



La Palabra

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico

VOL. 54 No. 3 SPRING 2007

CALL TO LWVNM CONVENTION - 2007

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The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces will host the 2007 State Convention, May 18-20. Most of the activities will take place at the Staybridge Suites, 2651 Northrise Drive in Las Cruces. All members are encouraged to attend. Delegates, observers, and guests should register by mailing the Registration form in this issue to LWVGLC.

Schedule

Friday, May 18

4:30 p.m. Registration and reception at Staybridge Suites
to Silent Auction begins
6:30 p.m. Delegates and paid Observers may register for a tour of Representative J. Paul Taylor's home, a New Mexico Historical Monument. The tour is limited to 20. On Saturday morning a drawing will be held to select the lucky 20.

Saturday, May 19

Complimentary hot breakfast provided by hotel [hotel guests only]
8:00 a.m. Registration
8:30 a.m. First Convention session
12:00 p.m. Lunch with box lunch prepared by Chef Carol Koenig
12:45 p.m. Convention reconvenes
Workshop: "Identifying Values Associated With Immigration Issues."
Speaker, Carolie Mullan, LWVUS Board of Directors, Chair of Immigration Study
3:30 p.m. Options:
Tour of Representative J. Paul Taylor's home. (See note above.)
New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum
Shopping in Mesilla
Visit NM State University Museums
5:30 p.m. Silent Auction closes
6:30 p.m. Banquet at Picacho Country Club, 6861 Via Campestre.
to 6:30 p.m. cash bar; 7:00 p.m. banquet; 8:00 p.m. "Harry and His Mother"*
9:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 20

Complimentary hot breakfast provided by hotel [hotel guests only]
9:00 a.m. Convention reconvenes
12 Noon Convention 2007 adjourns

All Silent Auction items need to be picked up by Sunday noon.
A brief board meeting will be held after the convention adjourns.

* "Harry and His Mother" will be presented by Marnie Leverett and Johnnie Aldrich. This, a pivotal piece of our history, is a reprise of a Readers' Theater production produced by Lois Kimbrell (LWV/ABC) and presented at a LWVNM Convention in 1997. We present it for the edification and enjoyment of all the guests.

PLEASE BRING THIS ISSUE OF *LA PALABRA* WITH YOU TO THE CONVENTION.

President's Message



Hello, everyone.

With this issue I send you my last message as I complete my second two-year term as your president. Please join me for our State League's 2007 Convention from Friday evening May 18 through Sunday noon May 20 in Las Cruces. Now is the time to elect officers, directors, a new Nominating Committee, and to discuss/ decide about the

program for the next two years. Information on proposed changes to some positions and introduction of proposed new studies is included in this newsletter. Our special guest is Carolie Mullan, our LWVUS Regional Director, who will present a new workshop on immigration issues. The LWVUS two-year study on immigration will be decided next year. (See the Fall Issue *La Palabra* for New Mexico immigration

facts authored by the Las Cruces League.)

Thank you for your participation in the many activities the LWVNM has provided over the last four years. Our annual League Day at the Legislature; our Lobbying Workshops, our special events with the League's National Presidents, Kay J Maxwell and Mary G. Wilson; our getting to know Regional Directors Xandra Kayden and this year Carolie Mullan; our visitor Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano; our participation with national sponsors on the topic of Health Care; our participation in Sunshine Weeks the last two years. Have I forgotten any?

Local Leagues have participated in your communities' voting, have observed and reported on public meetings, have conducted candidate forums and panel discussions, and have conducted outstanding studies for League position consideration. You know what you've done and so do your communities. You give the League a good name, and I am proud to say that I was your state president through these four years.

Marilyn Morgan

Membership Report

I predicted in my last report that LWVNM would increase its membership for the 2006 calendar year. Frankly, I love it when I'm right! The numbers below, from the LWVUS Membership Database, are those reported by the local league membership chairs on or before January 31, 2007. Our Per Member Payment (PMP) invoices are based on these numbers: membership in 2005--628; in 2006--644.

