



La Palabra

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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.

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President's Corner



A friend recently sent me a message with a quotation from Howard Zinn, author of the award-winning classic [A People's History of the United States](#). How different this history textbook was in forming my millennial daughter's understanding of the world from the books I studied. It wasn't until the 60's that I realized that history was more than memorizing the dates of wars and cataclysms; I learned to ponder the hows and whys of social movements and their long-lasting effects on the present and future.

Zinn's words confirm my hopes and appreciation for being part of the League at this time. "The struggle for justice should never be abandoned because of the apparent overwhelming power of those who have the guns and the money and who seem invincible in their determination to hold onto it. That apparent power has, again and again, proved vulnerable to moral fervor, determination, unity, organization, sacrifice, wit, ingenuity, courage, and patience." The activism growing around the country is changing many people's thoughts and awakening hearts and minds. Intense engagement has replaced apathy and cynicism. Interest and appreciation of the delicate balance of power provided by the three branches of government seem greater now than at any other time in my lifetime, including the Civil Rights era and the Vietnam War.

The challenge to obtain factual information has become greater due to the ideological bent of much of the media. However, New Mexico League members and our colleagues around the country have stepped up responsibly to bring people with diverse viewpoints together in a civil manner to find common ground for problem solving. As state president, I have been privileged to work with exceptionally intelligent and caring individuals. We are witnessing a dramatic change within our organization, at the national, state, and

local levels. When advocating for our priorities at the Legislature, we have strangers stop and thank us for speaking out. When conducting forums, we are often thanked by candidates for providing a platform for civil discourse where opponents may develop respect for differing perspectives.

I think back to the Cold War and the fall of the Berlin Wall, when a power that seemed so invincible crumbled. I believe our work along with that of many enlightened individuals is ushering in a deeper commitment to the values of democracy. We are building a stronger present and future. Together, we stand up and speak out against threats to the safety nets and values that our forebears fought for and sometimes died for. We pledge to do our very best to keep power in the hands of the public. Thank you for all you are doing to make the world a better place for the younger generation and generations to come.

**Do what you feel in your heart
to be right, for you'll be criticized
anyway.**

-Eleanor Roosevelt

-Meredith Machen



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lwnmactionssubscribe@yahogroups.com

When you get an email back from the list, hit your "reply" button, and you'll be in. Only use "Reply" if you want everyone on the list to see your post; otherwise, just copy and paste the email address of the person to whom you are replying. Please be careful to post non-partisan messages of general interest only.

Thank you for your interest and cooperation.



Local League News

LWV Central NM

LWVCNM has dedicated resources to numerous Voter Services and Election activities this winter. The APS/CNM Election 2/7/17 included 4 districts with 24 candidates. Five CNM District candidates were also elected on the February ballot. CNM sponsored debates and posted questions with candidate responses on the CNM website for voter information.

The APD Forward Coalition met with newly elected District Attorney Raul Torrez in December to inquire about his plans for law enforcement related cases. Mr. Torrez discussed the Special Prosecutions of officer involved shootings. He indicated that both investigation and prosecution should be independent, as the DA's office frequently interacts with APD officers, thereby hindering impartiality.

Diane Goldfarb and Andrea Targhetta of LWVCNM participated in the Million Women's March in Washington, DC on January 21. Albuquerque organizations held a concurrent rally at Civic Center Plaza where LWVCNM participated and registered twelve new voters.

LWVCNM published the Who's Who directory of elected officials with an initial printing of 3,000 copies. Margaret Krahenbuhl prepared the Who's Who and will order an additional 3,000 copies, incorporating the February APS/CNM election results.

January 2017 Unit Meeting presentations included former Chief Deputy Attorney General Stuart Bluestone, JD, who discussed ethics in state government. Sandra Fish, *NM in Depth* journalist, introduced the "Openness Project" to NE Heights Unit attendees. Both Mr. Bluestone and Ms. Fish were recipients of Common Cause "Best in Government" Awards.

At the annual LWVCNM Program Planning meeting, members discussed five issues for potential studies or other actions to strengthen

existing League positions and member knowledge. The issues discussed included:

Ethics Improprieties – The members decided existing positions would adequately address most situations.

Law Enforcement Conflicts – Suggested actions included collaboration with Leagues in other impacted communities (Pittsburgh, New Orleans, Detroit, Seattle, Chicago, and Baltimore), a community forum sponsored by LWVCNM, and Albuquerque Civilian Police Oversight Agency speakers.

Nuclear Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel storage – CNM recommended a state study of Natural Resources/Nuclear Waste.

Election Process – There was a discussion of the lack of civic engagement among Americans, with suggestions to better inform and interest the electorate, with emphasis on younger residents.

Trade – There was discussion of current trade imbalance vs. protectionism and employment impacts, with a draft proposal awaiting submittal until after Trump Administration policy changes have been enacted.

-Karen Douglas, Co-President

LWVSFC Report

Internal and External Objectives in Focus

Addressing the mission of the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County requires attention to governance details (an internal focus) as well as attention to providing information to the public (an external focus). The LWVSFC has been busy in both arenas of late.

The Annual Legislative Preview Luncheon attracted a large crowd of members to hear presentations from those of Santa Fe's state legislators who were able to attend. This event, which is ever-popular with LWVSFC members, allowed for questions to be asked by the audience and legislators to clarify their priorities for the 2017 Session.

The LWVSFC Nominating Committee has been doing research, meeting with interested members, and finalizing the outline for a new

and transitional leadership concept that will be presented at the Annual Meeting. In an effort to more effectively capture the array of skills and talents available within the membership, the committee is developing a template that will allow for a team approach to leadership.

LWVSFC was a participant in Martin Luther King Day at Santa Fe Prep. Along with other non-profit and advocacy organizations in Santa Fe, the League helped to highlight issues of social justice for the students. LWVSFC President Suzanne Schmidt spoke on “Becoming an Activist...Just for the Health of It.”

The New Mexico State League Convention will be held in Santa Fe on May 20-21. A committee from LWVSFC chaired by Pat Hawkins has been busy securing space, outlining the format, and arranging for speakers. More information is available in this edition of La Palabra.

A New Member Orientation was conducted to provide comprehensive information to those interested in understanding operations that are specific to the League. The event was well attended and elicited feedback about the critical piece that casual social interaction plays in helping new members to feel like a real part of the League community.

