



League of Women Voters of New Mexico

La Palabra

Vol. 69 No.4

www.lwvnm.org

Spring 2023

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The League of Women Voters of New Mexico, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Call to State Convention

April 28-30, 2023 in Los Alamos, NM

The Los Alamos League of Women Voters invites you to the 2023 LWVNM Convention. You will:

- network with members from all over NM
- enjoy a reception at the home of a local League member
- bid on treasures donated by fellow League members
- kick off the meeting with a welcome from our County Council chair
- consider our achievements over the past two years and plan for the next two years
- hear about the legislative session from Rep. Christine Chandler during lunch
- enjoy an afternoon sharing ideas with other League members, and/or exploring the wonders of Los Alamos (visit the History Museum, Nature Center, hike a wonderful trail—April is outstanding for wildflowers)
- feast on a 5-course (small plates) dinner at our celebrated Pig + Fig in White Rock and hear what's up at the State Land Office from State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard
- elect a new board, adopt a program for study and action, and adopt a budget
- take home your silent auction treasures—and your memories of a great convention.

Registration and schedule information on pages 3 to 5

The President's Corner

By Hannah Burling

LWVNM President: president@lwvnm.org



I'm saddened to announce that our longtime treasurer, Suzanne Ronneau, has decided to leave us. The board is very grateful for her years of service. In a bold move, she has decided to relocate to Florida where she will work on restoring democracy.

The League has more advocates than I've ever seen before in the Roundhouse, both in person and virtually. Thank you all! We are able to cover many different issues and bills as a result of the Zoom meetings made possible by the pandemic. We are also seeing what our long term work with coalitions and allies can bring us in terms of capacity building and our ability to advance our positions.

There have, however, been new hurdles to testifying in legislative committee hearings. There are sudden additions to the committee agendas and new rules for submitting public comment, some of which are difficult to understand or to comply with. Even with all of these complications, it is great to be back in the Roundhouse.

Our Legislative Reception was unfortunately held during a week with particularly bad February weather and attendance was fairly low. Our speaker was excellent. Former US Senator Jeff Bingaman discussed his book *Breakdown: Lessons for a Congress in Crisis*. He offered practical suggestions for maintaining a functioning Congress and Government. I urge you all to read it.

The next day, after a welcome from State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard, we heard from Jeremy Farris of the State Ethics Commission speaking on ethics legislation and redistricting. Amber Wallin of NM Voices for Children spoke on taxes and funding for essential services. A link to *NM Voices for Children's Guide to New Mexico's Tax System* is on the home page of our website. They were both outstanding speakers.

In local League News, you'll be able to read about the *LWVSNM Making Democracy Work Award*. The award is such a great idea and went to a courageous recipient this year.

Convention is coming up and we will be having sessions to share ideas on fundraising and communications for the state and local Leagues and our new Education Fund. These are open to all League members, not just delegates. I hope to see you there in Los Alamos!

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2023 State Convention Schedule

Friday, April 28

4:30-6:30 p.m.

Evening reception at the home of Ellen Mills
1577 Camino Medio, Los Alamos*

7 p.m.

Optional concert at Duane Smith Auditorium*

Saturday, April 29

8-9 a.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church 2390 North Rd.*

9 a.m.

Registration. Collection of silent auction items

Welcome from Los Alamos County Council Chair Denise Derkacs
Introduction to LWVUS Liaison Alexis Juday-Marshall

9:30-11:55

First Plenary Session

Noon-1:30

Lunch from the Los Alamos Co-op

State Representative Christine Chandler will discuss the recent legislative session.

1:30-4:30

Afternoon Activities

**Meetings of communications, fundraising, and environmental issues groups

Visit Museums, Nature Center, National Parks

Hike

6-9:30

Banquet at Pig+Fig, White Rock*

Speaker: NM State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard

Sunday, April 30

8:30-9

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Registration

9 a.m. -noon

Second Plenary Session

10:30-10:45

Silent auction ends

Noon

Convention Adjourns

LWVNM Board Meeting begins 15 minutes after the convention is adjourned.

Lunch for board members from Los Alamos Co-op

See “Convention Information” for * and **.

Convention Information

Room Reservations: The Holiday Inn Express is reserving a block of rooms for delegates. **To reserve a room at a nightly rate of \$119+tax/double room, call the hotel directly at 505-661-2646 and refer to the League of Women Voters. Reservations must be made by March 29, 2023 for the discounted rate.**

***Directions to the Holiday Inn Express, 60 Entrada Dr.:** The hotel is just off Route 502 at the east entrance to Los Alamos. Route 502 climbs to the elevation of Los Alamos (7,300 feet) from the Rio Grande. At the top of the hill, look for the sign for the Holiday Inn Express on your right. Turn right onto Camino Entrada, then Entrada Drive is the first left.

