



La Palabra

The newsletter of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico
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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.

League Day at the Legislature - 2012

Monday, Jan. 23

5:30-7:30 p.m.

(See page 6 for story)

**Legislative Reception and Panel Discussion:
Voter Verification: Facts and Fallacies:
Is Photo ID Essential?**

**Garrett's Desert Inn, 311 Old Santa Fe Trail,
(just north of Round House)**

Tuesday, Jan. 24

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Round House

Lunch and Educational Events

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Desert Inn

The 2012 Legislative Session will be dealing with many pieces of legislation that have been prioritized by the League of Women Voters. The thirty-day session is limited to budget items and legislation that the Governor puts on her call. We expect that the Governor will put the Voter Photo ID and eliminating driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants on her call. The LWVNM opposes both of these pieces of legislation. Key to this session will be opposing tax breaks that reduce New Mexico revenues and threaten funding for essential programs. There may also be some health care reform issues introduced by the Governor.

League Day will start at the Capitol. Members can pick up their information packets from 7:30 a.m. on at the LWV table in the West or East Lobby. Members are encouraged to attend sessions in the House and Senate and/or committee hearings before 10:30 a.m. when we will head a few doors toward the Plaza to the Desert Inn at 311 Old Santa Fe Trail to hear from:

* **Alicia Manzano**, M.P.A., Outreach Director, New Mexico Voices for Children -- Alicia is also the Director of the **New Mexico Fairness Project** that advocates for fairness in the New Mexico budget. She will speak on budget issues being considered in the session.

* **Marcela Diaz** (B.A., Columbia University) is the Executive

(Continued on page 6)

Salute to New Mexico -- First 100 Years League fundraising gala

All New Mexico League members and community supporters will be invited to the fundraising gala of 2012, Salute to New Mexico -- First 100 Years and Beyond.

The event will honor the centennial of New Mexico's statehood. New Mexico became a state on April 6, 1912. The event is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico with support of LWVNM.

"We are very excited by this fundraising event," says Dan Rudolph, co-chair and member of the LWVCNM Board of Directors. "Proceeds from the banquet will go to all of New Mexico Leagues, depending on their participation."

The fundraising dinner will be April 21 at the Embassy Hotel and Suites in Albuquerque.

Governor Susana Martinez has been invited to keynote the event. Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry has also been invited.

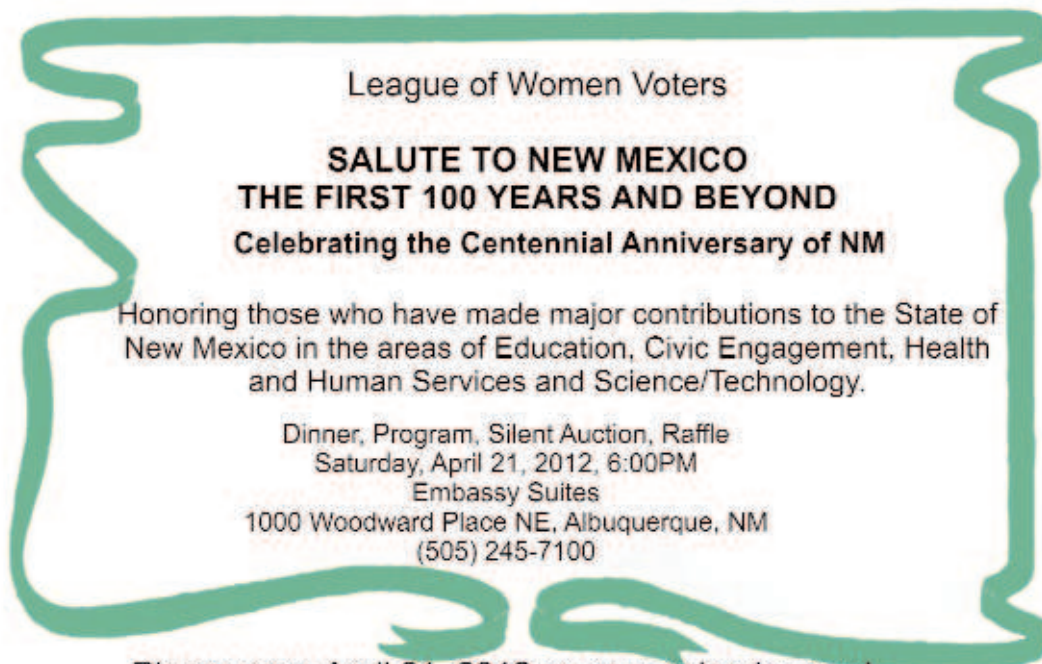
The event will feature two additional speakers. One will talk about New Mexico's past, and the other will take a look at the projected future of the state.