Sunshine Week and National Freedom of Information Day were celebrated with a cocktail reception featuring former Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish and Santa Fe Mayor Javier Gonzales. The Lieutenant Governor and Mayor addressed the influence and impact of money in politics. Personal interaction with the guest speakers was a highlight for many in attendance. An additional goal for the event, ably chaired by Miriam Ries and Barbara Conroy, was to fete LWVSFC members as an expression of gratitude for their commitment to the League. Feedback about the lovely setting and tasty food indicated that the goal was readily achieved.

As you can see, whether focused on the internal or the external, the LWVSFC is on the move.

-Suzanne Schmidt, President

LWVLA Report

The LWVLA board voted to proceed with

501(c)(3) conversion, but discovered that there is no record of our Articles of Incorporation, so the process will take many months.

During a Lunch with a Leader program we learned from former Public Health Office Nurse-Manager Andrea Cunningham that the Department of Health (DOH) has been reducing hours for direct clinical services throughout the state. The DOH is responsible for hiring and deploying the employees, but is not filling vacancies; positions are eliminated when staff members depart. The north-east sector of the state, where Los Alamos is located, has only one nurse in Santa Rosa, three in Las Vegas, two in Espanola. There are none in Los Alamos County or in Santa Fe. Currently there is no clinician (MD) for the quadrant.

Cunningham believes the current administration’s policy is to encourage privatization rather than maintain public services. But there is no transparency in implementing the policy. The DOH website says the Los Alamos office is open M-F from 8-5 except from 12-1. In truth, it has been closed since September 13, 2016.

The board agreed to send a letter to the County Council expressing our concern that the DOH office is closed and asking them to seek out a way to reinstate it, since it is the only medical facility available to some children, teens, and adults.

No new local studies were proposed during our program planning meeting, but the members agreed to update some of our positions following County Council actions and also raised questions about the functioning of the county Medically Indigent Fund, which is supported by a League position. Lynn Jones investigated and later reported that the fund, which derives from a Los Alamos 1/8 GRT, was used for the Healthcare Assistance Program. However, the state currently takes ¾ of the county fund to pay for indigent care at hospitals across the state. So, in effect, Los Alamos is supporting other hospitals in other counties. In addition, the county pays for higher Medicaid costs. As a result, our county’s indigent/Medicaid expenses are 125% of the 1/8 GRT, and that excess is funded out of the county’s General Fund.

At the meeting and again at the following board meeting, members agreed to recommend a state study of the transfer of federal public lands. Board members also support the proposed concurrences for positions on aid in dying and protecting wildlife.

Voters in Los Alamos were surprised to learn that they would have to return to the polls in February to vote for school board and UNM-LA Advisory Board members. Following the November election and a January bond election, they assumed there would be a hiatus. The League held a forum for the candidates in January in hopes of publicizing the February election. We were pleasantly surprised by the turnout; over fifty voters attended and asked many good questions. Reporters from both local newspapers also attended.

*-Barbara Calef & Rebecca Shankland
Co-Presidents*

LWVGLC Report

January 2017 began with a presentation from guest speaker Fred Martino, Ph.D., KRWG Public Media. Dr. Martino offered a discussion to our members about current media issues in a changing political landscape. Later in January, we collaborated with KRWG Public Media to conduct two candidate forums for the Las Cruces School Board candidates for Positions 1, 2, and 3. The programs were broadcast twice following the taping.

Our annual Program Planning Meeting was attended by 18 members. It produced one proposal for a new study, "Impediments to Voter Registration and to Voting for the 18-22 year-old Millennials in Dona Aña County." The Youth Engagement Committee has been busy meeting with ENgaging LATino Communities for Education (ENLACE) classes at both Centennial and Mayfield High Schools in Las Cruces, developing a working relationship with teachers and students about voting behavior.

The Affordable Housing Committee continues to be engaged in sharing pertinent information about Las Cruces housing issues with the Las Cruces City Council. In addition, GLC President Gwen Hanson, Secretary Ardyth

Norem, and member Kim Sorensen participated in League Day in Santa Fe. Gwen Hanson and Kim Sorensen also attended the celebration of Women's History Month at the Round House on March 10. Bringing attention to legislators about important issues being addressed during the current legislative session was the goal.

Our March monthly meeting offered the opportunity for our members to learn more about the South Central Regional Transit District from Executive Director, David Armijo. The new 2017-2018 *Who's Who* was offered to members for future distribution at the monthly meeting. March has been designated as the month each year for fundraising for the Bonnie Burn Education Scholarship, administered by Las Cruces Public Schools Foundation (initiated in February 2015). Donation information for this scholarship was made available at the March monthly meeting.

Spring is here! We look forward to the renewal that it brings to our League as we prepare for our Annual Meeting on April 15, 2017.

-Gwen Hanson, President





The 2019 Legislative has ended without much accomplished in the area of Natural Resources. But before we get to that, there is good news from PNM!

In the Winter *La Palabra*, I described the PNM three-year Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) cycle. PNM has been conducting a scenario analysis, and the results are in: PNM is “considering” a total shutdown of all four units of the San Juan Generating Station (SJGS). Two units are scheduled to close next year, but they have now decided it is not cost-efficient to keep the remaining two running.

When they analyzed the rapidly dropping costs of wind and solar, PNM concluded that long-term benefit to consumers (and investors) calls for closing the last units, and, by extension, the nearby coal mine. While PNM maintains this is a preliminary analysis, they have already briefed staff at the SJGS. The final plan is due in July.

The Navajo Generating Station in Arizona will also close in 2019, possibly along with its feeder coal mine. These plant and mine closings will have a beneficial effect on air quality and public health, but will have a devastating impact on employment in the Navajo Nation. Several organizations are working to promote clean energy and other jobs, but this will take a major effort, both economically and politically.

Back to the legislative session. Very few of the bills we supported made it to the governor’s desk. Failures include bills to extend the solar market tax credit and the Community Solar Gardens Act. State Lands Restoration Funding did make it and is now on the governor’s desk. This bill would create a fund for remediation and watershed restoration on state-owned lands.

The good news was the passage of House Memorial 70, Protection of Chaco Canyon Landscape. The Navajo, the All Tribal Council, and the Pueblos all came together on this bill and are working on mitigation and other issues. This is considered a positive benefit of the broad attention the memorial received.

-Judy Williams

Report – 2017 New Mexico Legislature

This report is being written while most of the legislation passed by the Legislature is awaiting Governor Martinez’s action – she has 20 days from the end of the session to act. You can find all the legislation passed and the Governor’s action on that legislation at https://www.nmlegis.gov/Legislation/BillFinder/Passed_Both. Remember that memorials and joint resolutions do not require the Governor’s signature. “Chaptered” means that the bill has become law.



