



La Palabra

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Spring 2015

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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.

2015 State Convention Schedule

Friday, May 15

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Reception at the home of

Carol Tucker Trelease
8234 Raintree Dr. NE
See directions on p. 23.

Saturday, May 16

11 a.m. – Noon

Crowne Plaza Hotel

1901 University, N.E.

Registration.

Silent auction begins.

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch with Speaker: Chief

Justice Barbara Vigil,
“Understanding the Judiciary–
The Third, Co-Equal, and Least
Understood Branch of
Government”
Crowne Plaza NM “South”

1:45 – 5:30 p.m.

First Plenary Session

6:00 p.m.

Cash Bar Reception
Crowne Plaza Promenade

7:00 p.m.

Banquet with Speaker:

Martha Burk, Author of
Your Voice, Your Vote
Crowne Plaza Garden Room
\$35 for guests and public.

Sunday, May 17

8 – 8:30 a.m.

Registration

8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Second Plenary Session

10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Silent Auction Ends

1 p.m.

Adjourn

President's Message



The League of Women Voters is a team. I often reflect on what an honor and privilege it is to work with the bright, committed, and talented Board and many wonderful League members. As we prepare for the 2015-17 biennium, we are quite proud of what we've accomplished during the last two years and of our goals for the future. While many residents only know us through our voter guides, candidate forums, and registration drives, state and local governments know that we are monitoring operations to be sure that they are transparent, accountable, and open to public input into decision-making. At the Legislature, we are a major provider of nonpartisan public-policy information on a whole host of issues because our collaboratively reached positions reflect careful study and analysis.

However, we have too many challenges to rest on our laurels. Now-- more than ever-- we need strong, active members to help us further our work as a trusted organization working for the public good. Though we have been bringing greater awareness of the detrimental effects of money in politics, only 36 % of eligible voters turned out for the last election, including only 40% of registered women. Government support of education, health, social services, and safety net programs are at great risk these days. Please join our efforts to increase voter turnout, so that the work of over a hundred years will not fall prey to corporate interests.

Thanks to the Nominating Committee, we have a dynamic incoming Board. Nevertheless, we hope more members will step up in some way to assist the board to achieve strategic priorities. Please let us know your skills and interests and help us be as robust an organization as we can be.

Please join us at Convention to determine LWVNM's focus for the next two years. The LWVNM Board needs members from local Leagues and members at large to provide balanced, factual analyses of issues and to expand our capacity to effectively advocate for good public policies based on our positions.

Join us at Convention for quality networking and continue to participate throughout the year. Our democracy needs you! We will respect your time, knowing that most League members have very busy lives. THANKS!

- Meredith Machen

Local League News

LWVSFC Report

The Santa Fe League has been very busy monitoring local government and taking action on a number of issues. Some highlights include: attending school board meetings on student testing and a recently adopted Education Technology Note; offering testimony at the city's Ethics Commission Review Board; monitoring the establishment and the work of the city's new Independent Redistricting Commission; setting up a meeting with Mayor Gonzales to further discuss transparency issues; receiving a presentation on water by the county; and monitoring a proposed GRT increase in the county.

The Santa Fe League hosted its 2nd Annual Women's History Month Project in collaboration with the Santa Fe Public Schools and the New Mexico History Museum. Nearly thirty career

women mentors were recruited to work with their middle school students at a 2-3 hour mentoring session. Mentors, students, student guests, and Leaguers congregated on March 28 for the Women's History Month Breakfast where architect and designer, Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter (1869-1958), was honored with the 2015 Woman of History Award. La Fonda Hotel owner Jennifer Kimball was on hand to accept the award, as Colter was instrumental in the early design of the hotel. A tour of the new Fred Harvey Collection at the Museum took place at no cost to participants following the event.

To kick off Sunshine Week, the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County and the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government (NMFOG) hosted a session to explore the Interstate Stream Commission's cloudy day decision-making process on the Gila River Diversion. In 2004, U.S. Congress passed the Arizona Water Settlements Act (AWSA), which authorized diversion of the Gila River as one option for New Mexico. New Mexico agreed to pay for the delivery of water from the Colorado River to senior water rights owners in Arizona to replace what the state takes out of the river. In November 2014, the commission voted to move forward with planning for a Gila River diversion project under the AWSA in spite of significant opposition. The decision was reached after a series of closed meetings. Norman Gaume, Director of the Interstate Stream Commission from 1997 to 2002, sued the Interstate Stream Commission in October, alleging the commission violated the Open Meetings Act in its deliberations. The commission has countersued, claiming Gaume intended to hold up a decision that had to be made by a certain date.

-Donna M. Reynolds, President

LWVLA Report

In January, LWVLA, assisted by AAUW, held our annual legislative preview. Joining our legislators were State Representative Jim Smith (R-Bernalillo), speaking about education issues, and Viki Harrison, Executive Director of Common Cause New Mexico, who discussed campaign financing and ethics in government. The League also conducted a forum for the candidates for school board and UNM-Los Alamos Advisory Board in January.

Following an eight-month study and consensus meeting, the LWVLA board adopted a new position on education. The position focuses on communication between the school board and the community. It was reported in both the Los Alamos Monitor and the on-line LA Daily Post.

The League's request last fall that Board of Public Utilities (BPU) meetings be broadcast live and made available through video on demand has been granted. LWVLA and others also requested that the BPU and the County Council find a way to engage the public in a discussion of the future path of our utilities. The BPU has recently appointed a citizen committee to make recommendations regarding a definition of carbon neutrality for the county, future energy generation resources, and a policy toward distributed generation.

Continuing with the bag ban effort, the League co-sponsored an ad about the bane of plastic bags that was shown at the local movie theater during the month leading up to a showing of the film Bag It. The next step is for the Sierra Club and the League to ask the County Council to put the issue on their agenda for discussion.

During a midday County Council meeting in February, LWVLA expressed support for the draft Open Space Management Plan, based on our Environment Position, "The LWVLA supports final review, adoption and implementation of the current draft Open Space Plan, which develops a system of designated open space to protect scenic vistas and memorable landscapes; recreational, natural and cultural resources; and significant wildlife corridors and habitats." Council ran out of time that day but will continue discussion at a future date.

LWVLA's program planning session did not produce any ideas for new local or state studies. Instead, members focused on the need to expand our observer team to monitor more of the activities of the county government and schools so that we can lobby in a timely manner on matters of interest to our members.