***Directions to the home of Ellen Mills at 1577 Camino Medio (Friday reception):** From the Holiday Inn Express, follow Route 502 west through the roundabout and take the third exit onto Trinity Drive. Continue to Diamond Drive at the fourth traffic light. Turn right and continue on Diamond to another roundabout. Take the first exit, follow San Ildefonso Road up the hill and take the first right, Camino Redondo. Camino Medio will be the second street. Turn right. Ellen's house, 1577, will be on your left near the end of the block.

***Friday Evening Concert 7 p.m. at Duane Smith Auditorium 1300 Diamond Dr.:** The Los Alamos Concert Association is presenting Les Violons du Roy and Inon Barnatan, piano. Tickets are \$35 and may be purchased online. Click here for more information: <http://losalamosconcert.org/home.html>

***Directions to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 2390 North Rd. (Convention venue):** Follow Rte. 502 west (right) to the roundabout. Take the third exit onto Trinity Drive. Continue to Diamond Drive at the fourth traffic light. Turn right and pass two more traffic lights, then turn left onto North Road. The church will be on the right just past Mountain Elementary School.

Lunch on Saturday will be served in Gibson Hall. It will consist of fruit, salads, and pinwheel wraps, with cookies for dessert.

Silent Auction Fundraiser: This is an opportunity to find new homes for items you no longer need: books, paintings, plants, jewelry, kitchen gadgets, etc. Please turn in your silent auction items in good condition beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 18. 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.

Saturday Afternoon Activities

****Meetings of communications, fundraising, and environmental issues groups.** Please check the box on the registration form.

Museums, Nature Center, Historic LA self-guided tour: http://www.visitlosalamos.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/2017_HistoricWalkingTourMap_HorizontalLayout.pdf

Nearby attractions: Bandelier, Manhattan Project National Park, Valles Caldera National Preserve.

Hike led by a local League member.

2023 LWVNM CONVENTION

APRIL 28-30 BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, LOS ALAMOS, NM

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Name: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
Street Address: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

REGISTRATION STATUS (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

Board Member _____ Local League Delegate _____ Member-at-Large Representative _____ (fee prepaid by the Leagues for official delegates)
All Others: _____ (include registration fee of \$35 below)

REGISTRATION FEE AND MEALS

Registration Fee @ \$35.....
(includes reception, snacks, coffee and tea, lunch on Saturday, April 29th)
Saturday Banquet at Pig and Fig in White Rock @\$50
Dietary Restrictions for Lunch and/or Dinner: Vegetarian _____ Gluten-Free _____
Vegan _____
Post-Convention LWVNM Board Meeting box lunch @\$12
(Menu will be sent later)..

ADDITIONAL GUEST MEALS:
_____ Luncheon Guest(s) @ \$15.....
_____ Banquet Guest(s) @ \$50.....
Dietary Restrictions? Vegetarian _____ Vegan _____ Gluten Free _____

TOTAL: REGISTRATION AND MEALS.....

Will attend the Friday night reception (please indicate number) _____
Additional plans (please indicate number)
Meet with other League members (see Convention information**) _____
Hike _____
Interested in attending concert* _____

REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE OF 4/10/23

A Successful Legislative Session Despite some Disappointments

By Akkana Peck, Action Chair

The Bad News

The proposals for constitutional amendments on an Independent Redistricting Commission, restructuring the legislature, and legislative salaries did not pass. In addition, legislation to allow true open primaries died in House Judiciary. **SB42 – Campaign Reporting Act Changes** that would have added more transparency and safeguards on campaign contributions lost on the House floor. Another loss for transparency and accountability, **HB5 – Conduct of Current & Former Public Officials**, died when its last committee, Senate Judiciary, failed to take a vote on it. **HM28 – Admit Washington D.C. as a State and SM8**, the Senate version, both got nowhere. This is a longtime LWVUS priority. It was interesting to see that **HM28** was originally tabled in House Government, Elections & Indian Affairs, brought back, given a Do Pass and then withered on the House Calendar.

There is a common thread here, legislation that limits the power and accountability of incumbents does not have much of a chance of passing.

The Good News

The passage of **HB7 – Reproductive and Gender-Affirming Health Care** and **SB13 – Reproductive Health Workers Protection** assured that services would be available throughout New Mexico and would protect the privacy of those who seek and those who provide those services.

The passage of **HB4 – Voting Rights Protections** (aka NM Voting Rights Act), **SB180 – Election Changes** and **SB43 – Intimidation of Election Workers** assured that New Mexico would continue to have one of the most secure and accessible voting systems in the country.