Good things that happened - I want to start by repeating the LWVNM Action Committee’s list of priorities for the 2017 legislature: consolidation of elections; raising revenue; ethics; and a redistricting commission. In light of those priorities, the 2017 legislative session was an overwhelming success.

The legislature passed:

House Joint Resolution 8, which places the question of the creation of a State Ethics Commission on the 2018 ballot. This has been a top priority of the League for many years, and

it is gratifying that it has finally happened. Now we have to be sure it passes in 2018. This bill does not require the Governor's approval.

HB174 – Local Election Act consolidates many local nonpartisan elections to be held in November of odd-numbered years. It exempts municipalities, but allows them to opt in if they should so choose. This opt-in could be a project for local Leagues.

HB202 – Taxation of Businesses without a Physical Presence (internet tax). Despite the title, this bill incorporates many revenue sources, most of which the League supports, and will help fund essential services.

HJR3 – Independent Redistricting Commission did not move, but three out of four isn't bad!

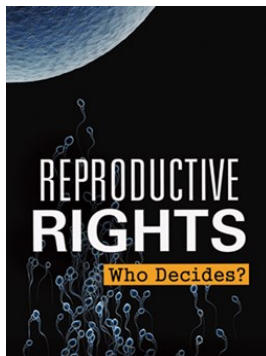
U. S. Constitutional Convention – A Constitutional Convention will be convened if 34 states pass a resolution calling for one. The LWVUS opposes this strategy because they believe that the agenda of such a convention cannot be limited. SJR12 called for a Constitutional Convention to address the problem created by the Citizens United decision. This is a goal that the LWV supports, but we opposed SJR12 out of concern for the potential damage of an unlimited convention. SJR12 did not pass. The League did support SJR10, which would rescind three previous successful ballot questions (1951, 1965 and 1971) that called for a Constitutional Convention. We will be doing public education on why voters should vote yes on this question.

Keeping bad things from happening - Legislative sessions are always judged by what good legislation passed and by what bad legislation failed to pass. In the latter category, we were able to defeat a number of anti-choice bills and an attempt to reinstate the death penalty.

Other Happenings - In addition to the legislative successes, the League also dramatically expanded the number of registered lobbyists who regularly testified in support of League positions. Their participation will help increase the League's influence in future sessions. The League also raised a number of procedural questions concerning how the Legislature conducts its business. During the interim, the League will be convening meetings with other good government groups, legislators, and legislative staff to discuss these issues. It will be the subject for an article in the next La Palabra.

Keep up with the activities of the LWVNM Action Committee by subscribing to our List Serve. LWVNMAction-subscribe@yahoo.com

*-Dick Mason, Co-Chair
Action Committee*



Reproductive Rights at the Legislature

There was a lot to follow in the 2017 session. We had more anti-abortion bills to oppose than in previous sessions, but some proactive bills that we were able to support were introduced as well.

The House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee tabled three anti-abortion bills that have been introduced in the past. One would have mandated that a task force made up of individuals from the health department and CYFD monitor abortion clinics to see if infants were born alive during abortions. Another would have banned abortions later in pregnancy, and the third would have forced parental notification of abortion. The US Congressional investigation of fetal tissue donations led to a NM House bill that would have required UNM regents to report to the Legislative Finance Committee or face a possible twenty-million-dollar reduction in the research

budget of the health sciences center. The House Health and Human Services Committee tabled that bill. Other memorials on both the House and Senate sides, as well as a couple of Senate bills, were stopped in committee also. Fighting the anti-abortion bills is a continuing battle that so far has been successful.

On the other hand, this year there were some positive reproductive health bills to support. The Pregnant Worker Accommodation bill passed both houses and awaits the governor's signature. This bill would prohibit discrimination in employment on the basis of a need arising from pregnancy, childbirth, or related condition. Other bills that made it out of at least one committee included coverage for contraception in the event that the ACA is repealed (this passed the House), establishing a right of hospital patients to certain health care coverage (rights not always covered by religiously-affiliated hospitals), and the decriminalization of abortion. It may surprise League members to know that there still remains in the NM Statutes a provision that criminalizes abortion. New Mexico is one of several states with such a law, and the concern is over having this on the books if the Roe decision is overturned.

The threat to women's reproductive rights is ongoing; given the current political climate, it may increase. The League is working with its partner organizations to oppose actions that threaten such rights and to support continuation and expansion of reproductive rights.

-Diane Goldfarb, Reproductive Rights Chair

Meet Janet Blair



I am very pleased and not just a little challenged to take on responsibilities as the League's new Communications and Outreach Director. I believe the League has huge potential to influence and invigorate our democracy, and I would like to be part of that.

I come from decades-long experience in the news media, mostly television news, specializing in local and state government reporting for both KOAT-TV (18 years) and KRQE (2 years), several years as a print reporter, and eight years as a public relations consultant and media trainer. I retired as the communications director of eight years at the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court.

The media landscape has changed tremendously since I started in journalism, and I believe we should take advantage of those changes. We need to use social media, mainstream media, and all other resources to communicate our positions. I believe that now, more than ever, the public is looking for a stable, reliable, and credible source of information. Voters want to make informed decisions, and we can help them do that.

I am hoping to raise the profile of the New Mexico League of Women Voters. As they say, democracy is not and should not be a spectator sport. I hope that through our advocacy and outreach, we can get more people involved in the process. I would like to engage the media so that they, too, can depend on us to provide information on pertinent issues. Our positions, policy expertise, our Voter Guides, and outreach must extend to even more of the public to be as effective as possible. I am hoping to help make that happen.

-Janet Blair

Notification of LWVNM State Convention

May 20 and 21, 2017, Hilton Santa Fe Historic Plaza Hotel, 100 Sandoval St., Santa Fe



The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County invites all League members to attend the 2017 LWVNM State Convention May 20 – 21, 2017. The convention will adopt a program for study and action, elect officers and directors, adopt a balanced budget for the next two years, consider revising the bylaws and transact such other business as may be presented.

We have reserved a special rate of \$130.00 + tax per night at the Hilton Hotel. **This rate is only good until April 28, 2017.** Call Reservations at 1-800-774-1500, or 505-988-2811, and use the group reservation code LWV.

All events will take place at the Hilton except for the evening reception.

Representation. Each local League is entitled to a number of delegates based on membership counts. Only delegates can vote. However, all members are strongly encouraged to attend, as there is ample opportunity for discussion, debate and networking.