At the event, the League will honor individuals who have contributed to their community or

the state in one of four categories, including Education, Civic Engagement, Health and Human Services and Science/Technology. Persons currently holding elective office or persons who have announced their candidacy for elective office are NOT eligible for these awards. A nomination form is located on page 3 of this *La Palabra*. The nominations are due by Feb. 29, 2012. A committee consisting of members from all state Leagues will make the selections.

Part of the fundraising event will be a silent auction. Already several fine pieces of art have been donated. There will also be a raffle featuring several exquisite items, including a diamond and gold pendant necklace that will be the first prize. Tickets for the raffle will be available for purchase prior to the event. The drawing will take place at the dinner on April 21. (You need not be present to win.) Check the LWVCNM website (www.lwvcnm.org) or the LWVNM (www.lwvnm.org) website for further information and updates.

Discounted room rates will be available at the hotel for out-of-town participants. The Embassy Hotel and Suites is a Three Star, Three Diamond property.



Please save April 21, 2012 on your calendar now!
Your invitation will be mailed in March.
For More Information, See www.lwvnm.org/salute

Salute Silent Auction Form

Below is the donation form for the "Salute to New Mexico the First 100 Years and Beyond" silent auction. Please fill it out and turn it in with the item to be included in the auction. Make copies of the form if you will be donating more than one item. Donated items should be taken to

the LWVCNM office at 2315 San Pedro NE, #F6 in Albuquerque by March 17. If you can't get to the office, call Shelly Shepherd (505) 296-1238, and she will arrange to have them picked up.

Your donations will help make the silent auction a success.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| League of Women Voters SALUTE TO NEW MEXICO THE FIRST 100 YEARS AND BEYOND Silent Auction Donation Information Form | |
| Donated by: _____ | Phone: _____ |
| Mailing address of provider: (for thank you) _____ | |
| Item Description: _____ | |
| Estimated value: \$ _____ | |
| Minimum bid: \$ _____ | |
| Donation benefits: <input type="checkbox"/> LWVCNM (ABQ) <input type="checkbox"/> LWVGLC (Las Cruces) <input type="checkbox"/> LWVLA (Los Alamos) <input type="checkbox"/> LWVSFC (Santa Fe) | |

SALUTE TO NEW MEXICO AWARDS 2012

This form is to be used to nominate an individual or organization for the Salute to New Mexico First Hundred Years and Beyond Award to be given by the League of Women Voters of New Mexico. The year 2012 marks the Centennial of New Mexico's statehood. Four awards will be presented at the Salute to New Mexico dinner on April 21, 2012. Individuals living in New Mexico or organizations operating within New Mexico are eligible for the awards. Awards will be given to individuals or organizations that have made major contributions to the state of New Mexico in the areas of Education, Civic Engagement, Health and Human Services and Science/Technology. Persons currently holding elective office or persons who have announced their candidacy for elective office are NOT eligible for these awards.

Nominee's Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number/e-mail address: _____

Nominated by (organization or individual): _____

Address: _____

Contact person: _____ Telephone/e-mail address: _____

Please answer the following questions in no more than two typewritten pages and include a brief biographical sketch of your nominee.

1. If the nominee is an organization, state the nature and extent of the organization's activities in New Mexico.
2. Describe the relevant activities which the nominee undertook and how these activities impacted New Mexico.
3. List any civic organizations or activities in which the nominee has participated.

Please return to: Carol Tucker Trelease and Daniel Rudolph, Co-Chairs
Salute to New Mexico First Hundred Years and Beyond
League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico
2315 San Pedro, N.E., F-6, Albuquerque, N.M. 87110

DEADLINE: NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 29, 2012.

MAL is not a BAD Word!

Like many of you, I grew up speaking bits and pieces of several languages, and “mal” was not a word I liked to hear, especially from my mother or others in power over me! Now, I am “MAL,” and I want to see what we can do to make that a good thing.

First, some background: I grew up in small communities in NM and Nevada, but joined the League of Women Voters while living in a large city, again, probably like many of you -- it's easier to join LWV where it's active and visible. As a newsman and later government manager, I ended up involved in League activities, candidate forums, etc., as part of my job long before I was approached to become a member. Then, meetings, activities, social things -- easy to stay involved. Five years ago, we returned to my home state and the rural -- no, make that frontier life (that's how Torrance County is classified by the Feds). So, back to active in LWV, right? Wrong! I'm living 100 miles from the nearest local league and spent more than three years just being a Member at Large, very inactive until Mary Wilson called. End result, this MAL is now very active, and looking at 1) ways to get all MAL members more opportunity for involvement and 2) ways to bring more rural and frontier NM residents into the League.

