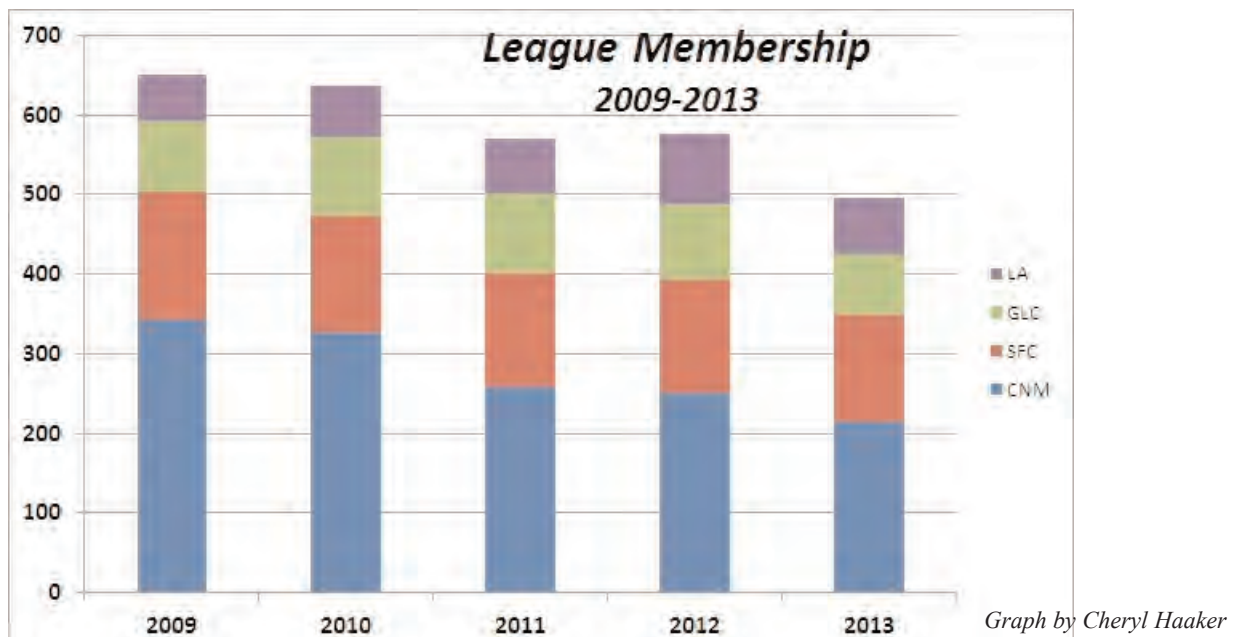
government officials more transparent and more accountable. Thanks to efforts from the League and other advocates for open government, the Legislative Council Service also now posts the contact information of legislators on their excellent website www.nmlegis.gov.

Local Leagues are welcome to as many copies of the *Voters' Key* as they can use. The Keys are also available for other non-profit organizations and public meetings. Please contact your local League if you are attending an event where you would like to make them available, or if you know of another organization that would like to distribute