2017 State Convention Schedule

Friday Evening, May 19th

5 PM

Welcome reception – Meredith Machen’s home. If you plan to attend, RSVP Judy Williams at jkwilliams24@gmail.com

Saturday, May 20th

11 AM – Noon

Registration – Hilton Hotel
Collection of Silent Auction items

12:00 – 1:30 PM

Lunch with Speaker: LWVUS Liaison Henrietta Saunders
Hilton Hotel, Canyon 1

1:45 – 5:30 PM

First Plenary Session

6:00 PM

Cash Bar reception – Hilton Hotel Bar

7:00 PM

Banquet – Hilton Hotel Canyon 1
Speaker: Valerie Plame, of Global Zero

Sunday, May 20

8:30 – 9:00 AM

Registration

9:00 – Noon

Second Plenary Session

10:30 – 10:45

Break and Silent Auction ends

Noon

Convention Adjournment

Note: 2017-2019 Board Meeting with Lunch will start in the Canyon Room 15 minutes after Convention adjourns.

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

Highlights of Convention

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 beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 20. Bidding will continue through much of Sunday morning, culminating in picking up your winning treasures after the plenary session ends. Come bid on items for yourself or for your family and friends.

Opening Luncheon



A buffet luncheon will open the convention at noon on Saturday. The speaker is Henrietta Saunders, our liaison from LWVUS. Her topic will be "The League from a National Perspective: Where We Are and Where We Are Going." Ms. Saunders is the Treasurer of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). She also has served for four years as President of the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region, a 4-state Interleague Organization. Ms. Saunders' non-League experience includes 16 years of commercial banking. She has a BA in Organizational Behavior from Brown University, an MBA in Finance from University of Chicago, and an MS in Education and Social Policy from Northwestern University.

Convention Banquet



There will be a no-host bar opening at 6 p.m., followed by the banquet at 7 p.m. Friends and family are welcome! Valerie Plame, noted activist and anti-nuclear proliferation expert will speak about "The Nuclear Threat in Our New Trumpian World." Plame is a former career covert CIA operations officer who now sits on numerous boards, including Global Data Sentinel, a cyber security company; Starling Trust, a predictive behavioral analytics company; and Global Zero, a non-profit that seeks to eliminate nuclear weapons. A graduate of Penn State, she holds graduate degrees in International Relations from the London School of Economics and the College of Europe.

Proposed Bylaws Amendments

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

Change #1 includes several conforming amendments. Please note that Leagues cannot specify something different than the amendment approved at the LWVUS National Convention. LWVUS has changed the nomenclature of "members-at-large" or "MALs" to "state members."

Change #1 is not subject to a vote. It includes several conforming amendments. Please note that Leagues cannot specify something different than the amendment approved at the LWVUS National Convention. LWVUS has changed the nomenclature of "members-at-large" or "MALs" to "state members."

III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of LWVUS shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership.

Voting Members. [~~Citizens of at least 18~~] Persons of at least 16 years of age, [~~residing within New Mexico~~] who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues or state member [~~at-large (MAL)~~] units, and of LWVNM and LWVUS.

Change #2 was approved by the Board.

Article V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS (STATE BOARD)

Section 8. Executive Committee. An executive committee, consisting of the president and four other members appointed by the State Board from its own body, shall act for the board between regular meetings, provided that any action taken shall be presented to the board for ratification at its next meeting. Three members of the executive committee shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

Change #3 is a technical correction and has been approved by the Board.

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 member units may make recommendations for 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 ten weeks prior to the Convention.
2. 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.
3. Any local League, LWVNM committee, state member units, or the state board planning to propose the amendment of a state 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 concurrence, to all Leagues at least 30 days prior to the Convention.
4. The Convention shall adopt a program by a majority vote on each subject presented to it.
5. A program recommendation properly submitted by a local League, LWVNM committee, or by a state member unit at least 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 the following day. Adoption of any such recommendation will require a two-thirds vote.

Section 3. Program Action.

1. 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.
2. After the LWVNM board approves a new or amended position for inclusion in the program, it becomes 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] above in Section 2.

Change #4 was approved by the Board for clarification.

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 ten weeks prior to the Convention by a local League, state ~~[MAL]~~ member 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 state Convention.

If LWVUS changes any of the first three Articles of their Bylaws, the LWVNM Board must change its Bylaws to conform; no vote is required at Convention.

LWVNM Program Proposals, 2017-2019

Current LWVNM Positions

Several LWVNM positions have been revised since the 2015 Convention. Additions are underlined. [Bracketed text has been deleted.] See below for further information.

Administration of Justice [Judiciary] (Adopted 1962; revised 1987, 2015, *revised and adopted by the Board in 2017*)

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

Selection of Judges

Judges of the higher courts should be appointed [~~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.~~]

Funding (concurrency with LWV IL)

The League believes that the justice system must be adequately funded in order to carry out its goals. Funding of specialized programs for offenders, such as mental health services and substance abuse treatment, is essential. The League supports sufficient funding to guarantee humane prison conditions and to provide programs and services that offer the opportunity for self-improvement.

The League believes that state funding should be provided for alternatives to incarceration.

There must be adequate personnel for all courts.

Alternatives to Incarceration (concurrency with LWV IL Position on Criminal Justice)

The League supports the expansion of prevention and treatment programs to ease the burden on the criminal justice system. The League supports the concept of pretrial diversion.

The League supports development of alternatives to incarceration through community-based programs with emphasis on diversion and reintegration into the community. These programs should be separate from correctional facilities. (*moved from Juvenile Justice section of LWVNM position.*) The League supports [~~drug court programs~~] alternative or therapeutic courts and pre-trial diversion programs. (*sentence moved here from LWVNM Juvenile Justice position*) The community must be educated regarding these alternatives. (*concurrency with LWV IL*)

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. (*moved here from the LWVNM Drug Policy position*)

Legal Aid (concurrency with LWV CA Position on Legal Aid)

The League supports an adequately funded government-supported public defender program that provides legal aid to those unable to pay.

Death Penalty (Adopted 2006, *moved from Social Programs of LWVNM in 2017*)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports the repeal of the death penalty and the institution of a sentence of life in prison without parole as an alternative.

If the death penalty is reinstated, *(replacement for language removed following repeal of the death penalty)* LWVNM supports the implementation of the recommendations in the Final Report of the State Bar of New Mexico Task Force to Study the Administration of the Death Penalty in New Mexico (January 2004) including:

1. adequate defense funding for capital cases;
2. a comprehensive proportionality study, including the development of a complete database of homicide prosecutions in New Mexico;
3. higher standards for defense counsel at all stages of the proceedings;
allowing opponents of the death penalty to serve on the jury for the first trial (to determine guilt or innocence) in a capital case.