-Barbara Calef, President

LWVGLC Report

The Las Cruces League has had quite a good year – we are financially stable, and we increased our membership by 10%, with most of the new members joining during the last couple of months.

We've accomplished a great deal, and we have a lot to be proud of. Here are some highlights of the year.

Our Voter Services team has performed exceptionally. We held three Candidate Forums before the general election and published a Voter Guide. The Voter Guide was so popular that we ran out of copies well before the election. In the future, in addition to publishing the Guide in our local newspaper, we will print several thousand extra copies to distribute in two batches – the first batch in time for early voting, the second batch about 2-3 days before Election Day.

Whether it was a lunch or a late afternoon social, we had good attendance at our monthly membership meetings, on the average better than during the last couple of years. The members seemed very satisfied with our speaker selections.

Our community engagement activities were far-reaching. LWVGLC members attended numerous community meetings, including the School Board, the Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority, the City Council, the County Commission, and a variety of meetings dealing with water issues.

In addition to Voter Services, conducting thoughtful League studies is our most important work. The Voting Impediments study resulted in a recommendation for a revision of the Election Procedures position. The Quality of Life study produced a brand new position that enables the League to advocate on issues that affect the wellbeing of county residents. A mini-study by the Education Committee produced a recommended update to our Education position.

LWVGLC spent considerable effort during this year in establishing contacts with other

organizations. We now have collaborative relationships with the Doña Ana County Bureau of Elections for the development of voter education materials, with CAFé for providing Spanish translation of our Voter Guide and at our Candidate Forums, and with KRWG TV (Public Television), which produces a series of programs dealing with education issues. This series served to bring our League to the attention of the community. Further, the League's 95th Birthday resulted in proclamations by both the City Council and the County Commission, and was covered in both of the local newspapers.

In order to compensate for an insufficient number of "active" members, we have chosen to prioritize our advocacy effort to four major issues: Affordable Housing, Health, Education, and Water. All in all, LWVGLC had a good past year, and looks forward to another productive year starting in May.

-Erika Graf-Webster, President

LWV Central NM

CNM started the year off with structuring a Membership, Leadership and Development program to better showcase our League name and attract new members. We have struggled with developing and sustaining leaders, trying to pique our members' interests. This year we started an Education Group, which is looking into early childhood needs. We also began a Westside unit, hoping to gain working members with an early evening meeting. This unit is striving to stay relevant and stimulating for our members.

We have focused on getting out the vote by registering high school students and speaking to APS transition students about registering to vote. We also continued our work registering new voters at senior centers, farmers' markets, and even at candidate forums.

The League is well known for moderating forums and panels. This awareness brings local educators, issue-oriented organizations, political parties, and ethnic groups to ask for our help in disseminating important information. We have partnered with television stations and radio

stations to broadcast some of these forums. CNM is also sought after to conduct elections for organizations aware that we have the capability of managing the process in a manner that is legal, fair, and impartial.

The Drug Policy Committee of LWVCNM completed the state study and consensus on alcohol. We also joined APD Forward, a coalition of community organizations and individuals, to help facilitate the reform of the Albuquerque Police Department's use of force. The Albuquerque Mayor, the Albuquerque Police Chief, and the Department of Justice are just a few of the many parties involved in this on-going process, which will take years to facilitate.

All in all, our Central New Mexico league has mostly been involved with the basic mission of voting with another focus on gaining new members and developing leaders. We look forward to the year ahead and progressing toward our goals.

-Andrea Targhetta, President

Natural Resources

PNM's SJGS Proposal: Current Status

The PNM proposal to close two units of the San Juan Generating Station (SJGS) and add 132 megawatts of coal plus more nuclear power from Palo Verde (AZ) is still awaiting final action. This may come in April or not. The PRC is now conducting public meetings around the state.

There has been quite a bit of activity and controversy over the PNM proposal and counter proposals. PNM admitted that it made errors in its spreadsheet and that the cost would be significantly higher than they stated in their testimony in January. Several groups that had originally signed onto the PNM proposal (supported by the PRC staff) have pulled out, some because of the added coal and some because of the cost or both. The Farmington utility, the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, Western Resource Advocates, the Renewable Energy Industries Association and the New Mexico Independent Power Producers have all withdrawn or asked the PRC to allow them to withdraw.

The Bernalillo County Commission will consider a resolution to pressure New Mexico Industrial Energy Consumers (members include Intel, UNM and others) to drop out as well. The resolution will be on the agenda in April.

The Coalition for Clean and Affordable Energy has filed a motion to unseal testimony in the case because of statements PNM has made about the number of jobs that would be lost in the Four Corners. Several groups involved had agreed to keep the testimony secret, but CCAE feels PNM has overstated its case in this regard.

The 2015 Legislative Session

Members of the NR committee monitored many natural resource-related bills during the 2015 legislative session. We lobbied and testified on several bills we supported and opposed. Some details can be found in the legislative wrap-up article in this newsletter.

-Judy Williams

LWVNM Nominating Committee Report, 2015-2017

We are happy to report that we have a complete slate of excellent board members for nomination at the May 2015 Convention. Most of the board will stay in place, which will make an experienced and effective board. We also welcome some wonderful new faces (marked with an asterisk below), who will add new skills and interests. Despite having a full slate, we welcome nominations from the floor. Feel free to nominate yourself or others as directors or to participate in committees.

Officers

President	Meredith Machen
Vice-President	Dick Mason
Secretary	Carol Tucker Trelease
Treasurer	Cheryl Haaker

Directors

*Communications	Tarin Nix
Program	Judy Williams
*At Large	Laura Stokes
At Large	Diane Goldfarb
At Large	Lee Lockie
*Webmaster	Akkana Peck

Off Board Positions—elected

Nominating Committee chair and two members: *Peggy Howell, Chair, Becky Shankland, *Ardyth Norem. Two more will be selected later from the board.