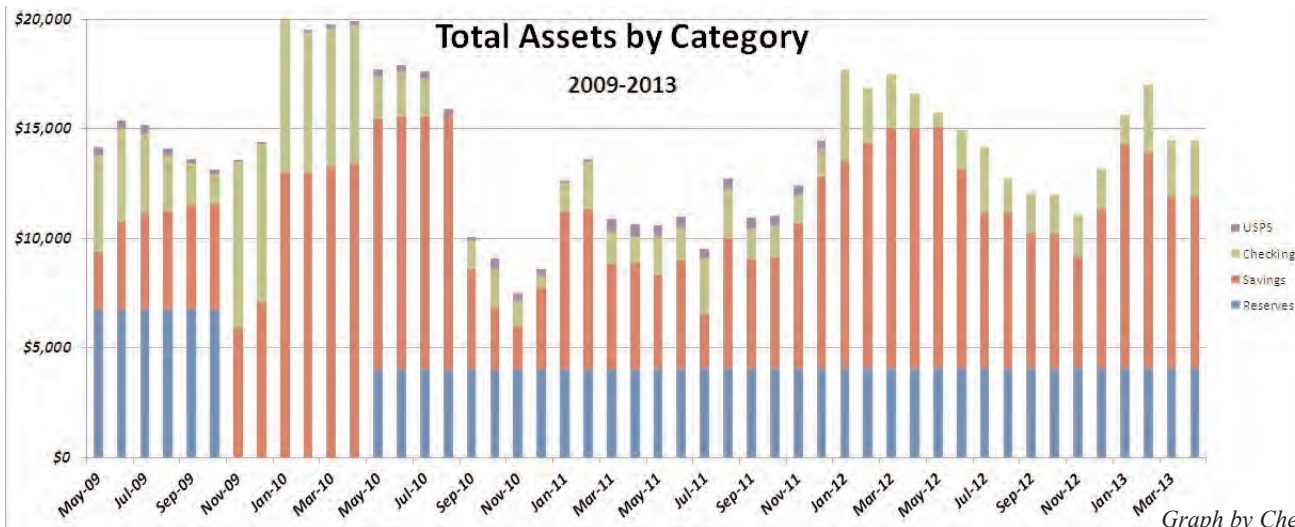
Web Report



Membership Report



LWVNM Total Assets 2009-2013



Proposed Program for Study and Action (2013-2015)

By Meredith Machen, Leadership Team Member

As part of Program Planning for Study and Action, the local Leagues has recommended re-adoption of the state positions. LWVGLC has recommended, and the LWVNM Board of Directors has voted to adopt by concurrence LWVGLC's position on Affordable Housing. The LWVNM Board approved adopting by concurrence LWVGLC's position on Mental Health Services (please see accompanying articles). LWVNCNM has recommended a modified study to update LWVNM's Judiciary position. LWVSFC has recommended a modified study to expand LWVNM's Education position to include birth through early childhood programs. The Alcohol and Land Use Study Committees are requesting an extension for one more year to continue each study.

LWVNM Board decided to undergo a process of updating positions rather than take on new studies for the period 2013-15.

The board is proposing to evaluate concurrence proposals according to three criteria:

- 1) adequacy of the local League position to address broad public policy in that arena, examining the research done in the study and whether the issue is one that can be addressed by state-level governmental action,
- 2) whether a majority of LWVNM Board members and the boards of two or more local Leagues vote to concur with the position(s) created by one or more local Leagues, and

- 3) whether the issue is one in which the League is likely to make a difference.

Discussion at Convention will determine the process for updating positions. Among the criteria for decisions will be the following:

- 1) availability of interested League members to work on the updates (preferably from more than one local League),
- 2) whether the issue is one that has been or is being addressed by governmental action making advocacy on other aspects of on the issue necessary
- 3) whether the issue is one in which the League is likely to continue to make a difference.

Instead of waiting for Convention years (odd-numbered years) when new studies are generally undertaken, the LWVNM Board has decided to review positions and recommend position updates at Council (even-numbered years). In addition, under certain circumstances, and only with member involvement, careful study, and adequate notification, the LWVNM Board may determine it necessary to update positions in order to be effective advocates at the Legislature and elsewhere. Please see the proposed changes to the by laws in a separate article and the statements that reflect this new policy. In this technological era, the League needs to be more nimble and responsive and respect the desire and ability of members to discuss and to reach decisions electronically as well as at annual meetings.

Recommended Items

Affordable Housing

(Proposed Position for Adoption through Concurrence in 2013) by League of Women Voters of New Mexico

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports current and future efforts to increase the availability of safe, decent, and affordable housing for moderate and low income households through the following actions.

- * Increase housing options for households in New Mexico, including but not limited to seniors, the disabled, and first-time homebuyers.

- * Promote a variety of housing styles and types for rent and for purchase that are integrated within communities.

- * Support strategies including public and private partnerships and grants, developmental agreements, rehabilitation, fee waivers, density bonuses, and an affordable housing trust fund and land bank.