Juvenile Justice *(moved from LWVNM Children and Families position)*

The LWVNM believes that the system should provide:

1. trained and qualified judges, police, probation personnel, lawyers, providers, appointed advocates and others in the juvenile justice system;
2. local forensic diagnostic and/or evaluation services;
3. treatment programs to meet identified needs;
4. ~~[Development and support of alternatives to incarceration through community-based programs with emphasis on diversion and reintegration separate from correctional facilities.]~~ *(moved to Alternatives to Incarceration)*
5. due process and legal representation at all stages of the child's contact with the law;
6. provision of legal and safe detention accommodations for all juveniles in custody;
7. monitoring of substitute care through Citizens Review Boards and Court Appointed Special Advocates;
8. education ~~[provided]~~ for all youth in the juvenile justice system.

State Finance (Adopted 1971; revised 1975, 1983, 1989, 2014, *amended by the LWVNM Board with the addition of the underlined sentence in 2017*)

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.

The League believes it is the state's obligation to collect revenues to fund services that are generally state responsibilities, rather than depend on cities and counties to raise the funds.

NATURAL RESOURCES (Adopted 1976; revised 1987, 2015, *amended in 2017*)

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. The League supports the conservation and protection of wildlife and their habitats for the contribution they make toward the health and sustainability of the environment. (*Concurrence with Jefferson County, CO Natural Resources-Wildlife Position*)

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.

SOCIAL POLICY

Education (Adopted 1987; revised 1995, 2009, 2015, 2016, *revised by the LWVNM Board in 2017*)

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 opposes the presence of private, for-profit companies in the governance, management, and provision of public education. LWVNM believes that a regionally elected State Board of Education should be responsible for appointing a Superintendent of Public Instruction and directing education policy, regulation, and finances. (*Returned to position, was removed at convention in 2005.*)

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

Practices for Student Success:

1. Use the Common Core State Standards to provide a framework for knowledge and the academic skills that all students are expected to master, with flexibility for district and charter schools [systems] to determine how this body of knowledge and skills is imparted to students. the standards are taught and measured.
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, and responsibilities of [~~membership~~] participation 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~~] college and career choices [~~, as well as an~~] and to understand [~~ing 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,]~~ and through the use of technology for self-paced learning.
11. Maintain and use health and social service teams in the schools to identify and work with at-risk ~~[children]~~ students and their parents or caregivers, with referrals to appropriate community agencies when necessary.

Community Involvement:

1. Collaborate ~~aeross~~ with 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]~~ Implement 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]~~ schools ~~[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]~~ Focus student evaluation on student academic progress rather than rigid standards of proficiency.
2. ~~[Student testing should be used for the purpose of-]~~ Use student testing to assist ~~[enabling]~~ teachers ~~[to create]~~ in providing effective and 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 with in-depth knowledge in core academic subjects and instructional strategies.
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's academic progress in the classroom.]~~
6. ~~[Termination of teachers and principals who do not meet minimum standards should follow a due process procedure when they do not meet minimum standards.]~~
Follow due process procedures when terminating teachers and principals who do not meet minimum standards.
7. ~~[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.]~~ Base assessment of school and teacher performance on overall quality of the education provided to the students and improvements in student academic growth as measured by multiple methods, including professional observations.

Funding for Public Education (Adopted 1973; revised 1983, 1993, 2002, 2007, 2015)

~~[A broadly based distribution formula should be used that takes into consideration differences in student needs, teacher experience and qualifications, the number of schools and students in a district, level of education, capital outlay, and transportation.]~~ Use a distribution formula that reflects differences in student needs, teacher experience and qualifications, the number of schools and students in a district, level of education, capital outlay, and transportation requirements.

1. Programs that foster children's language development, from birth to age 5, for success in kindergarten and beyond should be adequately funded.

2. The New Mexico State Equalization Guarantee funding formula [~~Funding Formula~~] should be used to achieve [~~equality~~] equity 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.
3. Funding formulas should provide for a high quality education for all students and be consistently and fairly applied across the state.
4. Local school districts should control the funds distributed to them by the state.
5. [~~The financial impact on traditional public schools must be evaluated before charters are granted or renewed.~~]
6. [~~Funding to state chartered schools should minimize the amount allocated to for-profit management and business operations with oversight provided by state-approved auditors.~~]
7. All state and federal mandates should be [~~funded~~] accompanied by funding so as not to place an undue burden on the [~~local school system~~] public schools.

Health Care (Adopted 1991; revised 1993, 2005, 2007, *amended by the Board in 2017*)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports a health care system that provides a comprehensive level of health care for New Mexico residents and recognizes the need for efficient management of health care costs.

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices. (*Concurrence from LWVUS position*)

Every New Mexico resident should have a comprehensive level of health care. The League favors a national health insurance plan, but until one is in place, the League supports expansion of state and federal plans. (Revised and adopted 2005.)

LWVNM believes that any health system implemented should have the following:

1. Quality health coverage for all New Mexicans: Every New Mexican should have full health care coverage, a benefit package that is at least equal to the best plan offered to state employees, and access to the services covered. Participation should be mandatory. Pre-existing conditions should not be excluded from coverage.
2. “Seamless” coverage and continuity of care, to the extent possible, regardless of changes in life circumstances such as change in employment, marital status, financial status, or health status. (*Concurrence with LWVWA Position on Health Care.*)
3. Effective cost management: Cost management should increase the health care benefits that accrue to patients from any given level of spending.
4. Improvement of health care quality and safety: A comprehensive effort to improve the quality and safety of health care in New Mexico should be launched and sustained, with dramatically increased public funding.
5. Equitable funding: Reform should seek to reduce or eliminate cost-shifting across categories of insurance programs and payers, both public and private, and to make the distribution of financial burdens more equitable.
6. **No one should be forced into poverty because of medical needs.** (*Concurrence with LWVWA Position on Health Care*)
7. Simplified administration: Reform should include the development of standardized forms, minimization of complicated co-pays/deductibles, and assurances of timely payment to provider. (Adopted 2007.)

Substance Abuse Policy *(new title 2017)***Drug Policy** (Adopted 1984; revised 2002, 2003, 2007, 2015)

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

1. treatment for all persons with drug addiction;
2. syringe exchange programs in the State of New Mexico;
3. rehabilitation programs;
4. public education programs;
5. 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.

Alcohol (Adopted 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:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. giving a high priority to screening and treatment solutions for alcohol abuse;
4. consolidating prevention programs to make better use of limited resources;
5. increasing the emphasis on community after-school services and supervision programs for minors;
6. 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.