Consider this -- how about establishing a “virtual League” to serve Members at Large throughout New Mexico, with as many of the benefits of membership as local leagues provide as possible -- regular meetings that are in person, online, and via conference phone, held in various locations throughout the state to let people get to know each other and explore new places in this

wonderful state, assistance in putting on and promoting League activities in these non-metropolitan areas, and keeping in mind the goal of recruiting enough members in various areas to establish local leagues in the future! Is it work? You bet. But one thing I know after five years in Corona Ranch is that we drive 150-250 miles round trip to go shopping for groceries, to service our cars, to drop off or pick up dry cleaning -- why can't we combine those with a League meeting where we get to know our neighbors and get involved in our neighbors' communities?

Before just saying, “that's too much work, and requires too much involvement,” think about the involvement most “frontier” residents have in their communities, as volunteer firefighters or EMT's, members of Friends of the Library, Local Emergency Planning Council, PTA, Scouts, FFA, etc. Many already serve as poll workers or Census volunteers, driving hundreds of miles and working many hours to assist their community. Aren't these just exactly the people we want as League members?

Also consider this: each new LWVNM member has an additional option -- joining one of the existing local leagues, so recruiting will benefit all areas of the League by bringing in friends and relatives who will in turn encourage their friends and relatives to participate in our efforts. The League has existed for as long as it has by reaching out and, as Mary did with me, bringing a friend into active participation! Talk to me -- let's make this idea work and make MAL a very good word in New Mexico!

-- Joe Keefe, Co-VP & Communications Chair,
communications@lwvnm.org, (505) 301-7340

Help wanted (needed)

LWVNM needs you to help with our wonderful quarterly news publication, *La Palabra*. Can you write semi-coherently? Did you work on the school newspaper in high school or college? Do you have basic computer layout capabilities? Can you learn?

It's that simple -- donating a few hours per month can make the difference for your League in continuing to get our information out

to members and potential members throughout the state. LWVNM does so much good in bringing your influence to bear on the Legislature and other governmental entities, working to ensure that your wishes are conveyed to those in government and the public. Become part of that process! Contact Chris Burroughs coburroughs@cybermesa.com, or Joe Keefe communications@lwvnm.org, today!

Fact Sheet on Drivers' Licenses for All: A Public Safety Issue 2012

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports verification documents, such as status cards, work permits, and driver's licenses that allow immigrants proper identification.

In New Mexico, individuals who choose to drive motor vehicles must be licensed. Being issued a driver's license ensures that:

- * Individuals have demonstrated knowledge of the rules and laws of the road by passing the written and road exams successfully.
- * Personal information such as name, address and other contact information, and a color photograph, are entered into the Motor Vehicle Department's database for use by law enforcement.
- * A driver meets the requirement for purchasing automobile insurance.

Having a New Mexico driver's license is not adequate identification for registering to vote.

In 2003, New Mexico lawmakers passed a bill that allowed a qualified foreign national without a social security number to apply for a New Mexico driver's license. Approximately 90,000 licenses have been issued to foreign nationals since then. The process is more complicated and onerous than for applicants who have social security numbers.

- * The applicant must make an appointment with the NM Motor Vehicle Department (MVD).
- * At the appointment, the applicant must show a birth certificate, along with a notarized translation, a valid passport or a Mexican consular identification card, an IRS-issued Individual Tax ID Number, and two documents proving residency in the state of New Mexico.
- * The MVD verifies the authenticity of the passport and/or the consular ID with the issuing agencies.
- * The applicant takes the written and practical driving tests.
- * The MVD sends the documents to the Tax Fraud Division of the NM Taxation and Revenue Department for screening and verification.
- * Upon verification, MVD mails the eligible applicant the driver's license to his/her NM residence.

Only four cases of non-New Mexico residents fraudulently obtaining a driver's license have been found since the law was enacted in 2003. Some proposed ways to further reduce this kind of fraud include:

- * Impose a six-month residency requirement for foreign nationals.
- * Increase the number of documents allowed to prove residency.
- * Enact laws that make submission of a fraudulent driver's application a felony.
- * Reduce to two years the duration of a driver's license for foreign nationals without social security numbers and require them to reapply for their licenses under new stricter standards.

Driver's licenses do not prove legal citizenship or legal immigration status. They do not replace social security numbers, which are required for voter registration, public assistance, and for many other benefits of citizenship. They do assist individuals to prove their identity so that they can cash checks and so forth.

For road safety, it is imperative that those who drive have a current driver's license. The Motor Vehicle Department database ensures that law enforcement has access to information about individuals who are involved in traffic and DWI violations, accidents, and vehicular emergencies as well as those who may be suspected of criminal activity.