- * Support policies that link transportation, land use, and affordable housing.

Position History:

Proposed that at the 2013 League of Women Voters of New Mexico (LWVNM) State Convention, delegates adopt by concurrence a position on affordable housing. The position to be adopted comes from the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces (LWVGLC) and was adopted by the local League membership in January 2012.

Changing only the names of the League and substituting New Mexico for Doña Ana County, the position would read as written above.

Justification of Request

LWVNM currently has no positions on Affordable Housing. There are applicable National Positions on Meeting Basic Human Needs (revised in 1989), but these have not been commonly used in recent years and do not speak directly to housing needs in New Mexico.

Governments (national, state, and local) are primary funders of and catalysts for the development of affordable housing. Along with education and food, decent and safe housing is one of the principal human needs. It is foundational for achieving a wholesome life. This proposed position

would appropriately fit under LWVNM positions on Social Policy.

Adopting a position on affordable housing by concurrence would allow the State Board and Action Committee to advocate on the subject. The proposed position is general and flexible enough to permit effective action. There is an ongoing LWVGLC Affordable Housing Committee (composed of Christina Little and Vicki Simons, Co-Chairs, Jane Carter and Charlotte McCarthy) that is generally knowledgeable concerning state housing issues and is willing to share its expertise with the Action Committee.

The adoption of this position by the State League could also potentially benefit local Leagues within New Mexico. The local Leagues in Albuquerque, Los Alamos, and Santa Fe could use this state position on a local level.

If the position is adopted by delegates to the State Convention by concurrence, there should be no significant costs. Thus, LWVGLC can provide LWVNM with a powerful action and lobbying tool without expending additional program funds.

The need for affordable housing is not just a problem in Doña Ana County -- the need is widespread throughout the state. The State of New Mexico has a direct and immediate role in providing housing opportunities and related services, both through a wide variety of legislation and through the ongoing actions of the Mortgage Finance Authority (not to be confused with the New Mexico Finance Authority).

Note: The agency **New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA)** provides financing throughout the state for housing and related services to low- to moderate-income New Mexicans. MFA administers more than 35 programs that finance housing for the homeless, develop new affordable housing, and help families become first-time homeowners. MFA partners with lenders, realtors, non-profit organizations, local governments, and developers to make its programs available to all eligible New Mexicans.

Albuquerque and Las Cruces are the only municipalities that directly receive HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

(Continued on page 13)

Recommended Items

(Continued from page 12)

funds. MFA receives and disburses this federal funding for all other areas of the state. It is also the agency that evaluates and awards Low Income Tax Credits for projects throughout New Mexico. These tax credits are one of the most effective tools for the creation of affordable housing.

The LWVNM can play a critical role in the promotion of affordable housing in New Mexico, both by lobbying the State Legislature and by paying appropriate attention to MFA. This is an organization with enormous power but little public inspection or review. The League can make an enormous difference by becoming an informed observer and advocate.

For more complete information regarding the MFA, see its web site, <http://www.housingnm.org/>.

Mental Health

(Proposed Position for Adoption through Concurrence in 2013)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico (LWVNM) expects all state and local governments to support an adequately funded mental health care system that provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically and seriously mentally ill of all ages; maintains optimal mental health services for all clients; places emphasis on meeting the needs of children; offers mental health services for the homeless; seeks additional funds for preventive services; implements a master plan to integrate services; raises awareness of critical unmet needs; and emphasizes case management. Support for:

1. An adequately funded county mental health care system that:
 - a. provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically and seriously mentally ill of all ages;
 - b. places emphasis on meeting the needs of children;
 - c. seeks additional funds to provide preventive services;
 - d. offers mental health services for the homeless;
 - e. maintains optimum mental health services for all clients.
2. Implementation of a master plan that:
 - a. ensures that there will be a network of integrated

- services, clearly defined and consistent with a community support model;
 - b. advocates an awareness of and concern about the critical unmet needs within the county;
 - c. emphasizes case management that includes assistance with housing, financial entitlements, rehabilitative and vocational programs.
3. Centers for the seriously and chronically mentally ill apart from the county system.
 4. Regulations that provide an adequate length of time for evaluation and treatment of involuntary holds.
 5. Model mandatory outpatient care program with adequate supervisory staff.