This increase seems small, but organizational membership throughout the U.S. has been declining. Therefore, any increase should be seen as a victory. Thank you, Membership Chairs and members for your good work. The Membership Database shows the following numbers:

Members-at-Large:	21		
Albuquerque:	305	Los Alamos County:	64
Santa Fe County:	179	Greater Las Cruces:	75

Future Efforts. LWV membership is in categories: "Household," Student, Honorary (members for at least 50 years--no longer pay dues), and National (paid dues to LWVUS-- or donated \$50 or more).

The LWVUS Membership Office, which collects and organizes the data, urges us to recruit National members to become members of a local League. We need to send the National members local forms and information about our local league two to three months **before** their National membership expires.

Keeping tabs on National membership expiration dates requires regular attention-- in addition to the annual membership drive for new members and renewals and reporting the results after December 31. LWVUS keeps lists of former members who should receive invitations to rejoin. A morning or an evening "Call Bank" could be organized as a reach-out activity. Larger Leagues may need more than one person to handle membership. I encourage presidents and local boards to authorize the Membership Chair to form a committee.

On page 19 of the most recent *National Voter* is an essay on the need for each member to take responsibility for recruiting at least one new member in 2007. If each of us resolves to do so, we will have

© unprecedented growth in 2007. *Jhnnie R. Aldrich*

LWVNM Board Summary January 6, 2007

Business

- Minutes of the November 11 meeting accepted, as amended.
- Treasurer's Report submitted by email January 5 at 8:03 p.m. In the absence of the Treasurer, William Little (LWV/GLC) confirmed as Assistant to the Treasurer.
- Finance Committee charged to review questions from the Treasurer.
- No response received from Treasurer to Board letter requesting resignation.
- Future financial mailings are to be sent to the League office in Albuquerque.
- Financial review for 2005-2006 reported incomplete due to communications issues.
- Voted to invite Carolie Mullan, our Regional Representative, to attend our Convention.

Announcements

- Declared "A Lobbying Workshop" on December 2 a success to be repeated annually.
- Deadline for League Day overnight reservations at Old Santa Fe Inn is January 15.
- Shelly Shepherd reported that to date, Operating Fund contributions total \$435, and Education Fund contributions total \$1807.
- Health Care Committee will present at Convention some new wording of their position.
- Drug Policy Committee will present at Convention some new wording of their position.
- Support for "Sunshine Week and Open Government was endorsed.
- Immigration study was dropped as a state study and we will join LWVUS study.
- Support for Repeal of the Death Penalty legislation was urged.
- Support for Campaign and Ethics Reform Legislation was urged.

LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Albuquerque/Bernalillo County.

On Sunday, January 7 we held a "Meet the Legislators" open house for members. Despite snowy streets, we had an excellent turnout. Four members of the NM State Legislature attended and addressed the group. It was the first such gathering LWV/ABC has had in several years, and because of this year's success we plan to hold them biennially. Future events will be held in the fall following the elections.

In February the major event was our annual theater party to observe the League's birthday and raise money for the operating fund. Fifty-five members and friends attended a performance of "The Apple Tree" at the Adobe Theater, followed by hors d'oeuvres, birthday cake and socializing.

Our February units covered a potpourri of topics. Douglas Brown, Interim New Mexico State Treasurer, spoke about his recent experiences in that office. Terry Brown, Program Director of the Second District Juvenile/Family Court, talked about a working drug abuse treatment program. The Repeal of the Death Penalty was the topic addressed by Judi Caruso, member of the Board of the New Mexico Coalition to End the Death Penalty. Peggy Folk Cote, Director of Community Services for Sandoval County, spoke about the Sandoval County community service programs.

"Sunshine Week" was the topic for March. Attorney Martin Esquivel, Assistant Attorney General Mary Smith, Albuquerque Tribune Editor Phill Casaus, Rio Rancho librarian Toni Beatty and ACLU Staff Attorney George Bach all spoke to our various units. These programs, which address issues of open government, are well-attended every year.