The passage of **HB547 – Tax Changes** (Omnibus Tax bill) went a long way to adding more progressivity and fairness to our tax system. It included an increase in the Child Tax Credit that was a major priority for the League. In addition, the passage of **SB147 – Tax Changes** cleaned up much of our tax code and codified the Tax Expenditure Budget.

In addition, the Legislature passed important bills that the League supported in the areas of education, health care, environmental justice, and nuclear waste storage protection.

Generally, the Legislature has become far more accessible and transparent, especially for those who want to participate virtually. We are particularly pleased that the meetings of the Conference Committee were webcasted. But a few of the Senate committees have restrictive rules that make it difficult to participate. Then there are the dreaded “dummy bills” that are used to circumvent the Legislature’s own rules on filing deadlines. These bills have no content but are placeholders for bills the Legislative leadership want to file after the deadline. The Senate dummy bills many times go to committee hearings without titles and sometimes without content.

Bill amendments are also frequently not published before committee meetings, but **HCR1 – Publication of Amendments & Agency Analysis**, which passed, might help with that.

Thanks to all the League members who responded to our calls for action and to those who participated as League lobbyists.

We also have to thank the members of the Legislature for their tireless work during this 60-day session. But we wonder how much more they could have accomplished if they were paid and had year-round paid staff.

Menstrual Products, Student Advocates, and Hope for the Future

By Akkana Peck, Action Chair

This year saw a really productive legislative session. There were good bills on all sorts of topics the League cares about: Voting and Elections, Reproductive Justice, the Budget, how the Legislature is run, Education, Health Care, Criminal Justice, the Environment. And many of the bills that we supported passed.

But one bill stood out as a little different from the others: **HB134: Menstrual Products in School Bathrooms**. It was driven by three Albuquerque Academy high school students, seniors Noor Ali, Sophia Liem and Mireya Macías. They contacted the LWVNM before the session started, looking for support, and we were happy to sign on to speak in strong support of the bill.

Not that they needed it. I watched the first committee meeting for **HB134**, in the House Education Committee, and was blown away by how articulate, smart, prepared and confident the students were. Listening to these young women made me feel hopeful and optimistic about the future. They told stories of problems menstruation can cause in school, especially if you're caught without any pads or tampons. They explained what a problem it can be especially for low-income students, and presented their case for why New Mexico should address the problem. Lots of other students as well as adults spoke for the bill, each adding new stories to the mix.

I didn't speak (the League already had a designated speaker for the bill), but hearing all the stories got me thinking back. Like most women, I've been in the situation they're describing (I usually found paper towels sufficed as an emergency measure). But I remember the first time I got a job at a company where the pad and tampon machines in the women's room were free, and how it felt as if I'd finally arrived. I know that sounds silly — it even sounds silly to me, recounting it so many years later. Obviously, a Silicon Valley software engineer can afford her own menstrual products, and a machine that charges 25¢ in the event I forgot my own isn't a hardship. But I'd been struggling to rise through a series of unrewarding jobs and had finally arrived at a top-notch company doing the job I wanted to be doing, and somehow seeing those free pads felt like a condensation of all the varied signals top companies send to let their employees know they're valued. It's like a mark of respect.

The bill passed through every committee with enthusiastic bipartisan support...

You can read more about these students and their quest in the *ABQ Journal*: Three Albuquerque seniors pitch bill to require free feminine hygiene products in schools. (<https://www.abqjournal.com/2569255/three-albuquerque-seniors-tackle-the-roundhouse.html>) I'm happy to note that my representative, Christine Chandler, was a cosponsor of the bill.

The bill passed through every committee with enthusiastic bipartisan support, and as I write this it's on the Governor's desk to be signed. Kudos to Ali, Liem and Macías for the great job they did drafting the bill and advocating for it at the Capitol; and kudos to their teachers and advisors and to all the other students who helped advocate for HB134. They've made school a little less stressful for their fellow students, and set a good example for us all.

Report of the Nominating Committee, March 2023

The nominating committee is preparing to present a final report to the state convention in April. We continue to search for a volunteer to work with members outside the coverage areas of the four local Leagues, and for a person to fill the position of first vice-president. This position is reserved for a person who is willing to fill the position of president in the future. Here is the proposed slate of board members for 2023-2025.