Position History:

The above position recommended for concurrence approval at the 2013 LWVNM Convention is a completion of two positions developed after extensive study by 1) League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces (Adopted 2010) and (2) League of Women Voters of California (Adopted 1998).

Proposed Changes to Bylaws

The following are proposed changes to bylaws. Underlined material is new. [~~Bracketed text~~] is to be deleted.

Article IV. OFFICERS

Section I. Enumeration, Election, and Duties of Officers. The officers of the LWVNM shall be president, a vice president, a secretary and a treasurer. They shall be elected at the Convention and shall take office immediately after the Convention. They shall hold office until the election at the next biennial Convention or until their successors have been elected and qualified. If the position of president is vacant, the board will function as a Leadership Team and shall possess all the powers and perform the duties of that office until that office is filled.

Section 6. The Leadership Team. When a president is not elected and the vice president is unable to assume the responsibilities of the president, the Board shall govern the organization as a Leadership Team. At the first Board meeting following the

(Continued on page 14)

Proposed Changes to Bylaws

(Continued from page 13)

biennial Convention, officers and directors that were elected to serve on the board 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 will identify the responsibilities of each member of the team, and have responsibility for the routine business activities of the League (e.g., calling meeting, preparing agendas, chairing meetings).

Article VIII. CONVENTION

Section 4. Representation.

a. The president and one delegate who shall be chosen by the [~~members through board of each the local Leagues League the members in~~] board of each local League; each local League having more than 15 voting members shall be entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 25 voting members or a major fraction thereof [, belonging to said local League as established by the official count of said year sent to LWVUS for calculation of PMPs].

Article IX COUNCIL

Section 1. Place, Date, and Call. A meeting of the Council shall be held in the interim year between

Conventions, approximately twelve months after the preceding Convention, at a time and place to be determined by the state board. A formal call shall be sent to the presidents of the local Leagues and state MAL units at least 30 days before a council meeting. Special meetings may be called [~~in the event of an extreme emergency~~] as needed.

Section 3. Powers. The Council shall give guidance to the board on program and methods of work. a. The Council is authorized to change the program [~~only in the event of an emergency~~] as needed, provided; 1) notice of proposed changes shall have been sent to the presidents of the local Leagues at least 30 days in advance of the meeting of the Council and 2) the change is adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Council

Article XI. PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAMS

Section 3. Program Action

a. League members may act on national and state program only in conformity with League positions. Members may act in the name of the League only when authorized to do so by the appropriate board. b. The state board shall have power to [~~request emergency concurrence action~~] concur with the positions of other Leagues as needed. Requests for [~~emergency~~] concurrence may be initiated by local Leagues or by state board. State board shall establish procedures for [~~emergency~~] concurrence action.

Budget for 2013-2015

The LWVNM Budget Committee proposed a very frugal two-year Budget. The state board accepted the recommendation of the Budget Committee to increase the local League per member payment (PMP) assessment by one dollar. The increase is \$13 from \$12 for individual members and \$7 from \$6 for second household members. PMP has not been increased since 2006. As a printing, mailing and postage cost saving measure, the board also accepted the Budget Committee's recommendation to increase the percentage of mem-

bers receiving the newsletter, *La Palabra*, electronically. Local Leagues are asked to update their member's email addresses in the LWVUS membership database

The state board deeply appreciates the hard work of the Budget Committee, chaired by Adair Waldenberg-LWVSFC, with members Erika Graf-Webster-LWVGLC, Rosmarie Frederickson-LWVLA, and *ex officio* Cheryl Haaker, LWVNM treasurer.

The budget appears on pages 6 and 7.