The League applauds the New Mexico legislature for passing a series of laws that integrate immigrants into New Mexico communities, including the provision of driver's licenses. These laws have had broad bi-partisan support and were passed with the endorsement of law enforcement, faith, business, labor, and community organizations.

Contact Information:

Meredith Machen (505) 988-4523

meredith.machen@gmail.com

League Day

(Continued from page 1)

Director of **Somos Un Pueblo Unido**, a statewide immigrants' rights organization in New Mexico. She will speak on why we should be supporting driver's licenses for the undocumented.

Our luncheon speaker will be **Denise Lamb**, Director of the Elections Bureau for Santa Fe County. She will be speaking on Voting Issues in New Mexico. There has been much publicity about problems with voter registration in New Mexico. What is valid, what isn't? What's the law? In 1993, Ms. Lamb was responsible for implementing the National Voter Registration Act. State agencies signed up 100,000 new voters in the first 6 months after the law went into effect. Since then, New Mexico has been sued for non-compliance with the law. What's needed to get New Mexico into compliance? We need your voice to make a difference on these issues. Please plan to attend.

Accommodations: Garrett's Desert Inn is

offering us a legislative rate of \$49 plus tax for a single or \$59 for a double. There is no charge for parking. Call 1-800-888-2145 to make a reservation.

The LWVNM Action Committee will be sending out email Action Alerts throughout the 2012 Legislative session. If you are not part of the LWVNM Topics List please go to www.lwvnm.org and sign up.

To reserve a special box lunches for \$10, call 505-884-8441 or email action@lwvnm.org by Jan. 20. Indicate your choice of turkey and mozzarella, roast beef and cheddar, ham and Gruyere, served on white or wheat croissant with fresh fruit, and choice of lemon bar or brownie. Those who want salads, veggie sandwiches, or other choices should order individually after looking at the menu at www.lechantillybakery.com by calling (505) 984-8500. The cafe is in the Desert Inn.

For further information on League Day, please call 505-884-8441, visit the state website at www.lwvnm.org, or e-mail Dick Mason at action@lwvnm.org.

Legislative Reception: Voter Verification: Facts and Fallacies

LWVNM is hosting a social/educational event for legislators and League members on Monday, Jan. 23 the evening before League Day at the Legislature. The event will be at the Desert Inn, 311 Old Santa Fe Trail, 5:30-7:30 pm.

A panel of experts will discuss the facts that counter the generalizations and distortions regarding voter fraud as well the problems/successes with various ID forms, particularly issues with mandatory photo voter ID, which the League opposes because it has been shown to disenfranchise eligible voters, especially minorities, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and low-income people. The panelists are Maggie Toulouse Oliver, Bernalillo County Clerk; Dr. Gabriel Sanchez, Associate Professor and researcher, UNM Political Science Department; Laurie Weahkee, Executive Director, Native American Voting Alliance, and Steve Allen, Director of Public Policy, ACLU-NM (formerly Executive Director of Common Cause

NM). Josephine Porter, LWVNM past president, will moderate the panel.

This event has been coordinated with the New Mexico Election Administration Coalition and is being paid for by a competitive grant the League of Women of New Mexico received from the national League of Women Voters Education Fund to educate the public and legislators about Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA) provided under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002.

We will be mailing invitations to legislators in early January. We would also appreciate your reinforcing the message that they can enjoy wine, beer, and hors d'oeuvres while learning important information that dispels the myths of voter fraud. Please be sure to share your perspectives on photo ID and other issues.

For more information, please contact Meredith Machen at 505-577-6337 or mermachen@cybermesa.com.

New Mexico State Land Office

Editor's Note: Who controls land use in New Mexico? Eleven per cent of the state is controlled by the State Land Commissioner. In September, Commissioner Ray Powell spoke to a gathering of League members in Albuquerque. The following month Harry Relkin, General Counsel for the State Land Office, participated in a League forum in Santa Fe, and the following day he and Commissioner Powell met with Lora Lucero, Judy Williams and Barbara Calef, members of the committee leading the land use study. The following is a summary of what we learned from those meetings.

The 1910 Enabling Act authorized the formation of the New Mexico state government and granted to the state specific sections of land in every township for the support of the common schools and a variety of other public institutions. There are now 22 beneficiaries receiving revenues generated by trust activities in New Mexico. Each acre of trust land is designated to a specific beneficiary.

New Mexico's trust lands currently include nine million acres with surface and mineral rights and an additional four million acres of subsurface rights. The Enabling Act gives the Commissioner of Public Lands complete control over the trust lands, subject to the restrictions imposed by the act, the state constitution, and the statutes. To change any of the mandates of the Enabling Act requires the consent of Congress and a ratifying vote by the citizens of the state. The Commissioner is elected to four-year terms and presides over the State Land Office (SLO).