OFFICERS

Co-Presidents: Kathy Brooks (Southern New Mexico)
Hannah Burling (Santa Fe)

1st Vice President – *vacant*

2nd Vice President – Barbara Calef (Los Alamos)

Secretary – Rebecca Chaiken (Los Alamos)

Treasurer – Kim Sorensen (Southern New Mexico)

Action Chair – Akkana Peck (Los Alamos)

Program/Past President – Judy Williams (Santa Fe)

Membership Director needed. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Hannah Burling at president@lwvnm.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Elected (up to eight)

Archives: Jody Lawson (Santa Fe)

Communications: Janet Blair (Central New Mexico)

JEDI Liaison – Rebecca Alvarez (Central New Mexico)

Projects – Meredith Machen (Santa Fe)

Voter Services – Edwina Jaramillo (Southern New Mexico)

Voting and Elections – Dick Mason (Central New Mexico)

Women and Gender Issues – Ann LePage (Los Alamos)

Director w/o Portfolio – Heather Balas (Central New Mexico)

The four local League presidents or their designated liaisons serve on the board

Board of Directors: appointed members (up to six are appointed after the convention)

2023-2025 Nominating Committee (Five minimum. Elected: three non-board members at Convention)

Karen Wentworth (Central New Mexico)

Becky Shankland (Los Alamos)

Eileen VanWie (Southern New Mexico)

The LWVNM Board will appoint two members in 2025 to complete the nominating committee.

2023-25 Budget Committee: Appointed by the state board at least four months in advance of Convention.

The treasurer serves as ex-officio member of the committee but shall not serve as chair.

Respectfully submitted by the 2023 Nominating Committee: Karen Wentworth (Central New Mexico) Rosmarie Frederickson (Los Alamos), Edwina Jaramillo (Southern New Mexico), Meredith Machen (Santa Fe) and Dick Mason (Central New Mexico.)

Program Items to be Considered by the 2023 State Convention

By Kathy Brook, LWVNM Program Chair

POSITIONS

Since the 2021 Convention, two LWVNM positions, **Administration of Justice** and **Public Regulation Commission**, have been revised and one new position, **Ranked Choice Voting**, has been adopted through concurrence. See below for further information on these changes. In addition, the LWVNM Board has approved a change in the heading for the **Natural Resources** positions to **Environment**. This change was proposed by LWVLA.

PART I – Changes to existing LWVNM positions since 2021 Convention

Administration of Justice LWVNM was invited to concur with the LWV California position on Criminal Justice. Following meetings of local Leagues to discuss the California position, the LWVNM board voted to concur. Recognizing that there were parts of the California position that overlapped or duplicated the existing LWVNM Administration of Justice position, a committee of state board members worked to incorporate the new elements into the existing LWVNM position.

The revised Administration of Justice position, approved by the LWVNM board, appears below. Major changes include the Position in Brief, the list of four principles and policies to which a high functioning law enforcement system is committed, the eleven law enforcement policies supported by LWVNM, and the section titled “Policies on Incarceration.” The heading “Legal Aid” has been changed to “Public Defender Program.” The first sentence of the Death Penalty section has been changed from “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.” The section heading, “Alternatives to Incarceration,” is now “Sentencing Guidelines.” The sections on Selection of Judges and Juvenile Justice are unchanged.

Administration of Justice

(Adopted 1962; revised 1987, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2022)

Position in Brief:

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico believes in a justice system that ensures fair and humane treatment under the law for all persons regardless of legal status, is effective, equitable, and transparent, that fosters public trust at all stages, including law enforcement practices, pre-trial procedures, alternative sentencing, incarceration, and re-entry. All components must be adequately funded and coordinated in order to carry out these goals.

A high functioning law enforcement system is committed to the following principles and policies:

1. eliminating systemic bias;
2. focusing on humane treatment and rehabilitation with the goal of promoting the successful reentry into communities of those who have been incarcerated;
3. standardizing and sharing data among criminal justice and law enforcement agencies;
4. relying on evidence-based research in decision-making about law enforcement programs and policies (including scheduled, periodic audits of program and policy effectiveness).

LWVNM supports the following policies for law enforcement:

1. promoting safety practices for both law enforcement officers and the communities they serve;
2. building public trust and positive collaborative relationships through engagement with community members;
3. providing accountability via independent civilian oversight of law enforcement and publicly available data on officer conduct;
4. providing sufficient psychological services and counseling to meet stress-related needs of personnel;
5. staffing departments to reflect the diversity of the communities they serve;
6. training officers to identify individuals with behavioral health conditions, disabilities, or substance abuse/addiction, so that officers will request support from appropriate medical and behavioral health professionals with the goal of diverting those individuals into treatment instead of jail;
7. training officers on de-escalation techniques;
8. providing anti-bias training for all staff;
9. requiring all officers to render first aid to people who have been injured as a result of officer action;
10. conducting comprehensive background checks for all applicants to law enforcement and corrections positions;
11. authorizing minimal use of force and considering deadly force only when necessary to prevent imminent death or serious bodily injury.

Selection of Judges

Judges of New Mexico's state courts, i.e., Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, District Courts, and Metropolitan Courts should be appointed by the governor from a screened list submitted by a nonpartisan nominating commission and only be subject, at intervals, to nonpartisan election for retention or rejection.