On February 12, U.S. District Court Judge M. Christine Armijo struck down the photo identification requirement of the Albuquerque Election Code. LWV/ABC was a plaintiff in this lawsuit. A brief explanation of this case and the decision can be found elsewhere in *La Palabra*. *Diane Goldfarb*

Los Alamos.

We had a busy winter. Our annual legislative preview was held early in January. Two of our three senators showed up, as well as Rep. Jeannette Wallace. Other speakers were Kathleen McCrae of the NM coalition to repeal the death penalty and Sarah Cottrell, the governor's energy and environment policy advisor. Also in January we held a forum for a local referendum election on an ordinance passed by the County Council in November, and one for candidates for the school board.

The League wrote a letter to the editor of the local newspaper supporting the ethics and campaign finance reform bills before the legislature.

We had a successful program planning meeting in the middle of February. LWVLA will propose a state study of water supply and distribution for 2007-9, but whether or not this is adopted we will conduct a locally-focused study on the same issue. We also expect to take an active part in the Fair Representation study being proposed by LWVABC, while our local government committee plans to sponsor a budget workshop to educate both League members and the public on the County budget. *Katherine Campbell*

Greater Las Cruces.

Ten poll workers united on Election Day in November to observe and report on the election process in a total of ten precincts. Poll watchers reported on the following observations.

- Was the setting-up process orderly and well managed as far as you could observe?
- Was there a sample ballot on display?
- Did the Voter's List show who had voted early or by absentee ballot?
- Were the workers courteous and helpful to the voters?
- Were the workers comfortable with the new process? Were they adequately familiar with the paper ballots? With the scanning machines? With the AutoMark machine?
- Were voters consistently asked for identification? Were any turned away? Were there any conflicts?
- How many requests for provisional ballots were made during your observation period? Please list the reasons, if you know them. Were any requests turned down? Please tell why, if you know.
- How many voters required help from a worker? Was it for learning how to use the machine? Was it because of a handicap? Was it because of uncertainty about the voting process? Any other reason?
- What was the average time a voter spent in the voting area?
- Were there verbal complaints from the voters? What were they about?
- How long was the average wait for a voter at 10 a.m., at noon, at 4 p.m., at 6:30 p.m.? Were the lines managed well?
- Did any of the machines fail to work properly? What was done about it?
- Was the polling place fully staffed? Do you know if all the assigned workers were there? If not, what did the presiding judge do about it? What was the final outcome?
- Did the workers seem to understand fully what their jobs were and how to function?
- Did any un-authorized person, such as a candidate or other campaigning person, enter the polling place while you were there?
- If you were at closing time, how did the closing go? Was there a long line waiting to vote? Did the workers understand the closing process? How were the paper ballots transported to the County Office Building? Was there adequate security?
- Do you feel you can comment on what might be needed to improve the workers' training?
- Please feel free in your report to comment on anything else that you observed that you feel would be helpful to the League in assisting with future elections?

Prepared by Marnie Leverett

Note: The LWVGLC January 2007 *Voter* from which these questions are quoted includes invaluable summaries of the poll watchers' reports. *PF* ③

How Can New Mexico Achieve Fair Representation?

Submitted by the LWV/ABC Fair Representation Committee

Scope. LWV/ABC proposes a two-year study, called "Fair Representation," which will explore not only redistricting but also will look into different systems of representation and voting. The focus is on understanding the relationships among these systems as they impact Congress and the New Mexico State Legislature.

Why? The current systems have resulted in alarmingly low turnover of elected representatives, due to a decline in electoral competition. This gives voters fewer meaningful choices and thus, less ability to hold their governments accountable. A growing polarization of ideas has led to a powerful struggle between parties to maintain control of legislative bodies. Some studies so far have shown that it is not enough to choose representational districts by present methods; better representation may be achieved by designating multi-member districts and/or choosing candidates by some form of ranked method, rather than the traditional single member, winner take all election.