Board Positions/Portfolios

Action	Dick Mason and Barbara Calef
Education	Meredith Machen
Health Care	Dick Mason and Judy Williams
Natural Resources	Judy Williams and Barbara Calef
Reproductive Rights	Diane Goldfarb
*Membership	Laura Stokes

Off Board Positions--appointed

La Palabra Editor	Miriam Ries
Voter Services	Meredith Machen
Voter Guide Editor	Meredith Machen, with committee member Lynn Jones and others
Archivist	Barbara Goedecke
Budget Committee	Adair Waldenberg, chair, Erika Graf-Webster; others to be appointed later
Membership and Leadership Development	Linda Moscarella

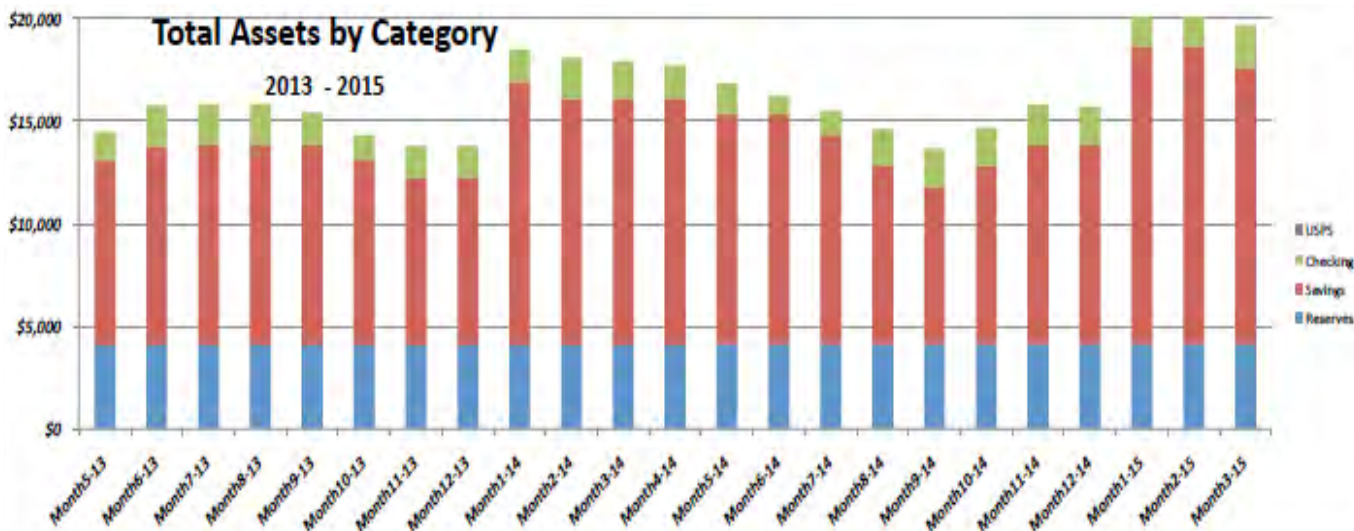
Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee, March 28, 2015
 Rebecca Shankland, Chair rebecca.shankland@gmail.com
 Andrea Targhetta, Diane Goldfarb, Donna Reynolds, and Erika Graf-Webster

	Current Projected expense	Budget 2014-15	Proposed 2015-16	Budgets 2016-17
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
A. Contributions				
From Members	2,000.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Total A. Contributions	2,000.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
B. Fundraising Events/Mailings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C. Local League PMP				
1. Central New Mexico	2,320.50	2,320.50	2,444.00	2,444.00
2. Las Cruces	884.00	884.00	910.00	910.00
3. Los Alamos	780.00	780.00	799.50	799.50
4. Santa Fe	1,287.00	1,287.00	1,274.00	1,274.00
Total C. Local League PMP	5,271.50	5,271.50	5,427.50	5,427.50
D. MAL Dues	0.00	560.00	135.00	135.00
E. Other Income				
1. Special Events	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Interest	4.00	10.00	4.00	6.00
3. Convention Auction	0.00	0.00	700.00	0.00
4. Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total E. Other Income	4.00	10.00	704.00	6.00
I. Grants				
see below	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total I. Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	7,275.50	5,941.50	6,266.50	5,568.50
Expense				
A. Board Administration				
1. Meeting space	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Meeting travel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3. Training	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total A. Board Administration	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B. Delegate expenses				
1. LWVNM Convention	0.00	520.00	200.00	520.00
2. LWVNM Council	250.00	150.00	250.00	150.00
3. LWVUS Convention	1,500.00	2,100.00	1,100.00	2,100.00
4. LWVUS Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total B. Delegate expenses	1,750.00	2,770.00	1,550.00	2,770.00
C. Fundraising expenses				
1. Events	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Mailing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total C. Fundraising expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
D. Member services				
1. MAL services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Newsletter printing	1,028.00	800.00	800.00	400.00
3. Mailing services	140.00	150.00	0.00	0.00
4. Newsletter Postage	320.00	200.00	50.00	50.00
5. Newsletter editor's expenses	65.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
6. Membership development	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7. MAL PMP	573.50	573.50	96.00	99.00
Total D. Member services	2,124.50	1,748.50	971.00	574.00

	Current Proposed Expense	Budget 2014-15	Proposed 2015-16	Budgets 2016-17
E. Operating expenses				
1. Office use	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
2. Office supplies	96.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3a. Constant Contact suppo	294.00	200.00	300.00	300.00
4. Postage - stamps	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6. Website	0.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
7. Copying	0.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
8. Insurance	425.00	425.00	425.00	425.00
9. Miscellaneous	0.00	60.00	60.00	50.00
Total E. Operating expenses	1,415.00	1,325.00	1,425.00	1,415.00
F. Program - Advocacy				
1. League Day	120.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
2. Position support	0.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
3. State Studies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4. Legislative Reception	215.00	858.00	500.00	500.00
Total F. Program - Advocacy	335.00	1,108.00	750.00	750.00
G. Grants to Local Leagues				
1. Voters' Guide Support	0.00			
Total G. Grants to Local Leagues	0.00			
H. Voter Services				
1. Other??	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Newspaper ads	100.00	600.00	0.00	600.00
Total H. Voter Services	100.00	600.00	0.00	600.00
Total Expense	5,724.50	7,551.50	4,696.00	6,109.00
Net Income/Loss	1,551.00	-1,610.00	1,570.50	-540.50

- Notes:
1. The PAVP grant has a balance of \$1054. This budget assumes that we use \$500 for each to the two years to cover the legislative reception.
 2. There will be unspent money this year thanks to the one-time donation. These funds can be used in future years.
 3. We continue to assume we cannot afford the costs of LWVUS Council.
 4. Consistent with the budget approved last year, we propose that MAL dues increase to \$45 beginning with 2015-16. We assume PMP will go up to \$33 beginning 2016-17.