Public Defender Program

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

Sentencing Guidelines

The League supports consideration of the individual circumstances of the person charged and nature of the crime. When appropriate, split sentencing and/or alternatives to incarceration should be explored and utilized to ease the burden on the criminal justice system. The League opposes mandatory minimum sentences, especially for drug offenses. The League supports the expansion of prevention and treatment programs, therapeutic courts, and pre-trial diversion programs. Alternatives to incarceration programs should emphasize diversion and reintegration into the community. These programs should be separate from correctional facilities. The community must be educated regarding these alternatives.

Death Penalty

The League opposes the death penalty and prefers a sentence of life in prison without parole as an alternative. If the death penalty is reinstated, 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 homi-

cide prosecutions in New Mexico;

3. high standards for defense counsel at all stages of the proceedings.
4. allowing opponents of the death penalty to serve on the jury for the first trial (to determine guilt or innocence) in a capital case.

Funding

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

The League believes that the law enforcement, judicial, and corrections systems must be adequately funded and professionally staffed in order to carry out their goals. Funding of specialized programs for offenders, including behavioral health and substance abuse treatment, is essential. The League supports sufficient funding to guarantee humane incarceration 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.

Policies for Incarceration

LWVNM supports the following policies for incarceration:

1. ensuring that incarcerated people and corrections officers have clear, safe and accessible ways to report abuse;
2. addressing recidivism by instituting programs that focus on rehabilitation, education, behavioral health treatment, substance abuse recovery, and transitional programs;
3. adapting case management services to match education, behavior, job training, work, and behavioral health programs with the needs of incarcerated individuals;
4. providing sufficient psychological services, including training and evaluation, to meet the needs of corrections officers;
5. encouraging family and community visitations and ways to maintain contact;
6. eliminating private prisons. Until space in public prisons is available, ensure that private prisons comply with all of the standards for state-run jails and prisons;
7. providing pre- and post-release programs, inclusive of probation services, to prepare as well as assess and address the needs of people re-entering the community.

Juvenile Justice

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. due process and legal representation at all stages of the child's contact with the law;
5. provision of legal and safe detention accommodations for all juveniles in custody;
6. monitoring of substitute care through Citizens Review Boards and Court Appointed Special Advocates;
7. education for all youth in the juvenile justice system.

Public Regulation Commission In its program planning process, LWVSNM noted the need to update

this position to reflect the change in the Commission's status from an elected body to an appointed body. The change is to item 2, deleting "after election" and replacing it with "for Commissioners"). This change has been approved by the LWVNM board.

Public Regulation Commission
(Adopted 2012; revised 2013; revised 2023)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports the following with respect to the Public Regulation Commission (PRC) and the entity regulating insurance:

- 1 PRC candidates should be evaluated on the basis of qualifications by a broad-based nonpartisan process.
- 2 Candidates for the PRC should have education and/or appropriate professional experience in a related field or in consumer advocacy. There should also be mandated, ongoing professional training after election for Commissioners.
3. The PRC should be funded by assessments on the industries that it regulates and those funds should be sequestered from the general fund.
4. The legislature should approve a budget sufficient to enable the PRC to carry out its allotted duties successfully.
5. Insurance and Utilities should be regulated by separate agencies.
6. The laws forbidding ex parte communications between Commissioners and those who are interested parties in cases before the PRC should be very strong, and penalties for violating these laws also should be strengthened.
7. The PRC should have an inspector general charged with reviewing practices for handling incoming payments properly, conducting internal audits of other functions, and pursuing such other investigations as are deemed necessary.
8. The PRC Commissioners and advisory staff should be prohibited from working in a business regulated by the PRC for at least 1 year after they complete their tenure at the PRC.
9. Consumer interests should have strong representation when the PRC is making policy decisions and setting rates.

PART II – New Position Adopted through Concurrence

Ranked choice voting is currently in use in municipal elections in Santa Fe and Las Cruces. LWVNM held a webinar on this subject on August 31, 2022, featuring Mario Jimenez of Common Cause and Lonna Atkeson, faculty member at Florida State University. The recording of the webinar can be found at <https://www.lwvnm.org/news.html>

Ranked Choice Voting
(Adopted 2023)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico will support ranked choice voting for all statewide elections.

STUDIES

An extension of the **Tribal Law Study** adopted in 2019 is recommended along with a new study, **Nuclear Issues**.

Tribal Law Codification at the State Level A one year extension is proposed by study chair Rebecca Álvarez, on behalf of the JEDI Committee.

The study was approved in 2019 as a one-year study of the pros and cons of codifying federal tribal laws at the

state level, and where possible, tribal laws at the state level, considering what is the best option for preservation of tribal sovereignty as well as benefits to tribal populations. The first objective is to educate ourselves about the complexities of enforcing federal tribal law as well as the complexities of balancing tribal sovereignty. The second is to develop a position for advocacy.