Study Deliverables. Many of the topics we research will be somewhat obscure to the general public and to League members; however, these topics are both interesting and critical to the selection of elected officials who will best represent the voters. We will prepare a series of articles for *La Palabra* discussing these topics in depth, as well as present what we have learned to unit meetings for further discussion. Eventually, we plan to put on public forums.

Timing. The current League position is good, but generic, and insufficient basis for action: "*The State League supports apportionment for the Legislature which shall be based substantially on population and shall meet the provisions of the Federal Voting Rights Act (1982).*" In 2010, the Census will update U.S. population figures and all fifty states will be required to redistrict on the basis of this new information. By conducting a study of Fair Representation in 2007-2009, the State League will be in a position to educate New Mexicans, form a consensus position, and begin to advocate for any needed reforms at the State level in time for these reforms to be implemented for the 2011 redistricting. We may also at that time consider whether or not to update the State position.

Why State? The State level is "where it's at" in terms of choosing representation. The U.S. Constitution specifies that

it is the individual States who determine how their representatives to Congress will be chosen. The State also determines how State officials are selected, and can regulate or affect representation systems at the county and local levels. By conducting a study at the State level, the League will maximize its influence toward achieving better representation for all New Mexicans.

Objectives. The proposed study will have two major objectives:

1. To understand "the Big Picture":
 - ▶ the present national and state systems of redistricting
 - ▶ alternative systems of representation: multi-member districts, at-large representatives, proportional representation, etc.
 - ▶ other voting systems, such as ranked preference (which includes instant run-off), multiple selection, etc.
 - ▶ the history of redistricting in New Mexico and its current status
2. To determine what reform options are feasible for New Mexico: constitutional amendment, statute, etc.

We will be developing questions as the study goes on.

Goals. Once completed, the state membership will be able to discuss and formulate a position for advocacy, and we can begin educating and lobbying for specific reforms. The plan is to be able to lobby by 2009 (a long session) so that reforms could be in place in time for the 2011 redistricting.

Budget. The projected budget, over two years, is as follows:

Holding forums	\$300
Purchase of books	\$100
Copying & postage	\$200
Filing Supplies	\$ 25
Publication (500 tri-folds)	\$ 80
Speaker from Arizona	\$200
<hr/>	
Total	\$ 905

If less funds are available, we will scale back on what we do.

Get involved. If you have thoughts on any of these issues, or would like to get involved, we'd be happy to hear from you. Please send your ideas to Cheryl Haaker, cheryl@haaker.org, fax 299-1914, 4613 Bali Ct. NE, Albuquerque 87111.

BYLAWS CHANGE DIRECTED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS US

ARTICLE II Purposes and Policy

Sec 1. Purposes: The purposes of the LWVNM are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected government issues.

Deletion as directed by League of Women Voters/US.

Health Care Committee Report

These two years have been very productive for the LWVNM work on health care. The LWVNM belongs to three health care coalitions:

Health Action. This organization advocates for health care access from the incremental to the comprehensive. The LWVNM worked with them to get expansion of Medicaid in the 2006 and 2007 Legislative sessions.

Health Care for All New Mexicans. This coalition advocates for universal health care for all New Mexicans, not for a particular system of achieving universal health care. The coalition was the driving force behind creating the Health Coverage for New Mexicans Committee (see below). The LWVNM sits on the Steering Committee of this organization.

Health Security for New Mexicans Campaign. This organization advocates for a modified single payer system for New Mexico that would cover every resident. The organization has a specific piece of legislation that would create the system. Over these two years it has succeeded in getting many more organizations to sign on with the Campaign and has received the endorsements of county commissions, city and town councils and other government entities.

As mentioned above, in July of 2006 the Governor and Legislature created the Health Coverage for all New Mexicans Committee. This 23-person committee was charged with hiring a national expert to study ways of achieving universal health care in New Mexico. The committee has selected Mathematica as the national expert and is looking at three models of achieving universal health care as well as determining the cost of doing nothing.