LWVNM Treasurer’s Report of Assets



What’s Happening with MLD (Membership and Leadership Development)?

Something new: The LWVUS has been having some good results from social media efforts. For instance, they have experienced significant increase in donors and non-members taking action through the League, using social media. Now the national board is considering how to maintain, utilize and grow this segment of the “engaged public.” One thing this says is that a new population is taking action with the League. It may change how the League views Membership and Leadership Development. This is something you will hear more about at Convention from our LWVUS liaison, Linda Wassenich.

Something old: The Bellingham/Whatcom League has been having a phenomenal leadership growth using more traditional methods. They kept League brochures in their purses. They enlisted membership “ambassadors” to welcome all guests, especially newer members at all general meetings. Congratulations to CNM, which is working on a similar program. My favorite idea of theirs: A letter was sent to over 100 women who had made a difference in the community, thanking them for their service and asking them to bring their skills to the League. That’s creative.

The MLD staff sends out guidance every month, usually timed to the local League calendar. This March they focused on building a “leaderful” organization. They quote Northeastern University professor, Joseph Raelin ‘Our knowledge-based organizations will require that everyone share the experience of serving as a leader, not sequentially, but concurrently and collectively. In other words, leaders will serve at the same time and all together.’ Or, if we look at this in terms of our Appreciative Leadership framework, we are releasing individuals to contribute where their interests and natural leadership abilities are around any given situation. This is timely now, as local Leagues elect new boards. New board members, think of yourselves as leaderful - each one of you.

-Linda Moscarella
Membership/ Leadership Development Coach

The 2015 Legislative Session Wrap Up

There was much publicity about the partisan bickering in the 2015 New Mexico Legislative Session. Despite that bickering, the session was quite successful from a LWVNM perspective. In every session the League has two overarching goals: to defeat the bills we oppose and to pass those we support.

Let's start with the legislation the League opposed. The Legislature did not pass mandatory photo ID for voting, or any of the three anti-choice bills, or repeal of driver's licenses for undocumented. Bills that would pre-empt local ability to enact ordinances for mining, oil and gas drilling, agriculture and other activities were successfully beaten back. With the exception of a relatively harmless Senate Memorial, the Legislature did not pass any of the legislation we opposed.

The Legislature did pass a number of bills that the LWVNM supported. As we go to press it is important to note that so far the Governor has not acted on any of those bills, but she has until April 10th to sign legislation into law. Let's look at the legislation that passed:

Voting and Elections – SB643, a bill that enables on-line voter registration and a number of improvements that will increase the integrity of the voter registration rolls. The bill had bipartisan support and was also supported by the Secretary of State. This is big step forward.

Ethics and Transparency – HB 155 requires additional information from paid lobbyists and SB 537 posts information about government contracts on the New Mexico Sunshine Portal.

Education – HB 2, the General Appropriation Act, passed and included funding for public schools of approximately \$2.75 billion, including \$2.5 billion to be distributed according to the State Equalization Guarantee ("above the line" formula funding). The Legislature also approved some supplemental funding for training, preparation, recruitment, and retention of teachers and school leaders as well as for college preparation, career readiness, and dropout prevention programs. In addition, it passed a couple of bills that will provide greater oversight of charter schools and legislation that allows for alternative ways of achieving administrative licensure and for teachers licensed elsewhere to be licensed to teach in New Mexico.

Health Care-- SB 323 creates a website that will show hospital quality indicators and prices.

Natural Resources – SB 296 extends the solar energy installation credit to 2016 and Senate Memorial 29 calls for a study of natural gas flaring and venting. One result of the study could be a requirement that oil and gas drillers capture and use the methane for energy production. The League supported HB 38, which provides recurring funding for forest and watershed restoration. It also would have created a board to recommend best practices and oversee projects. The bill was amended on the Senate floor to make the board advisory only and eliminate its staff. All power will reside with EMNRD. It was also amended to reduce the numbers of conservation and other non-state representatives. The final is not the same bill we supported.

There were a number of League priority bills that didn't fare so well in the session:

HB115 would have set up an independent State Ethics Commission, but failed to get through the session, leaving New Mexico as one of eight states without a review board. HB278 would have required public officials to wait for two years before they could become paid lobbyists. SB55 would have allowed Medicaid providers accused of fraud to get due process protections. Bills to raise the minimum wage failed along partisan lines.

Legislation failed that would have supported early education and literacy programs with the potential to improve student opportunities and outcomes.

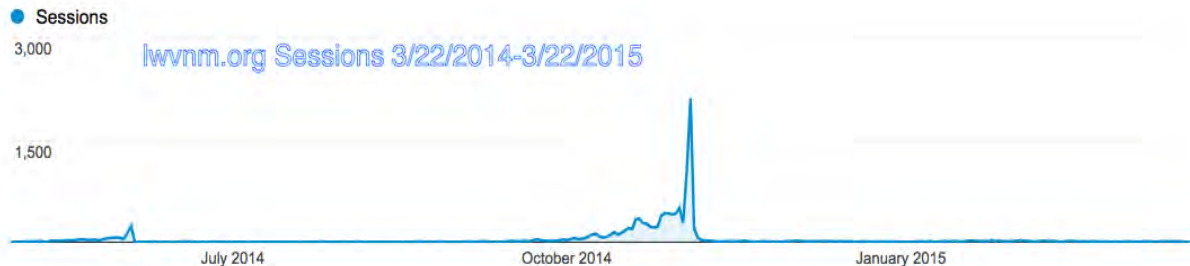
The Legislature passed a state budget without very much controversy, but the Capital Outlay budget fell prey to last minute partisan bickering and was not passed. Overall, when you consider what did and did not pass, it was a successful legislative session for the League.

Dick Mason, Action Chair

Technology Report, FY 2014-15

Cheryl Haaker

Website: As usual, the **lwvnm.org** website saw light usage unless it was election time. The year-long graph below shows big peaks at the statewide primary and general elections.



It is to be expected that website usage will increase in FY 2015-16, when a new (more enthusiastic and competent) webmaster, Akkana Peck, will be taking over. Get back into the habit of checking out **lwvnm.org!**

Email distribution lists: Membership in the two LWVNM listservs, **Topics** and **Action**, remains low. There are currently 63 members in **Topics** and 63 in **Action**. Apparently, most League members don't know how to get onto either list or whom to contact for help. Here's the secret:

Join the List!