The Commissioner meets four times a year with the State Land Trusts Advisory Board, whose members he appoints subject to approval by the Senate. By law, the board is politically and geographically diverse and represents the Trust's beneficiaries and key constituencies.

New Mexico currently obtains approximately 90 percent of its total trust revenues from subsurface rentals and royalties, mainly derived from oil and gas. Other key sources of income are renewable energy, agricultural leasing and development. Revenues from nonrenewable uses -- such as the royalties from oil and natural gas extraction and the proceeds of land sales -- are deposited into the Land Grant Permanent Fund, which was worth about \$11 billion in late 2011. Revenues from renewable resources are distributed directly to the beneficiaries after the administrative costs have been deducted.

The Commissioner's mandate is to produce as much revenue as possible for the beneficiaries. However, there is an inherent conflict between the effort to produce revenue during the current political cycle and the need to practice sustainable ecosystem management to ensure that the lands will continue to produce the highest possible revenue in perpetuity.

The State Land Office is not required to meet zoning or planning requirements; however, collaboration with local communities and other public lands offices through joint powers agreements can help compensate for the dispersed nature of the trust lands, and thus benefits both parties.

Some issues facing the SLO can be ameliorated by greater transparency. This can only be effective if the beneficiaries and the public are vigilant. Other issues might be resolved by better coordination among the various administrative offices. For instance, the SLO has no enforcement personnel, but depends on the Oil Conservation Division to regulate the oil and gas activities on trust lands. In some cases legislative action may be needed to assure that the Commissioner is able to maximize profits on the trust lands and minimize the expense of administration.

-- Barbara Calef

News from Local Leagues

Los Alamos -- President Barbara Calef

The Los Alamos Charter Review Committee concluded two years of meetings in November. The committee, which includes several League members, pursued an ambitious agenda covering ethics, consistency and clarity, initiative and referendum, utilities and structure of government. The committee will present their work to the County Council in January, after which the councilors will decide which recommendations for changes to the County Charter they favor and want to present to the voters. Since these issues are complicated, the League may be called upon to educate the public about them before a vote.

Los Alamos County has hired a new County Administrator, Harry Burgess, who was previously City Administrator of Carlsbad. Our Acting County Administrator, Randy Autio, has done a tremendous job for the county in the past year and a half; he has now accepted the job of Bernalillo County Attorney.

During Lunch with a Leader in October, Bandelier National Monument Superintendent Jason Lott recounted the events of June 26, when the Las Conchas Fire began. He received a report at 1 p.m. that a wildfire was burning six miles from Bandelier. The backcountry was already closed due to the drought. In six months the park had received only a half inch of water. Within minutes the fire had jumped two miles. Then the fire jumped a second time.

Plans for evacuation of the park were already in hand, but when the fire reached Frijoles Canyon that same day, the evacuation was moved forward. Visitors and staff were given two hours to leave. Park staff wrapped up the artifacts in the

Greater Las Cruces -- President Bonnie Burn

This year, 2011-2012, is the "Year of Consensus," in my opinion. Greater Las Cruces League members concluded their Study of Public Education. The board approved a position that was published in the *Voter*, November 2011 (see www.lwvglc.org). It also was distributed to those individuals and organizations interviewed for the study, Las Cruces Public School Board members and Doña Ana NM Legislative delegation. The

visitor center and removed them from the park. The buildings were foamed, but the staff did not expect to see the visitor center again.

Of the 18 square-mile Frijoles watershed, 17 acres burned, half very intensely. In anticipation of the inevitable flash flood following the fire, the stone bridge across Frijoles Creek was removed, cutting available parking space by 40 percent. The storm on Aug. 21 was a 500-year event. A normal storm raises the stream to 3 to 10 cubic feet per second (cfs). On the 21st it was 10,000 to 12,000 cfs! The ruins were not endangered because the Ancient Pueblos had built outside the flood plain, but the canyon trails were severely impacted.

Following the flood, a reconnaissance flight revealed a marijuana plantation in a trail-less section of Frijoles Canyon. Federal authorities subsequently removed and destroyed 10,000 plants. The drug traffickers were not captured, but examination of the site indicates that they were Mexicans who had been living there for about two years, that they slept on beds of marijuana leaves and that they had fought the fire to preserve their crop.