The three models being studied are: one based upon the Health Security Act; another a market-based universal health care; and the third loosely based upon the Massachusetts individual mandate model. The preliminary report is due in late April and the final report is due in late June. The goal is to have legislation to create an universal health care system in New Mexico ready for the 2008 session. If the results of the study are consistent with the studies that have been done in other states, the model based upon the Health Security Act will prove to be the most cost effective way of achieving universal health care. Stay tuned!

As requested by the 2005 Convention, the Health Care Committee has proposed an expansion of the present health care position of the LWVNM.

Dick Mason, Chair, Health Care Committee

Proposed Revision to the Health Care Position

The Existing Position

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.

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

The 2005 Convention of the LWVNM approved the position on health care that is stated above with the provision that they wanted the Health Care Committee to expand upon the position. The LWVNM Health Care Committee proposes the following addition to the position on health care. The change was approved by the LWVNM Board. The addition should be added at the end of the first paragraph.

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

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.

Effective Cost Management

Cost management should increase the health care benefits that accrue to patients from any given level of spending.

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.

Equitable Financing

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.

Simplified Administration

Reform should include the development of standardized forms, minimization of complicated co-pays/deductibles, and assurances of timely payment to providers.

LWVNM Board proposes a one third reduction in per member dues paid by local Leagues.

At the 2007 Convention the Board of LWVNM will propose that the per member dues paid to the State League by local Leagues be reduced as follows: The full member dues will be reduced from \$12 to \$8 and associate member dues be reduced from \$6 to \$4. The LWVNM has done well financially over the last two years and would like to use some of its reserves to relieve the financial burden of local Leagues.

Proposed Death Penalty Position

Following a year-long study of the death penalty by members of the LWVNM, the state board approved the following position on March 11, 2006. During the convention in May, delegates will be asked to adopt the following position.

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. Pending the repeal, the 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 adequate defense funding for capital cases; a comprehensive proportionality study, including the development of a complete database of homicide prosecutions in New Mexico; 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.

During the 2007 Legislative Session members of the Action Committee lobbied for passage of HB 190, which would have fulfilled our objective. The bill was passed in the House 41-28, but failed in the Senate Judiciary Committee. *Barbara Calef*

Proposal for LWVNM Study of Water Supply and Demand

New Mexico is a desert state. Despite the monsoon of 2006 and this winter's wonderful snowfall, we are in a long-term drought. The Los Alamos League believes that a study of water supply and demand is important to educate League members about the complex and controversial issues in question. We also hope to develop a more complete state position on water resources in the second year of the study. The study will have three major objectives.

The first objective is to investigate the water supply in New Mexico, both groundwater and surface water. What is the rate of recharge, including returns from cooling systems, irrigation, and sewage treatment plants? How much is lost to evaporation and transpiration? What are the ramifications of the various methods proposed for increasing the supply, such as brush control or interbasin water transfers?

The second objective is to investigate water ownership in New Mexico. Water rights, the adjudication process, and proposed laws to administer groundwater usage would be part of the discussion. Another important element of ownership is the question of values. What weight should we give to the competing demands of the natural environment, agriculture, and economic development?

The third objective is to consider how water should be allocated among the various uses. What regulatory and economic tools are available to achieve a result that is equitable and preserves our values?

There are many League members around the state who have worked on water issues for years. We hope that this study will draw them together for a better understanding that will benefit all League members and improve our efforts at advocacy at the state level as well as locally. *Barbara Calef*

Sustainability

The LWVNM believes that potential impacts on sustainability should be considered in formulating new positions and in advocating using current positions. Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the current generation without impairing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

2007-2009 Nominees for the LWVNM Board

Officers

President: Katherine Campbell
Vice-President: Linda Moscarella
Secretary: Bonnie Burn
Treasurer: Diane Albert