The Tribal Law Study, chaired by Rebecca Álvarez, has generated a significant amount of research, with intensive participation by multiple League members. It has also served as a recruitment tool in at least one instance. The study has several tasks outstanding, most notably, the inclusion of interviews with Navajo Nation representatives and Tribal Law faculty at the University of New Mexico. Pandemic-era restrictions, lack of quality broadband access in rural New Mexico, and Tribal Law faculty turnover at the University of New Mexico have prevented thus far the completion of all these interviews. For these reasons, an extension of an additional year for the completion of the study is requested and is recommended by the LWVNM Board.

Nuclear Issues A new study is proposed by Karen Douglas, LWVNM Spent Nuclear Fuel Committee Chair.

The study will focus on efforts to evaluate the advantages/disadvantages of commercial nuclear power as a major contributor to clean energy in the US and promote reliance on factual information sources when formulating future energy policies. The study will also evaluate international successes that could be applied domestically and address barriers to US adoption of these measures, improving our ability to address the accelerating international climate emergency. The study is envisioned as being expedited with a goal of encouraging concurrence by other state Leagues and the national League. Consensus meetings would be held in the winter of 2024.

Study scope will include these tasks:

1. Evaluate the current contribution nuclear energy provides as both a baseload and a GHG-free energy source for domestic/international clean energy production with recent advances.
2. Identify deterrents to nuclear energy expansion and any proven and effective remedies (consider the LWVNM Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage Safety Position adopted in 2021).
3. Enumerate mis/disinformation to the public, techniques to filter unreliable sources, and methods to reeducate residents.
4. Consider the current US energy situation and domestic nuclear plant status including premature closures with related impacts on states.
5. Evaluate the advantages of newer advanced reactor concepts with enhanced safety features and efficiency with related implementation status.

2023-2005 LWVNM Budget Committee Report

by Judy Williams

Committee members: Judy Williams (LWVSFC), Chair; Suzanne Ronneau, Ex Officio; Mary Flynn (SNM); Rosmarie Frederickson (Los Alamos); Donna Sandoval (CNM)

The committee met twice to consider the current budget and develop the budget for 2023-2025.

- Contributions are expected to come from businesses, mostly. Hannah has said she can raise about \$10,000. Most contributions will go to the 501c3 organization.
- There will be a silent auction at Convention. We are assuming a \$700 profit.
- Convention expenses are based on an estimate of \$35 for registration for 14 board members.
- PMP is based on total membership of 540: CNM 175, Los Alamos 109, Santa Fe County 141, Southern New Mexico 107, LWVNM 8.

League of Women Voters of New Mexico Proposed Budget fy 23- 24 and 24-25

	Current Budget 2022-23 (with revisions)	Proposed 2023-24	Proposed 2024-2025
1	Income - Organizational		
2	Contributions from Members \$ 25.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
3	Contributions from Non-members \$200.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
4	Grants to c4 -	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
5	Central New Mexico PMP \$1,359.50	\$1,924.00	\$1,924.00
6	Southern New Mexico PMP \$1,183.00	\$1,209.00	\$1,209.00
7	Los Alamos PMP \$1,241.50	\$1,267.50	\$1,267.50
8	Santa Fe PMP 1,612.00	\$1,501.50	\$1,501.50
9	MAL Dues \$225.00	\$315.00	\$315.00
10	Interest \$5.00		
11	Convention/Council Auction \$700.00	\$700.00	-
12	Total Income - Organizational \$7,551.00	\$18,117.00	\$17,417.00
13	Expense - Organizational		
14	Delegate expenses -LWVNM Convention/Council \$525.00	\$490.00	\$500.00
15	Delegate expenses -LWVUS Convention/Council \$2,400.00	\$500.00	\$2,400.00
16	Member at Large PMP \$96.00	\$224.00	\$224.00
17	Div. Membership dues to locals \$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
18	Fundraising -	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
19	Total expense - organizational \$3,221.00	\$1,414.00	\$3,324.00
20	Operating expenses:		
21	Office use \$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
22	Constant Contact \$400.00	\$550.00	\$550.00
23	Website (see separate note) \$ -	\$100.00	\$100.00
24	Copying \$20.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
26	Postage	\$20.00	\$20.00
27	La Palabra (InDesign) -	\$200.00	\$200.00
28	SOS filings \$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
29	Paypal -	\$10.00	\$10.00
30	Total Operating expenses \$2,341.00	\$2,942.00	\$2,942.00
31	Program - Advocacy		
32	League Day \$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
33	Position Support/advocacy \$50.00`	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
34	Legislative Reception \$2,000.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00
35	Coalition to Stop Violence Against	\$250.00	\$250.00
36	Miscellaneous \$125.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
37	Total expenses - advocacy \$2,325.00	\$5,350.00	\$5,350.00
38	Total Expense \$7,887.00	\$9,706.00	\$11,616.00
39	Net \$(336.00)	\$8,411.00	\$5,801.00

40 PMP paid by local leagues is income to LWVNM; \$13 per individual member, \$6.50 per household member. MAL dues to LWVUS are \$45; LWVNM keeps \$13 of MAL dues.