To subscribe to the "**LWVNM Topics**" mailing list. If you want to keep tabs on statewide issues, this is a helpful (low-volume) list, just send an email to

lwvnmtopics-subscribe@yahoogroups.com,

When you get an email back from the list, hit your "reply" button, and you'll be in.

To subscribe to the "Action" mailing list (also low-volume), the subscribe address is

lwvnmaction-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

The process is the same.

Program/Proposed Studies

Studies

The state studies adopted at the 2013 Convention have all been completed. For the next biennium the LWVNM Board recommends a study of the regulation of charter schools in New Mexico. A study not recommended by the board may be presented on the first day of Convention if it has been submitted at least three weeks prior to the Convention. The submission must include the name of the study leader as well as the scope and objectives.

LWVNM Board Recommended Study – Charter Schools

The League and the public need to better understand the use of public funds that are allocated to charter school operations. The study will examine these financial issues and how well charter schools align with the New Mexico Constitutional mandate for a uniform, high quality free public school system. LWVUS has a position on guidelines for privatization, but it provides no guidance on the privatization of education. The number of charter schools has increased, leaving inadequate funding for traditional schools; however, there has been little public discussion of this development.

Please contact Meredith Machen, Charter School Study Chair, for more information at president@lwvnm.org. A more detailed proposal will be presented on May 16.

LWVNM Positions

Several positions have been revised or added since the 2013 Convention. See below for further information.

The Alcohol position was adopted by consensus following a two-year study.

Alcohol (Adopted by Board 2014)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico believes that alcohol abuse is a public health issue and can be most effectively approached as such.

To address the impact of alcohol abuse, the League supports the following:

- raising taxes on the sale of alcohol. Research has shown increasing taxes is the single most effective way to reduce death, harm, and costs associated with alcohol abuse.
- dedicating all funds raised by increasing taxes on alcohol to treatment and prevention programs. No taxes on alcohol should be distributed to the New Mexico General fund.
- giving a high priority to screening and treatment solutions for alcohol abuse.
- consolidating prevention programs to make better use of limited resources.
- increasing the emphasis on community after-school services and supervision programs for minors. enacting laws making consumption of alcohol by minors illegal except under the supervision of their parents.

The League's priorities for taking action to reduce alcohol abuse are

1. establishing education and prevention programs, especially for minors.
2. developing and funding well-organized, efficient, and effective treatment programs with dedicated revenue streams.
3. increasing parental responsibility by means of education and social responsibility laws.

*The Children and Families (formerly Juvenile Justice) position was revised to reflect current practice. **Children and Families** (Adopted 1977; Revised 1978, 1979, 1985, 1993, 1995, 2003; Revised and adopted by Board 2015)*

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico believes that our state has no resource of greater importance than its children. Programs, personnel and facilities that promote and encourage the child's fullest development must be a high priority within the private sector as well as in city, county and state governments.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico believes that social, economic and legal concerns must be interconnected for the fair and equitable treatment of all children.

The League of Women Voters supports a continuum of services that is available to all children and their families.

The programs in the continuum should include, but not be limited to: prevention; intervention, family support, education, enhancement of physical, emotional, and social well-being; substitute care; and juvenile justice programs. The programs and associated services in the continuum should be community-based wherever feasible.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports the establishment of rigorous standards for all facilities serving children and youth and the development of clear professional guidelines for all staff members. Programs should include but not be restricted to

Physical and emotional health and well-being

- Crisis intervention services available locally
- Community diagnostic and/or evaluation procedures

Substitute Care (out of home care)

- Carefully supervised crisis shelter care that would separate neglected and abused children from juvenile offenders.
- Provision of group homes, residential treatment centers, foster and therapeutic foster homes

Family Support

- Community-based programs for intervention and diversion. Services should include family, individual and group counseling and therapy, youth advocacy and referrals
- Parenting education
- Family crisis and domestic relations intervention.

Juvenile Justice

- Trained and qualified judges, police, probation personnel, lawyers, providers, appointed advocates and others in the juvenile justice system.
- Local forensic diagnostic and/or evaluation services.
- Treatment programs to meet identified needs.
- Development and support of alternatives to incarceration through community-based programs with emphasis on diversion and reintegration separate from correctional facilities.
- Due process and legal representation at all stages of the child's contact with the law.
- Provision of legal and safe detention accommodations for all juveniles in custody.
- Monitoring of substitute care through Citizens Review Boards and Court Appointed Special Advocates.

- Education provided for all youth in the juvenile justice system.

The Education position has been extensively revised to concur with the new position that was adopted by the Greater Las Cruces League after extensive study.

Education (Adopted 1987; revised 1995, 2009; extensively revised and adopted by Board through concurrence, 2015)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico (LWVNM) believes that education is the cornerstone for perpetuating a strong and viable democracy. The public education system should impart to all students an understanding of the nature of democracy and the responsibilities of citizenship, the ability to think critically, and the skills necessary to continue to learn and function as adults in a complex society.

The League supports public schools as the primary method of educating students. The League opposes the presence of private, for-profit companies in the governance, management and provision of public education.

LWVNM supports the following strategies to ensure the greatest possible academic success for all students:

School System Practices for Student Success:

1. Use the Common Core State Standards to provide a framework for knowledge and academic skills for all students, accompanied by flexibility for local school systems to determine how this body of knowledge and skills is imparted to students.
2. Develop to each student's highest potential the mastery of knowledge and skills needed for success in adult life, along with a broad understanding and appreciation of past history and prospects for the future.
3. Cultivate each student's capacity to solve problems and make decisions.
4. Provide opportunities for all students to develop their aesthetic awareness and creative abilities.
5. Foster an awareness of the rights and privileges of membership in a democratic society, and acceptance of the responsibilities involved.
6. Foster an understanding of basic economic principles and the need to manage resources for the benefit of both present and future generations.
7. Provide the tools to make wise vocational choices, as well as an understanding of the importance of each individual's work in the local, national, and world economies.
8. Promote practices that lead to physical, mental and emotional well-being.
9. Enhance the sense of community within the school, as a microcosm of the larger society, through standards of conduct that reflect a concern for the opinions, values, aspirations, and well-being of all.
10. Develop the critical thinking and problem-solving skills of students through experiential-based learning. Also, use technology for self-paced learning.
11. Maintain health and social service teams in the schools to identify and work with at-risk children and their parents or caregivers, with referrals to appropriate community agencies when necessary.