Before the fire, the park had received a grant for a three-year bus study. The two months of busing visitors to the park using Atomic City Transit showed that it could work. The buses were packed. It cost \$1,400 a day to run them, \$90,000 for one month. The National Park Service could pay only \$25,000, but the county contributed the remainder. Lott said that most park bus systems are money pits because they are required to follow federal rules. Since the buses to Bandelier were part of the municipal transit system, they were exempt from those restrictions. He hopes to make the bus system permanent.

committee remains active under the leadership of Jane Asche and Sue Cain, co-chairs.

Local League members participated in a unit meeting that reached consensus about the LWVUS education study, *The Role of Federal Government in Education*.

A second local League study, *Affordable Housing in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County*, co-chaired by Christina Little and Vicki Simons, opened its member education phase with a panel

Greater Las Cruces

(Continued from page 8)

presentation. David Dollahon, Thomas Hassell, and Rose Garcia gave information about services available in each of their programs. Unit meetings in January will lead to adoption of a concurrence position. Also in January, the Housing Authorities of the City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County will be combined into one organization, the Mesilla Valley Public Housing Authority Commission, a

milestone decision that will result in a single affordable housing entity and in cost savings by reducing paperwork associated with government programs.

Before the League year is over, local Leagues will be seeking consensus on the LWVUS study about privatization. Papers are now available on the LWVUS web site: www.lwv.org, and consensus is expected in late winter or early spring.

League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico Co-Presidents Shelly Shepherd & Sandra Browne

The LWVCNM finished the year with many interesting unit meetings, functions, projects and planning. We have planned many exciting events and programs for 2012.

On Oct. 30 LWVCNM hosted a reception for Albuquerque City Councilors and Bernalillo County Commissioners at the home of Carol Tucker Trelease. It was a lovely event, attended by City Councilors Isaac Benton, Dan Lewis and Rey Garduno, as well as County Commissioners Michelle Lujan Grisham, Art DeLaCruz and Wayne Johnson. The event gave attending league members the opportunity to become better acquainted with the City Counselors and County Commissioners that were present, discuss their priorities and plans, and learn how the League can be effective in working with them.

A Lobbying Workshop organized by LWVCNM Community Education Chair Mary Smith was held Nov. 5. Presenters were Erin Muffoletto, Ambitions Consulting; Daniel Ivey-Soto, New Mexico County Clerks Association and a League member; Wayne Johnson, Bernalillo County Commissioner; Jan Bray, LWVCNM League member and Co-President of AWVCNM from 2009-2011; and Liz McGrath, Pegasus Legal Services. The conversation was lively and educational.

Our 2012 Membership Handbook is hot off the press, thanks to Laura Stokes and Kathleen Altobelli. It is a huge task each year, and their efforts are greatly appreciated. It is a job well done, donating a great amount of time updating membership information.

Josephine Porter assembled a team of LWV-CNM members to conduct the National Indian

Education Association (NIEA) election at the Albuquerque Convention Center Oct. 27 and 28. We provided a valuable service to the organization and received a contribution to LWVCNM for our work. Bravo to Josephine Porter for her hard work in preparation for the event and the work she did during the election process. It was a huge task to put together in a short period of time. All of the volunteers performed a valuable community service. Donald Goldfarb deserves special recognition for his highly organized counting of the votes. Although the count was close, LWVCNM was not questioned about the counting of the ballots.

We had excellent speakers at the recent unit meetings and General Meeting held Dec. 8. In November, Bill Jordan spoke to the Luncheon Unit. Mr. Jordan is the policy director for New Mexico Voices for Children. The purpose of the organization is to create systems-level sustainable change that will improve the lives of New Mexico Children.

Pauline Eisenstadt spoke at our Dec. 1 General Meeting. Ms. Eisenstadt was the first woman to serve in both houses of the New Mexico Legislature. Ms. Eisenstadt wrote a book that is hot off the press entitled *A Woman in Both Houses*. It is available through the UNM Press, unmpres.com or 1-800-249-7737.

The LWVCNM fundraising committee has been hard at work planning the "Salute to New Mexico -- First Hundred Years and Beyond" fundraising dinner to do our part in the planning and arrangements for the LVCNN fundraiser to celebrate the Centennial of New Mexico statehood, to be held April 21, 2012 at the Embassy Suites. We are confident that all of the local Leagues will promote the event and help out to make the centennial event to be a huge success and an event to remember!

League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County President Judy Williams

LWVSFC has a new website -- check it out at lwvsfc.org. While content is still being added, the new site is flexible, attractive, provides for surveys and responses right on the site and has a password protected members-only page.

LWVSFC received a \$600 grant from the LWVUS Voter Education Fund plus a grant from a generous local donor for our Youth Voter Registration Project to engage high school and community college students in the electoral process. The project will target underrepresented communities to support voter registration. We will recruit and train students to coordinate voter education and registration in schools.