41 LWVNM Convention - assume \$50 registration for 10 members, and \$700 for the silent auction
42 Major grants are likely to be reflected in the LWVNM 501c3 budget.

Local League News

LWVSNM Report

By Eileen VanWie and Kathy Brook, Co-Presidents

General Meeting: In February we were privileged to hear from NMSU history faculty member Jamie Bronstein, who provided an overview of threats to democracy in the US from a historical perspective. At the beginning of the meeting, to celebrate the 103rd Anniversary of the LWVUS, Robyn Holmes was recognized as the recipient of the *LWVSNM Making Democracy Work Award*. Robyn, who is the Otero County Clerk, was not able to attend as her daughter was in labor at the time of the meeting. However, SNM Board members expect to attend the Otero County Commission meeting on March 9 to present the award and celebrate Robyn's support for legal elections under extraordinary conditions of distrust of voting processes.

Committees: Our budget and nominating committees continue to be active in preparing for the Annual Meeting on April 15 and feedback on local program ideas is being collected. The Affordable Housing Committee has submitted a letter to the Las Cruces Mayor and City Councilors seeking modifications in the Affordable Housing Land Bank and Trust Fund Advisory Committee. League suggestions include representation from those who are current or prospective residents of affordable housing or who advocate for members of these groups. The education committee continues its work on the local education position. In addition, discussions are occurring for a possible study of the availability of medical care in the area.

Board: A member of the Otero County unit of LWVSNM has been attending board meetings and a member is serving on the budget committee. Our most recent op-ed published in the Las Cruces Sun News and the Las Cruces Bulletin and on the KRWG website covered civic engagement to strengthen community safety practices in relation to law enforcement.

Los Alamos Report

By Barbara Calef, Co-President

The Los Alamos League held their program planning meeting at the home of Ellen Mills on January 30. It was our second post-pandemic in person meeting for the general membership. Some members are still isolating, but it was an excellent opportunity to meet some new members and discuss local issues of concern. There were no suggestions for the state program except to change the name of the Natural Resources position to "Environment."

Denise Derkacs, the new chair of our County Council, was the speaker at Lunch with a Leader in January. Transparency was the major topic at the meeting. Chair Derkacs reported that each January at the first meeting of the year, Council adopts a resolution establishing the minimum standards of notice to the public for all meetings of the Council as well as meetings of County boards and other bodies created by the Council. During the ensuing discussion, she explained that the councilors are not allowed to discuss upcoming votes with more than two other councilors, so they do not know in advance the outcome of a vote. She added, "Interestingly, these restrictions do not apply to our state legislators."

League Day replaced Lunch with a Leader in February. We set up a history table to accompany the Fair Districts and LWVNM tables in the Roundhouse, covering it with posters and a ballot box from our Centennial exhibit. The ballot question was "Are you in favor of HJR 1, the redistricting bill?" The vote was unanimously in favor.



On March 6 League members gathered at Becky Shankland’s home to address letters to prospective donors. This is our major fundraising activity of the year and another opportunity to socialize. It was a very enjoyable evening with time to chat and snack on homemade cookies after we finished stuffing envelopes.

Fair Districts Table

From left: Kathleen Burke, Judy Williams Photo by Janet Blair

League Day 23 Photos

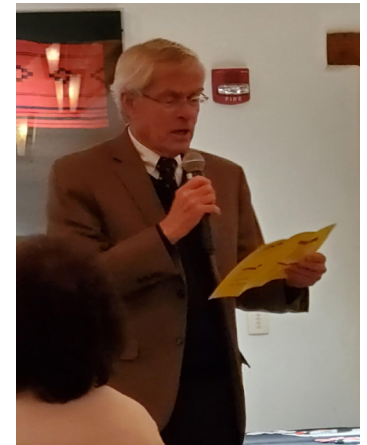
LWVNM table

From left: Valerie Brooker and Julius Frank. Photo by Janet Blair



(Below) Machen table at legislative reception

From left: Meredith Machen, Senator William Soules, Dave Larson, Jody Larson, David Burling. Photo by Janet Blair



Keynote Speaker

Former Senator Jeff Bingaman. Photo by Felicia Orth





Legislature Day Speakers (left to right) Ethics Commission Director Jeremy Farris, NM Voices for Children Executive Director Amber Wallin and State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard. Photos by Janet Blair



Santa Fe County Report

By Jody Larson

We have 146 members, and our financial position remains robust, thanks to our active Fundraising and Development Committee. Looking to the future, this committee has identified areas for concentration. For example, we need a specific perceived benefit in between major election years to give focus to our fundraising. We are examining options for SEO (Search Engine Optimization) and digital publications that might pique or satisfy interest in our organization.