Community Involvement:

1. Collaborate across all sectors of the community to improve public education at all levels.
2. Seek business initiatives offering work schedules that support student attendance at school.
3. Create incentives to encourage students to develop career skills and graduate from high school.
4. Institute programs that increase involvement of parents of all socioeconomic groups in the education of their children at all grade levels.

Early Childhood Education:

Secure collaboration among a broad base of community organizations, social service agencies and the local school system to enhance the development of children from birth to age five to prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Evaluation of Teachers, Students and School Performance:

1. Student evaluation should focus on student academic progress rather than rigid standards of proficiency.
2. Student testing should be used for the purpose of enabling teachers to create timely teaching strategies for the best possible student academic achievement.
3. Implement measures to improve the preparation, recruitment, professional development, and retention of quality educators.
4. Teacher performance evaluations should demonstrate the teacher's in-depth knowledge in core academic subjects and pedagogy.
5. Teacher evaluations should be based on achievement of the goals in their performance evaluation plan, significant classroom observations, and some consideration of the overall student academic progress in the classroom.

Termination of teachers and principals should follow a due process procedure when they do not meet minimum standards.

Assessment of the school and teacher performance should demonstrate the overall quality of the education provided to the students and improvements in student academic growth as measured by multiple methods, not solely standardized tests.

Funding for Public Education (Adopted 1973; revised 1983, 1993, 2002, 2007), Revised and adopted by Board through concurrence, 2015)

1. A broadly based distribution formula should be used that takes into consideration differences in student need, teacher experience and qualification, the number of schools and students in a district, level of education, capital outlay, and transportation.
 2. Programs that foster children's language development, from birth to age 5, for success in kindergarten and beyond should be adequately funded.
 3. The New Mexico Funding Formula should be used to achieve equality and to provide fair funding for every child based on need, regardless of location. There should be periodic review and modifications to assure that the formula is faithful to its original intention.
 4. Funding formulas should provide for a high quality education for all students and be consistently and fairly applied across the state.
 5. Local school districts should control the funds distributed to them by the state.
 6. The financial impact on traditional public schools must be evaluated before charters are granted or renewed.
 7. Funding to state-chartered schools should minimize the amount allocated for-profit management and business operations with oversight provided by state-approved auditors.
- All state and federal mandates should be funded so as not to place an undue burden on the local school system.

The Drug Policy position was revised to align with the national position.

Drug Policy (Adopted 1984; revised 2002, 2003, 2007; Revision adopted by Board 2015)

The term "drug" is meant to include all addictive drugs, including alcohol. The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports

1. Drug court programs;

2. Treatment for all persons with drug addiction;
 3. Syringe exchange programs in the State of New Mexico;
 4. Rehabilitation programs;
 5. Public education programs;
 6. Close cooperation between tribal, local and state officials; and
- Adequate funding for enforcement, rehabilitation and education programs. These programs should be prudently and appropriately funded.

The League opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses. In general, alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime.

The Judiciary position was revised to reflect current practice.

The Judiciary (Adopted 1962; revised 1987; Revision adopted by Board 2015)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports a unified court system, adequately financed, with centralized administration and fiscal control achieved through:

1. Selection of judges of the higher courts by a method similar to the American Bar Association Plan which proposes that judges be appointed by the governor from a screened list submitted from a non-partisan nominating commission and be subject, at intervals, to election for retention or rejection. Adequate personnel for all courts.

For several years there has been a discussion among state and local Leagues about reducing poverty in our communities. At the national convention last June, there was an unsuccessful effort to adopt the LWV Kansas position on the living wage by concurrence. Some delegates found the Kansas position too restrictive because it addresses only the wages of government employees and workers for businesses receiving government funds. Working from a position adopted by the Boulder County, CO League in December, the LWVNM Board adopted the following position by concurrence at the January 17, 2015 meeting. That action enabled us to lobby for an increase in the minimum wage during the 2015 legislative session.

Living Wage (Adopted by Board through concurrence, 2015)

LWVNM believes that alleviating poverty is the shared responsibility of government, employers, individuals, and non-profit assistance organizations. All sectors should be involved in setting an adequate minimum wage or living wage. The living wage is the minimum required to avoid poverty without government assistance and subsidies. The living wage (gross income) should cover the costs of food, clothing, housing, energy, transportation, health care, K-12 education, child-care, taxes (income, Social Security), and supplemental expenses for work and school.

The LWVNM supports the passage by the state legislature of a minimum wage law tied to the cost of living and also supports the passage of minimum wage ordinances by local governments, if they perceive a need.

The new Natural Resources position was adopted by concurrence following three years of study and discussion about land use. It includes the 2010 Water Supply position, not printed here.

Natural Resources (Adopted 1976; revised 1987; extensively revised and adopted by Board through concurrence 2014)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico believes that government should promote and ensure

responsible stewardship of our natural, human, and cultural resources, particularly in the face of growth and development. An essential prerequisite for protecting our resources is to require comprehensive analysis of the environmental and fiscal impacts of applications before issuing a development permit.

Environmental Justice

The League believes that government must conduct its programs, policies, and activities in a manner that promotes equity and affords fair treatment, accessibility, and protection for all residents, regardless of race, age, culture, income, or geographic location.

Land Use

The League finds that the responsible management of our land is critically important to ensure the long-term health and well-being of all New Mexicans, to protect the resilience of our urban and rural communities, and to preserve habitats and natural landscapes for the continued viability of all species. The League further notes that land use is inextricably linked with other important issues such as water, energy, food, transportation, air quality, and climate change. Strategic planning at the local, regional, and state levels must not consider land use in isolation. Government subsidies for development should only be approved when the benefit to society justifies the full cost and outweighs any detriment to the natural environment.

The League believes that, as the responsible steward of our land use resources, state government should

1. revise land use planning, zoning, and subdivision statutes to better protect our natural resources;
2. provide oversight, technical assistance, and funding to ensure that all communities are able to comply with comprehensive planning requirements;
3. require comprehensive planning by local governments that is
 - i. updated on a regular basis;
 - ii. consistent with regional water plans;
 - iii. implemented by zoning and subdivision ordinances;
4. ensure coordination among key state agencies responsible for stewardship of our state's resources;
5. improve communication and coordination between Native American communities and federal, state and local governments in New Mexico;
6. encourage local communities to enact measures to conserve energy, integrate transportation planning, consider availability of water and other resources;
7. protect the quality of the environment for people of all economic levels;
8. preserve open space and natural habitat for wildlife by identifying and regulating areas of critical concern including fragile areas, wildlife corridors, historic areas, riparian habitats, and natural hazard lands.