The League has been active and visible in many public meetings of the city, county and school board. League members attended and spoke at several school board meetings in opposition to restrictions on freedom of speech during public comment peri-

ods. We were joined at all of these meetings by the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government, and the two groups made a difference in the outcome. The League has written a series of letters to the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners and testified at meetings on the county Sustainable Growth Management Code. The Santa Fe City Council has adopted a resolution endorsing the League's position on transparency and directing staff to implement changes that would help put such transparency into place.

Work on various studies is proceeding. The state PRC study, staffed by Santa Fe League members, is progressing, and members have attended nearly every PRC meeting as well as gathering much information. The local study of mail-in ballots has concluded, and the consensus report will be ready soon. And the study of local courts in the design phase; questions are being narrowed, and team members will begin conducting key informant interviews next week. Finally, we held two meetings on the LWVUS education study.



Computer tutorial

Mona Blaber, sitting at the computer, gives a tutorial on how to use the computer program Constant Contact to LWVNM Board members from the left Joe Keefe, Meredith Machen and Chris Burroughs at the Nov. 19 meeting in Santa Fe.

(Photo by Cheryl Haaker)

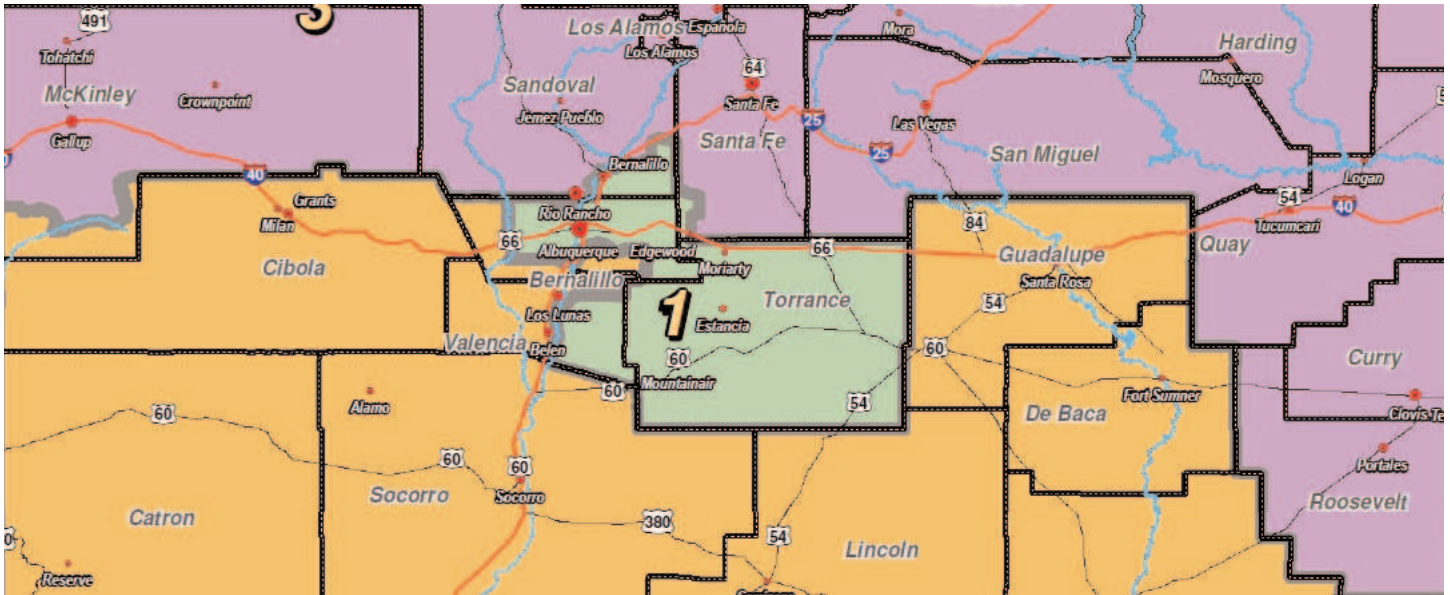
Redistricting: The New Congressional Districts

Judge James Hall has done what the New Mexico Legislature was unable to. He has selected a plan for the Congressional districts, which will be in effect through 2021. Census figures showed that CD2, in the southern part of the state, was short of the equal population goal by