Our recent Program Planning meeting yielded several suggestions for tweaks to update language in our local positions and one for LWVNM. Although no formal proposals for study were submitted, a few members are interested in updating our public health position to cover a broader range of components of public health. A proposal to the board may be forthcoming before the deadline for recommended studies in advance of Annual Meeting, which will take place Saturday, May 13.

Our Sunshine Week speaker recruitment is running into the usual conflict with the legislative session: many potential speakers are active lobbyists for their own organizations. Nevertheless, we hope to have a panel of advocates for open, accessible government assessing progress and suggesting improvements we could support locally.

Our PR/Communications Director is pursuing the SEO and digital publications options noted above and has revised some publications for use at various tabling events. Our intern, Julius Frank, has been working with LWVNM to follow some bills, especially HB7, Reproductive & Gendering-Affirming Health Care, for which he has provided testimony. He will also be posting on our social media to create awareness about this bill. Julius came to League Day at the Legislature and hosted a table in the rotunda. We are receiving applications for internships for next year; this responsibility requires a substantial time commitment, but the students seem to enjoy it and benefit from it.

Our Action and Advocacy Committee is coming back from a brief hiatus: we did not meet in February because of travel and other commitments by most of our members. Meanwhile, we saw that some members of our city's governing body, one councilor from each of our four districts, have proposed a solution for the Plaza's Soldier's Monument. Contrary to the process recommended in the final report from the city's Culture, History, Arts, Reconciliation and Truth (CHART) project, the councilors have proposed a specific renovation to the monument. They have also proposed establishing a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office in the city's administration, which was recommended in the CHART report, albeit with different duties. We are looking at these proposals for opportunities for advocacy.

Voter Services team members have been busy evaluating their events, projects and programs to determine effectiveness and opportunities for improvement and expansion. Several board and off-board position descriptions have been updated, along with some publications.

Central New Mexico Report

By Karen Douglas

LWVCNM initiated the first annual Board retreat February 4th to reevaluate our direction and priorities to better engage members in post-pandemic ventures. Results from the member surveys seeking preferred venues indicated a mixed message noting monthly meetings via Zoom was not including those desiring in-person socializing with opportunities to reconnect with prior friends and acquaintances and increase involvement in LWVCNM efforts. Betsy Carlson and Mary Mulvaney, Development Committee Co-Chairs, recommended outreach to seek funding from interested voters reviewing the widely distributed Voter Guide.

The 75th LWVCNM Anniversary celebration at the Sheraton Hotel, planned for May 6th following the Annual Meeting, is chaired by Jeanne Logsdon. LWVCNM strives to ensure a momentous event for both LWV members and community leaders who interact regularly with LWV and also appreciate our contributions to the electorate. Both Jeanne Logsdon and Karen Wentworth have been thoroughly reviewing LWV historical information in our files with planned transfer to the Archives of the UNM library. These resources will offer a narrative of LWVCNM milestones and achievements for the Anniversary celebration.

Greater member involvement was also desired for our annual winter Program Planning meeting. The February 11 meeting included 15 members, an increase over the number participating in 2022. LWVCNM expects our current positions may be curbing our communication of solutions to problems within our community or state. Local studies or concurrence with other LWV positions from program planning are open to adoption by LWVCNM members during the Annual Meeting. However, only the Nuclear Issues study proposal for a state study was initiated. A brief discussion of study status for both the LWVNM Judicial Selection and Tribal Law studies was provided for member information. LWVCNM will again seek member recommendations to increase participation in this vital program planning process.

The February Unit meeting featured LWVNM President Hannah Burling, who discussed LWVNM efforts underway and fundraising plans. The March meeting is again devoted to Sunshine Month with an online journalist from Searchlight NM speaking about "Let the Sunshine In: Ethics and Government Transparency." The April 13th meeting program will again align with observance of Earth Day.

LWVCNM was among the APD Forward Coalition organizations that signed the petition in support of SB252 Law Enforcement Officers Procedures Act, sponsored by Senators Pope (D) & Rubio (D). The legislation concerns reporting and disciplinary actions for excessive use of force by police personnel.



League of Women Voters of NM
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Please consider helping your local League or LWVNM to pay for our 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.