Transparency and public participation in decision-making must be part of the process at all levels of government.

A substantial portion of the land in New Mexico is controlled by the State Land Office (SLO). The LWVNM believes that the SLO should practice transparency and accountability in its actions and should include local communities in decision-making. The State Legislature should ensure that the State Land Commissioner has the support needed to maximize profits and minimize administrative costs, while protecting the environment and preserving the long-term value of the land.

Transportation

The League believes it is important to integrate transportation into land use planning. To reduce vehicle miles traveled, it is essential to encourage alternatives to the single occupant vehicle. Thus, the League supports government decisions to

1. improve public access to integrated mass transit systems, especially to link workplace and neighborhood destinations;

2. improve public access to alternative forms of transportation such as cycling and walking. The League calls for government agencies responsible for transportation planning to reach out to the general public to improve public participation in transportation-related decisions. All future road projects should take into account the needs of all people.

Agriculture

LWVNM recognizes the vital contribution that New Mexico farmers and ranchers make to our health and welfare by supplying us with food and promoting a vibrant economy for the state. LWVNM urges the state to work with the industry to promote research and education about more sustainable agricultural practices. As stewards of our natural and human resources, we must preserve healthy local ecosystems for future generations.

The LWVNM urges the State of New Mexico to

1. provide training programs on sustainable farming and ranching practices;
2. provide assistance to institutions of higher learning within the state to integrate sustainable agricultural practices into their curriculum;
3. regulate the management of livestock and crops to prevent contamination of soil, air, and water;
4. encourage farmers and ranchers to cooperate with wildlife managers to actively preserve and restore riparian habitat and natural stream flows;
5. provide more funding for the Cooperative Extension Service for the support of local agriculture.

Air Quality

The League supports programs that protect clean air. Effective air pollution controls should be implemented for both stationary and mobile sources of emissions.

The New Mexico Environment Department is the chief regulatory agency responsible for air quality protection in the state. It is important that the public has access to the regulation development process and that the subsequent permitting and enforcement ensure that air quality is protected from deterioration. Permitting and enforcement must be performed in a transparent manner.

Waste Management

The League supports policies that

1. reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of waste materials;
2. ensure safe treatment, transportation, storage and disposal of materials that cannot be re-used or recycled in order to protect public health and natural resources;
3. involve state and local governments and citizens in the consideration of proposals for treatment, storage, disposal and transportation of materials;
4. ensure that the full cost of remediation is borne by those who cause the pollution.

Climate Change

The scientific evidence is clear that our climate is changing and that human activities resulting in the emission of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases are significant factors in the heating of the planet. The League supports policies and incentives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions by promoting greater energy efficiency; by developing clean, renewable energy sources; and by encouraging further research on alternatives to the combustion of fossil fuels for energy. Industries in New Mexico should be required to pursue carbon reduction strategies. The League also believes that government should educate the public about how to reduce individual carbon footprints and should offer incentives to do so.

Energy and Mining

The League supports

1. environmentally sound resource extraction, power production and transmission;
2. strong measures to promote conservation of energy and water;
3. rigorous regulation and enforcement to prevent mining and drilling activities from contaminating surface or ground water or the surrounding landscape;
4. taxes on resource extraction and energy development in order to assist communities with associated infrastructure costs;
5. adequate bonding or other financial guarantees for mining and drilling activities to fund clean-up operations in the event of abandonment by companies.

Water Quality

The League supports stringent regulations to protect ground and surface water quality from pollution that can impact human health as well as the natural flora and fauna. Such regulations must be strictly enforced.

The State Finance position was revised by the LWVNM Board with the addition of the underlined sentence because the Alcohol Study concluded that raising the tax on alcohol is an effective way to reduce alcohol abuse.

State Finance (Adopted 1971; revised 1975, 1983, 1989, 2014)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico believes that a fair tax must be

1. equitable, taking into consideration relevant differences between persons, such as their annual income
2. certain, not arbitrary
3. convenient with respect to timing and manner of payment
4. economical to collect
5. adequate to finance the essentials of government.

The tax system in New Mexico should be progressive. LWVNM may support taxes that are regressive if it is determined that the tax will achieve a socially desirable objective.

In evaluating the average burden of taxation within the state, taxes should be compared with income of New Mexico residents; in comparing the burden of taxation in New Mexico with the burden imposed by other states, state and local taxes should be combined.

Tax credits and/or deductions should be evaluated based on promotion of equity and the efficiency with which they achieve their purpose.

Tax credits may be a means of providing relief from the regressive nature of the sales and property tax.

*-Judy Williams
Program Director*

Proposed Changes to Bylaws

Article V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS (STATE BOARD)

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office. The board of directors shall be members of LWVNM and shall consist of the officers of the LWVNM, not more than six elected directors, not more than six appointed directors, and the presidents of local Leagues and MAL units. The ~~[elected]~~ directors ~~[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. The appointed directors shall be appointed by the state board as ad hoc directors as the need arises in relationship to projects adopted by the state board, and shall serve until the project is completed or dropped or until a replacement is secured in case of resignation, illness or other causes(s). Presidents of local Leagues shall serve during their term of office and may serve in other capacities on the state board. While serving on the board, the ad hoc directors and the presidents shall have full voting rights.

ARTICLE IX. COUNCIL

Article IX. Council

New Section 3. Qualifications of Delegates and Voting Members. Each delegate shall be a voting member of the League in the state of New Mexico. Each delegate representing a local League shall be entitled to vote only if that League has met its per member payment responsibilities to LWVNM. The state board may make an exception in the case of proven hardship. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote only at the Council even though the delegate may be attending in two or more capacities. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The Council shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Section ~~[3-]~~ 4. Powers. The Council shall give guidance to the board on program and methods of work. The Council is authorized to change the program only in the event of an emergency, ~~[provided;]~~ using the following procedure:

(a) At least eight weeks prior to the Council meeting any local League proposing a change shall submit it to the state board, which shall decide whether to recommend it.

(b) At least six weeks prior to the Council meeting, the state board shall send to the presidents of local Leagues all proposed changes.

(c) Any change proposed by a local League but not recommended by the state board shall first require a majority vote of the Council for consideration.