LWVNM 2013 CONVENTION – May 18-19, 2011, Las Cruces, NM

Hilton Garden Inn, 2550 Don Roser Dr., Las Cruces NM Tel: (575) 522-0900

Directions to the Hotel: The Hilton Garden Inn, a white Spanish building, is visible to the east of the I-25 University Avenue off ramp. Upon exiting the off ramp, get into your left lane (NMSU buildings will be visible to your right). Turn left and cross over the I-25 over pass, remaining in your left lane. At the second traffic light, Don Roser Dr., turn left and the Hilton Garden Inn is on your left.

Room Reservations: The Hilton Garden Inn has reserved a block of rooms for delegates at the regular weekend rate of \$99 + tax+\$7 for breakfast. You may choose from one king-size bed or two double beds per room. Call the Inn at (575) 522-0900 to make reservations, mentioning the LWVNM name. Deadline for making reservations is April 15; thereafter, the block of rooms will be released.

Convention Registration: The registration fee of \$65 (\$70 after April 30) includes lunch on Saturday. The banquet (\$20 per person) is not included. Members and guests who do not wish to register for the convention may sign up for Saturday lunch (\$15.50), as well as the banquet (\$20). Deadline for conference registration is April 30.

Banquet Directions: The banquet will be held at Lorenzo's Pan Am, Saratoga Room, at 1753 E. University Ave, Las Cruces. Leaving the parking lot at Hilton Garden Inn, turn right onto Don Roser Dr., At the traffic light, turn right on E. University, cross over the I-25 overpass on E. University. Continue through the traffic light at E. University and Trivitz and turn right into the parking lot (McDonalds will be on your left and Lorenzo's on your right). Turn right again. The Saratoga room is clearly marked right after you see Lorenzo's. Park in any available space.

Registration Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

___ Delegate ___ State Board ___ MAL Rep. ___ Observer
(Only One Allowed)

Registration Fee: Postmark by April 30 \$65 _____

After April 30 \$70 _____

Saturday Banquet \$20 _____

An Italian buffet with one meat and one vegetarian entrée.

Guests ___ Number of guests for banquet \$20 _____

___ Number of guests for Sat. lunch \$15.50 _____

___ Lunch for 2013-15 Board Members \$12.95 _____

Board Meeting follows Convention Adjournment

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Mail registration form with check payable to LWV of Greater Las Cruces to:

League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

P.O. Box 8322

Las Cruces, NM 88006

In and Around Las Cruces

Las Cruces has undergone change since 2007, the last time the Greater Las Cruces League hosted the LWVNM Convention. The population of the City of Las Cruces has grown to about 100,000, and Doña Ana County to 209,000. The city is now large enough to support an Olive Garden, three brew pubs, excellent deli's that include McAllisters, Jason's, and Jimmy Johns, Dock Sporting Goods, three Walmarts, a new Convention Center and a renovated Downtown Mall on Main Street between Church and Water Streets.

The Greater Las Cruces League invites you to arrive on Friday evening, May 17, to meet and mingle with other League members at a social event. On Saturday, the Convention starts with registration at noon and a luncheon with speaker at 1 p.m. There is plenty of time in the morning to take in some of the sights. Visit the Saturday morning Farmer's Market held in the Downtown Mall that not only offers crafts, including excellent jewelry, but also a

variety of other booths with a New Mexican flavor. The newly renovated Art and Nature and Science Museums, along with private galleries located on Main Street offer options for cultural experiences. Additionally, the Railroad Museum in the historic district of Pioneer Park is a short drive away. The original Women's Improvement Association building skirts the edge of the park and housed the original organization now known as the Progress Club whose members launched the New Mexico women's suffrage movement.

The historic town of Mesilla located on Avenida de Mesilla and route 28 is a "must see." In addition to its historic plaza with shops, eateries, and the Basilica of San Albino Roman Catholic Church, there are two wineries, St. Claire and Luna Rosa, that offer tasting rooms.

Enjoy the ride south by arriving the day before, stopping at Bosque del Apache on I-25 near Socorro, and enjoying the sights of Las Cruces and the surrounding area.

Return Service Requested

League of Women Voters
New Mexico
2315 San Pedro NE, Suite
F-6
Albuquerque, NM 87110



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