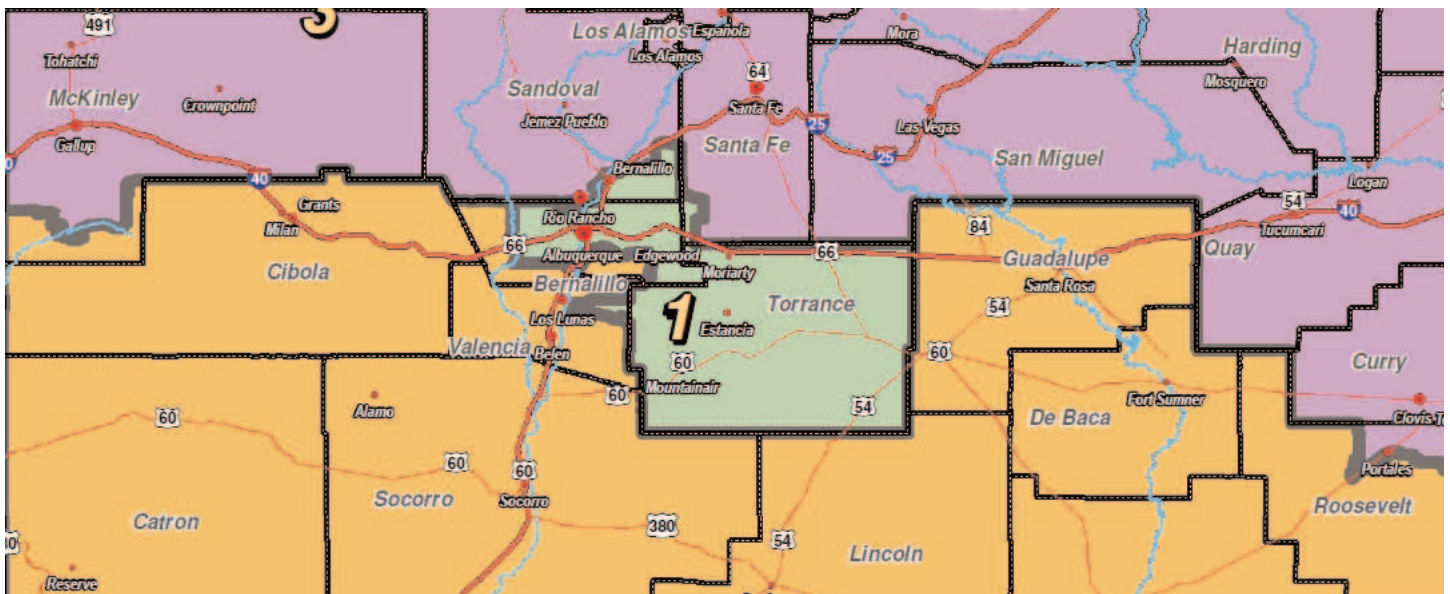
3.3 percent. CD3 to the north had 1.0 percent too high a population, and CD1, the Albuquerque area, was high by 2.3 percent. To equalize population, CD2 would have to take area from both CD1 and CD3, growing (geographically) bigger.

See the images below for the details. These are slices across the center of the state, where the changes occurred.

2001 (current) Congressional Districts



2011 (new) Congressional Districts



The new map adds to CD2 most of Roosevelt County, formerly all in CD3, and takes more of Valencia County from CD1. The Isleta Pueblo, that incursion into CD1 from the west, remains in CD2.

The Fair Representation Committee will be spending 2012 working on the details for an independent redistricting commission, based on the experience of those states that have used this method. The goals will include: educating the public and legislators, gaining sponsors for a constitutional amendment and lobbying the 2013 long-session Legislature. Join us! Contact Cheryl Haaker at cheryl@haker.org. -- Cheryl Haaker, Fair Representation Committee

Highlights from November 19 meeting of state board of directors

At its Nov. 19 meeting in Santa Fe, the LWVNM board:

- * Discussed finding a replacement for the *La Palabra* editor since Mona Blaber will no longer fill that position. Chris Burroughs volunteered to serve as editor on a short-term basis.
- * Adopted the job description for secretary.
- * Agreed to use the New Mexico Educator's Federal Credit Union as LWVNM's official banking institution.
- * Learned details of League Day at the Legislature set for Jan 24.
- * Learned about the Legislative Education Forum on Jan. 23 which LWVNM is co-sponsoring.
- * Reviewed and adopted changes to Coalition Guidelines and Communication Policy.
- * Agreed to join New Mexico Fairness

Project, formerly called Better Choices Campaign.
* Learned latest details in redistricting issue.

* Learned details of Salute to New Mexico's Centennial set for April 21 at the Embassy Hotel and Suites in Albuquerque.

-- Chris Burroughs, Secretary

Calendar

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| Jan. 23 | Legislative Reception & Voter Verification Panel, Santa Fe |
| Jan. 24 | League Day at the Legislature, Santa Fe |
| Feb. 15 | Deadline for spring <i>La Palabra</i> |
| April 21 | Salute to New Mexico: First 100 Years and Beyond, Albuquerque |

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