(d) A two-thirds vote of the Council shall be required to adopt any change. ~~[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.]~~

(e)The Council shall confirm or modify the budget for the ensuing year and shall transact such other business as shall be presented by the state board.

New Section 5. Special Council Meeting. In the event of an emergency, the state board may call a special meeting of the Council. A formal call specifying purpose, time and place shall be issued to local presidents and MAL units at least 30 days in advance.

ARTICLE XI. PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

Section 2. Program. The program of LWVNM shall consist of action to implement the Principles and those governmental issues chosen by the Convention for concerted study or concurrence and action as follows:

(a.) The boards of local Leagues, LWVNM committees, and state MAL units may make recommendations for ~~[a]~~ program, including amendment of a state League position or adoption of a position by concurrence. Recommendations must be sent to the state board at least ~~[two months]~~ ten weeks prior to the Convention.

(b.) The state board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program, which shall be sent to the membership at least 30 days prior to the Convention.

New (c.) Any local League, LWVNM committee, or the state board, planning to propose the amendment of a state League position or adoption of a position by concurrence shall send background information, including pros and cons on the issue and an explanation of the rationale of using that form of member agreement, to all Leagues at least thirty days before convention.

(d.) The Convention shall adopt a program by a majority vote on each subject presented to it.

(e.) A Program recommendation properly submitted by a local League, LWVNM committee, or by a state MAL unit at least ~~[three weeks]~~ ten weeks prior to Convention but not proposed by the state board may be so considered only if it is ordered by a majority vote of the Convention and the vote on adoption comes on a following day. Adoption of any such recommendation will require a two-thirds vote.

Section 3. Program Action

(a.) The state board shall have power to request emergency concurrence action. Requests for emergency concurrence may be initiated by local Leagues or by state board. State board shall establish procedures for emergency concurrence action.

New (b.) After the LWVNM board approves a new or amended position for inclusion in the program, it becomes the LWVNM's position and basis for action on the issue. Changes to the position may be made by the Convention according to the procedures described in ARTICLE XIV.

Article XIV. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any Convention by a two-thirds vote provided that the proposed amendment was submitted to the state board at least ~~[two months]~~ ten weeks prior to the Convention by a local League board, state MAL unit or has been proposed by the state board. The state board shall send all such proposed amendments together with the recommendations of the board to the membership at least 30 days prior to the Convention.

**2015 LWVNM Convention
May 16-17 Albuquerque, NM
Registration Form**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Check One Only:

Delegate _____ State Board _____ MAL Rep. _____ Observer _____

Registration Fee:

Only Observers will pay the registration fee; delegates from local Leagues, the State Board, and the MAL representative will have their registrations paid by their local Board.

Early registration (if postmarked by April 20, 2015) \$65.00 _____

Opening luncheon buffet included in registration

After April 20, 2015 registration increases to \$70.00

Saturday Banquet @ \$35.00

Select meal choice: Pork Chop _____ Butternut squash ravioli _____

Guest Meals: _____ Number guests Opening lunch @ \$25.00 ea. _____

_____ Number guests Banquet @ \$35.00 ea. _____

Guest meal choice: Pork chop _____ Squash ravioli _____

(Add lines for additional guests)

Post-Convention meeting of new LWVNM Board:

_____ Board Member box lunch @ \$20.00 _____

Select sandwich: Veggie wrap _____ Roast beef _____ Turkey _____

AND Select either Cookie _____ Whole fruit _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Mail registration form and check payable to *LWVCNM* to:

League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico

2315 San Pedro NE, Ste. F-6

Albuquerque, NM 87110.

Questions? Call the office 505-884-8441 or Andrea Targhetta 505-280-8892.

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1901 University Blvd NE, Tel: 1-877-227-6963

Directions: From the North - Take Exit 226 from I-25. Keep on frontage road. Turn east (L) on Menaul. Continue to University and turn south (R). The hotel will be on the right. From the South: Take Exit 224, drive under I-40 and make a right on Menaul. Turn right on University. The hotel will be on your right.

Room Reservations: A special rate of \$79.00/night plus tax is available for May 15-17. Book by April 17 at www.Crowneplaza.com/Albuquerque Reservation Code: LWV.

LWVNM Convention Reception

Friday, May 15, 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Friday evening May 15, 2015 from 5:30 to 7:30, there will be a casual reception at the home of Carol Tucker Trelease for all League members and guests. Check into the hotel and come to this event. We are looking forward to visiting with everyone. Come early, stay late and enjoy the company!

Directions to 8234 Raintree Dr. NE:

From the Crowne Plaza Hotel to San Bernardino Dr. turn right on University Blvd and drive under I-40, turn left to enter I-40 East, towards the mountains. Exit at Tramway Blvd, turning left onto Tramway. Go north to San Bernadino Dr.

From Santa Fe to San Bernardino Dr.: Exit at Paseo del Norte and go east. Turn right onto Tramway Blvd NE. Go south to San Bernadino Dr.

From Las Cruces to San Bernardino Dr.: Exit onto I-40 East, towards the mountains. Exit at Tramway Blvd turning left onto Tramway. Going north to San Bernadino Dr.

From San Bernardino Dr. to Carol's house at 8234 Raintree Dr. NE: Turn east on San Bernadino (towards the mountains). You will be entering Quail Ridge subdivision. Make a left (north) onto Indigo and then turn right (east) on Raintree Dr. You will be facing 8234, which is at the end of the street.

2015 Silent Auction Fundraiser

Time to polish and shine those auction items to bring to Convention! Please turn in your silent auction items in good condition first thing on Saturday, May 16. Bidding will continue through much of Sunday morning, culminating in picking up your winning treasures after the last session. Come bid on items for yourself or your house and get gifts for your family, friends, and special occasions. Items not sold must be taken home by those who brought them. Thank you for supporting your state League.

LWVUS Liaison Linda Wassenich Addresses Delegates

In this interactive session, let's talk about new ways people are involving themselves with the League, improvements to the member website, management system, and forums; initiatives to make LWVUS positions more flexible in their applications to state and local issues; what the League is doing to fight voter suppression; and more.

Linda has been a League member since 1970. She is a multi-issue person, with health care and education her main policy interests. Prior to becoming a LWVUS Board member and liaison to New Mexico, Louisiana, and South Carolina, she served as president of LWV-Dallas and on the LWV-TX board. She holds an MSW and is a professional fundraiser.



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

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