Two Recommended Concurrences, One Consensus Position, and Three Studies, 2017-2019

Aid in Dying (*Concurrence with LWVUT Proposed by George Richmond, LWVCNM*)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico:

1. believes state laws should grant the option for terminally ill people to request medical assistance from a licensed physician to end their lives;
2. believes such legislation should provide safeguards against abuse for the dying and/or medical personnel.

Discussion: What Do Death with Dignity Laws Allow?

They all include qualifying criteria:

1. a competent adult over the age of 18 can request a prescription to end his or her life only if diagnosed as terminally ill and likely to die within six months
2. the request for a prescription from licensed physicians must be made both in writing and orally
3. the individual must be able to self-administer the medication
4. the individual must be of sound mind and capable of clear communication

The laws often require a series of requests and waiting periods to guard against abuse. Patients diagnosed with mental illness and people with disabilities are ineligible.

Currently New Mexico statutes continue to list physician-assisted suicide as a fourth-degree felony. In 2016 the NM Supreme Court ruled there is no constitutional right to aid in dying.

Pro Arguments

The argument for autonomy in end-of-life decision-making advocates for a person being able to determine how she/he lives and dies. Many individuals want to be involved in as many aspects of their end-of-life decisions as possible, including having the option of determining when he/she will die. Advocates for autonomy see no reason why they shouldn't have the right to die "on their own terms," a phrase made famous by Bill Moyers in his 2000 PBS television mini-series on the end of life, "On Our Own Terms: Moyers on Dying."

Relief from pain and suffering is the other primary argument for the legalization of Death with Dignity. One's quality of life is diminished by pain and suffering in various forms, including mental anguish, loss of physical capabilities and dignity. This argument is often advanced by people who, having personally witnessed the agonizing death of a friend or family member, do not want anyone else to suffer in a similar situation. Palliative care and hospice can be very effective in managing pain and other symptoms at the end of life, but these efforts are not effective in all cases, and common methods of pain control can have unwanted side effects like cognitive impairment.

These two arguments, autonomy and relief from pain and suffering, can be viewed as the necessary criteria to safeguard against abuse. The patient must view accelerating death as the only acceptable way to alleviate his or her intolerable pain and suffering.

The Death with Dignity laws passed in the U.S. so far stipulate that such deaths are not to be construed as suicide for any legal or practical purpose, including insurance. Death certificates list

the cause of death as the underlying terminal illness. On this view, aid-in-dying should be seen as the hastening of a death that was already in progress. The distinction between suicide and aid in dying can be distilled as follows: individuals choosing suicide do so because they no longer wish to live; those seeking aid in dying usually want very much to live but have come to realize that death is imminent and potentially wrought with pain and suffering.

The experience in Oregon, where the law has been in effect for 18 years, has been instructive in that there has been increasing acceptance by physicians, as well as greater focus on care of terminally ill patients by the healthcare community. There does not seem to be any evidence supporting the “slippery slope” argument according to available data.

Major support for Death with Dignity Laws comes from Compassion & Choices, Inc., a national not for profit organization formed in 1980 as a successor to the Hemlock Society. Compassion & Choices, Inc. has over 4,000 supporters in NM with active groups in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Silver City and Los Alamos.

Con Arguments

Some people and groups argue that Death with Dignity is suicide, and that suicide is intrinsically wrong. This argument is made particularly by religious groups.

Saving lives is ingrained in all healthcare professionals, from physicians and nurses to lab technicians. They are committed to healing and saving lives. Physicians take the Hippocratic Oath. Being asked to help a patient end his/her life could put the professional in a position of intense inner conflict.

The possibility that a Death with Dignity law opens the doors for potential abuse raises fears and strong objections. In some situations, it is claimed, family members may want to hasten the death of a sick relative in order to receive their inheritance, or end the cost and burden of care giving. Or, a family who wants to be relieved of the stigma associated with having a disabled person might encourage this person to end their life, even though the person is mentally competent.

Opposition to Death with Dignity laws comes largely from the Roman Catholic Church.

Fair Lending Practices *(Concurrence with LWVTX Payday and Auto Title Loan Position, Proposed by Meredith Machen)*

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports policies, legislation, and programs that enable a small dollar loan market that maintains access to affordable credit while safeguarding consumers.

The League believes that a loan is affordable if the borrower can repay the loan and cover basic expenses without borrowing again or obtaining money from another source. Governments should be able to regulate lending in order to achieve a viable small dollar loan market that provides consumer access to affordable credit and safeguards against predatory lending. Criminal charges and penalties for loans in default should be explicitly prohibited by New Mexico law.

The League supports:

1. Consumer credit regulations that increase restrictions on short-term loans and require lenders to offer affordable loans,
2. Financial education measures that increase the ability of consumers to successfully use small dollar loan financial products.

Gun Control (*LWVUS position in brief*)

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Charter School Regulation (*Adopted by consensus following an 18-month study, 2016*)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico believes that every student should have access to a high quality, publicly funded education regardless of race, ethnicity, family income, or geographical location. The League believes in accountability, transparency, and equity in the use of public funds for education.

Charter schools are discretionary programs intended to fill unmet needs and/or to test innovative instructional strategies to produce quality educational outcomes. Policy makers must ensure that adequate funds are available for traditional public schools and define how charter schools fill unmet needs. Appropriate instructional and support services must be provided in all public schools to meet the diverse needs of individual students.

Regarding the mission of charter schools, the LWVNM believes the following:

1. A charter school should not be authorized unless
 - a. its mission would serve a need the traditional schools cannot;
 - b. funds are available;
 - c. there is a demonstrated need based on student population projections.
2. New Mexico should provide flexibility and supplemental funding for magnet programs and career academies within traditional public schools.
3. Charter school innovations demonstrated to be effective should be disseminated to improve the traditional public education system.
4. The state should establish a closure policy revoking the contract of a charter school that fails to meet minimum academic, financial, and organizational standards for two consecutive years or for two of the three most recent years.

For the sake of assuring accountability and transparency and minimizing the fiscal impact, LWVNM recommends the following:

1. A charter school's finances should be available for public scrutiny, and budget processes should be similar to those for school districts, which require the public to be provided with an opportunity for input into decision-making.
2. Charter school governing council members should adhere to standards and best practices as delineated by the NM School Boards Association.
3. Funding to state-chartered schools should minimize the amount allocated to for-profit management and business operations with oversight provided by state-approved auditors.
4. Funding should be equitable so as not to advantage charter schools over traditional public schools.
5. NM should develop an effective performance-based accountability system for charter schools focused on increased proficiency, academic growth, and college/career readiness standards to ensure that charter schools demonstrate positive student outcomes. Charter schools that do not meet the established benchmarks should be put on time-limited improvement plans and not allowed to increase enrollment until they have met the benchmarks.

LWVNM believes that public funding for virtual schools should be less per student since the schools do not require brick and mortar facilities.

Recommended Studies

Study 1: Public Lands (*Proposed by LWVLA*)

LWVLA proposes a two-year study of the pros and cons of transferring ownership of federal public lands to the state, considering what is the best option for preservation of habitat and conservation of wildlife as well as the state and local economies. The first objective is to educate ourselves about the status quo as well as the potential outcome of large transfers. The second is to develop a position for advocacy.

The scope will include surveys of the management of BLM and National Forest Service lands as well as National Monuments in the state. We will look at studies such as the Utah land transfer analysis and other relevant reports.

Rationale: Recent years have seen efforts to change the status of Federal public lands. We believe it is time to evaluate the issue, potential effect, pros and cons of transfers or sales, and impacts on the economy, people and environment.

The study will be led by Barbara Calef and Judy Williams. Additional volunteers are welcome!

Study 2: Nuclear Waste Storage Issues (*Proposed by Karen M. Douglas, LWVCNM*)

The Issue: Spent Nuclear Fuel from Commercial Nuclear Power Reactors – Storage & Disposal

High Level Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) from commercial nuclear power reactors has been stored in Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations (ISFSI) using Dry Cask Storage since 1985. These ISFSI are currently licensed for 40 years of safe operation and located in 34 states across the US. Initial tests on High Burnup Nuclear Fuel from ISFSI Dry Cask Storage performed by Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) in 1999 following 14 years of storage indicated no degradation of nuclear fuel. Follow-up testing performed by ANL in 2012 indicated questionable integrity of High Burnup Fuel (increased potential for radiation release) from ISFSI after 27 years Dry Cask Storage. Additional testing is underway with ANL results expected in 2017.

Some SNF remains at shut down reactor locations resulting in continuing security concerns and preventing environmental restoration and site reuse.

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 required Federal acceptance of Spent Nuclear Fuel in 1998 and commercial nuclear utilities paid more than \$35B into the Nuclear Waste Fund for this disposal. The Federal government has not opened the permanent repository, thereby continuing utility ownership and security of this high-level radioactive waste at more than 70 locations throughout the US.

Licensing activities at the planned Yucca Mountain Permanent Geologic Repository were suspended due to Nevada elected officials' opposition; this has resulted in an impasse for SNF disposition. As ordered by the US Supreme Court, the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) finalized and published the 5 Volume Safety Analysis Report in 2015 for the Yucca Mountain Repository permitting further consideration.

Growing concerns about the temporary storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel in 34 states across US indicate a sense of urgency to dispose of this material in a Permanent Geological Repository with safety licensed for 10,000 years. However, selection, characterization, and analysis of an alternate site for the Spent Nuclear Fuel Permanent Geologic Repository would probably exceed 20 years.

Impact in New Mexico

Discussions of an interim destination for high level spent nuclear fuel will have a significant impact on New Mexico, as two sites are being considered, one in New Mexico and one in West Texas, near the New Mexico border.

Applications for the initial two Consolidated Interim Storage Facilities (CISF) proposed in 2016-17 are being evaluated by the NRC. In addition to their impacts on New Mexico communities, the consolidation will require transport of SNF from current reactor and ISFSI locations to CISF. Both sites are currently licensed for limited nuclear waste storage/disposal operations:

Proposed Consolidated Interim Storage Facilities (CISF)

Licensee	Location	Current License	Proposed CISF Area	Planned Operation	Initial SNF Receipt
Waste Control Specialists	Andrews County, TX	Low Level Waste (<Class C)	332/14000 Acres	40 years/8 phases – SNF from shutdown reactors & Remote ISFSI	2021
Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance	Carlsbad/Hobbs, NM	Defense Transuranic Waste	500/1000 Acres	100 years - All SNF	2022

The LWVUS position on storage does not adequately address the national and regional issues described above. We believe a state level study can lead the way to a modification of the LWVUS position, possibly by concurrence, either by other affected states or by LWVUS.

Study Objectives:

The overall objective of the study is to inform ourselves about the issue, inform our members, and create a position for advocacy on issues of nuclear waste disposal.

The objectives of the Nuclear Issues study are:

1. Determination of public safety and continuing environmental protection for the two candidate Consolidated Interim Storage Facilities (CISF) for Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) from domestic commercial nuclear reactors.
2. Review of technical data regarding commercial nuclear power, Nuclear waste including SNF, and options for SNF storage and disposal.

Scope:

The scope could include the following tasks with LWV member involvement:

1. Review of research and current literature for determination of safety and environmental concerns regarding extended storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel from commercial nuclear reactors. Write articles explaining the review for La Palabra.

2. Participate in LWVEF Google Group for exchange of information and concerns with other state LWVs (recommended 2016 by LWUS Liaison, Linda Wassenich). LWVNM member responsibilities would include: Moderator, Webmaster, Nuclear professionals as technical data reviewers, LWV members to screen information.
3. Revision and Publication of The Nuclear Waste Primer, a Handbook for Citizens - revised edition published 1993 with LWVEF grant. (I have a copy of this text). LWVNM member responsibilities would include: Conversion (pdf to word with correction of errors), update of nuclear statistics and addition of recent advancements, editing, distribution and promotion.
4. Nuclear Issues study and Consensus. LWVNM member responsibilities would include: NM Local League Program Chairs coordination of 2017-18 membership meetings for Nuclear Issues presentations and subsequent Consensus meetings.

Study 3 Health Care Position Clarification (*proposed by Akkana Peck, LWVNM Board Member*)

I propose a one-year study of health care in order to clarify and expand our position to better address issues of cost, access, and transparency as they affect patients. The goal isn't to change our position significantly, more to clarify a few sections.

In particular, we'll look at issues of transparency in pricing and billing (including "surprise billing"), types of cost-shifting, how health care costs affect people of varying incomes, and what kinds of information should be made available to patients and to the general public. The study will be led by Akkana Peck. Dick Mason and Judy Williams will participate.

Additional volunteers for any of the studies are welcome!

Notes to Budget Data, which appear on the next two pages (24, 25)

- Notes:**
1. PAVP grant is used to provide \$339.87 of revenue for the current year. This brings the balance to zero.
 2. The Common Cause grant is not reflected in this budget. A budget for the Grant should be prepared. The grant is reflected in the asset tab.
 3. This assumes that we will not recover anything for the fraudulent transactions.
 4. We assume National PMP will be \$32 for the coming year and \$33 for 2018-19.
 5. The Budget Committee discussed not having a legislative reception during the coming year. The clear consensus was to continue to have the event.
 6. The budget committee urges a review of newsletter printing and postage.
 7. We are not recommending an increase in State PMP despite the fraud.
 8. We have not assumed any change in the number of delegates to the state convention.
 9. We are recommending the continued production of the Advocacy video and better communicating its existence to local leagues. We set a budget for it.

	Current Projected	Current Budget	Proposed 2017-18	Proposed 2018-19
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
A. Contributions				
From Members	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total A. Contributions	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B. Fundraising Events/Mailings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C. Local League PMP				
1. Central New Mexico	2,314.00	2,314.00	2,359.00	2,398.50
2. Las Cruces	1,098.50	1,098.50	1,027.00	1,027.00
3. Los Alamos	656.50	656.50	624.00	793.00
4. Santa Fe	1,404.00	1,404.00	1,748.50	1,930.50
Total C. Local League PMP	5,473.00	5,473.00	5,758.50	6,149.00
D. MAL Dues	135.00	135.00	135.00	135.00
E. Other Income				
1. Special Events	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Interest	0.40	3.00	1.00	1.50
3. Convention Auction	0.00	0.00	700.00	0.00
4. Miscellaneous	163.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total E. Other Income	163.90	3.00	701.00	1.50
I. Grants				
PAVP	339.87	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total I. Grants	339.87	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	6,611.77	5,611.00	6,594.50	6,285.50
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	525.00	520.00	200.00	525.00
2. LWVNM Council	0.00	150.00	250.00	150.00
3. LWVUS Convention	2,717.37	2,400.00	1,200.00	2,700.00
4. LWVUS Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total B. Delegate expenses	3,242.37	3,070.00	1,650.00	3,375.00
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	650.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
3. Mailing services	10.00	40.00	30.00	30.00
4. Newsletter Postage	250.00	200.00	225.00	200.00
5. Newsletter editor's expense	0.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
6. Membership development	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7. MAL PMP	128.00	99.00	96.00	99.00
Total D. Member services	1,038.00	964.00	976.00	954.00
E. Operating expenses				
1. Office use	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
2. Office supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3a. Constant Contact support	378.00	350.00	378.00	400.00
4. Postage - stamps	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6. Website	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
7. Copying	10.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
8. Insurance	475.00	475.00	475.00	475.00
9. Miscellaneous	125.00	60.00	100.00	100.00
10. Fraudulent transactions	10,064.38			
Total E. Operating expenses	11,672.38	1,525.00	1,593.00	1,615.00
F. Program - Advocacy				
1. League Day	171.22	150.00	150.00	175.00
2. Position support	0.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
3. State Studies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4. Legislative Reception	512.10	700.00	700.00	700.00
5. Miscellaneous	124.60		125.00	125.00 Advc video
Total F. Program - Advocacy	807.92	875.00	1,000.00	1,025.00
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	0.00	600.00	0.00	500.00
Total H. Voter Services	0.00	600.00	0.00	500.00
Total Expense	16,760.67	7,034.00	5,219.00	7,469.00
Net Income/Loss	-10,148.90	-1,423.00	1,375.50	-1,183.50

LWVNM Nominating Committee Report, 2017-2019



We are happy to report that we have almost a complete slate of excellent board members for nomination at the May 2017 Convention. We welcome Judy Williams as president; she will be capable even of filling Meredith's giant shoes. Much of the board will stay in place, continuing our experienced and effective board. We also welcome some wonderful new faces (marked with an asterisk below), who will add new skills and interests.

Officers

President	Judy Williams
Co-Vice Presidents	Dick Mason and Barbara Calef
Secretary	Akkana Peck
*Treasurer	Suzanne Ronneau

Directors (elected; up to six allowed)

*Communications and Outreach	Janet Blair
Program	Meredith Machen
Voter Services	Diane Goldfarb
At Large	Karen Douglas
*At Large	Laura Atkins
*At Large	Chris Furlanetto

Nominating Committee (three off-board to be elected in 2017; two board members to be appointed in 2019)

Chair	Peggy Howell
Member	Rosmarie Frederickson
Member	Gwen Hanson

Off-Board Directors/Portfolios (to be appointed; up to six allowed)

Action Co-Chairs	Dick Mason and Barbara Calef
Education/Immigration	Meredith Machen
Health Care	Dick Mason and Judy Williams
Natural Resources	Judy Williams and Barbara Calef
Reproductive Rights	Diane Goldfarb

Off Board Positions (appointed)

La Palabra Editor	TBD
Webmaster	Akkana Peck
Membership Database/ State Members	Lynn Jones
Archivists	Barbara Goedecke, Becky Shankland
Budget Chair, Committee	appointed before 2019 convention

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee, March 21, 2017
 Peggy Howell, Chair
 Becky Shankland, Diane Goldfarb, Dick Mason, members

**2017 LWVNM Convention
May 19-21 Hilton Hotel Santa Fe, NM**

Registration information

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Registration status (please check one)

State Board Member ___ Local Delegate ___ MAL Representative ___

All Others: ___ (include registration fee of \$75 below)

Registration fee and meals

*Registration Fee @ \$75 \$ _____

(includes the "Chef's Choice Luncheon Buffet" on Saturday, May 20th)

*Fee paid by all non-delegates; the local Leagues and State Board will pay for their delegates.

Saturday Banquet @\$50 \$ _____

Check Banquet Choice: _____ London Broil with Mushroom Sauce
 _____ Grilled Vegetables with Portobello Mushroom

Post-Convention LWVNM Board Meeting box lunch @\$25 _____

ADDITIONAL GUEST MEALS:

_____ Luncheon Guest(s) @ \$25

_____ Banquet Guest(s) @ \$50

Indicate number of each: _____ London Broil _____ Grilled Vegetables

TOTAL: REGISTRATION AND MEALS \$ _____

Registration form and check must be received by the deadline of 5/5/17

Mail to: **LWVSFC, 1472 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505**
 505-982-9766 www.lwvsfc.org



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

Please consider helping your local League or LWVNM to pay for our upcoming voter guides and candidate forums. You can send a tax-deductible gift by check to your local League or to LWVNM. See www.lwvnm.org for more information and links to our local Leagues. Thank you for making democracy work!

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that helps the public play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state, regional and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Anyone 16 years of age or older, male or female, may become a member. The League of Women Voters never endorses candidates for office or supports political parties.