Directors

Action and Health: Richard Mason
Membership: Johnnie Aldrich
Election Issues: Cheryl Haaker
Special Projects: Jane Gaziano
Natural Resources: Lora Lucero

Nominating Committee

Chair: Marnie Leverett
Members: Jan Bray and Rebecca Shankland

Submitted by the

2005-2007 Nominating Committee

Chair: Helen Wright
Members: Johnnie Aldrich, Rebecca Shankland,
Delores Watkins, and Joyce Williams

WANTED: Donations

A Silent Auction will be held at LWV/NM State Convention in May in Las Cruces. The money raised will help with State League operating expenses. The Board is requesting that members donate quality items for this event. Please bring donated items to the Convention on Saturday morning. If you wish to donate, but cannot attend the Convention, please send the item with a local League member who will be attending. Please include a note that has your name, address, suggested starting bid, and value of the item so that we can send appropriate thank you notes and recognize your donation. We already have donations of a hand crafted stained glass hummingbird fan lamp, a one of a kind beaded necklace, and a hand painted vest and jacket. But much more is needed! Thank you for your participation. Shelly Shepherd, Silent Auction Coordinator

Times Are Changing;

Catch up with Drug Policy Study
Committee Recommendations

Here is a summary of information, definitions and resources, which are the basis for the recommended changes to the Drug Policy position.

Everyone using opioids does not become addicted; this seldom happens. Patients can become physically dependent on opioids for pain relief. Physical dependency is not addiction. Dependency can be overcome in a few days when the cause of the pain is gone. Drawing the distinction between physical dependence and addiction is important for consumers, healthcare professionals and caregivers to understand and adequately treat pain. Current knowledge and personal beliefs are a major barrier to adequate pain treatment.

DEFINITIONS

Addiction: a complex, chronic disease, with genetic, psychosocial and environmental factors with behaviors including craving, compulsive use, loss of control, and continued use despite harm.

Physical Dependence: a condition of unpleasant withdrawal symptoms produced when some drugs are stopped or the blood level is decreased.

Tolerance: physical adaptation in which one requires more of the drug to get the same effect over time.

CONCEPTS

"Patients develop tolerance to all kinds of drugs that are in no way habit-forming."

"Physical dependence and tolerance are also often confused with addiction. But, according to the consensus paper, both of these are normal responses to regular use of some prescribed medications (including opioids), and are not evidence of an addictive disorder."

"Physical dependence refers to the fact that when some drugs are stopped or the blood level of the drug is decreased, withdrawal symptoms emerge. Withdrawal symptoms can occur from a number of drugs (e.g. beta blockers and antidepressants as well as opioids)."

The *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management* indicates "physical dependence occurs in addiction but...is not inevitable. Physical dependence often occurs without addiction." "Some addictive drugs--alcohol is a good example--disturb behavior in a way that threatens the safety of others even when used occasionally and compulsively....Others...for instance, nicotine--are powerfully addictive but do not disturb behavior significantly...To think rationally about drugs, we need to understand...how each one affects the user's health and the public health."

RESOURCES

"Addiction, Physical Dependence, Tolerance. Confused? Together, Pain and Addiction Organizations Recommend New Definitions," *Pain Community News*, Spring 2001 ©2001 American Pain Foundation.

"Definitions Related to the Medical Use of Opioids: Evolution Towards Universal Agreement," *Journal of Pain Symptom Management*, Vol. 25, No. 1, July, 2003.

ADDICTION From Biology to Drug Policy, Avram Goldstein, M.D. Second Edition, Oxford University Press, 2001.

Delores Watkins, Chair

Albuquerque and Voter ID

The Voter ID lawsuit in which the League of Women Voters of Albuquerque/ Bernalillo County was a plaintiff was decided on February 12, 2007. We won this lawsuit.

In October, 2005, the Albuquerque City Council, on a 7-2 vote, put the issue of a Voter ID amendment to the Albuquerque Election Code before the public. Voters overwhelmingly approved the requirement that anyone voting in person in a municipal election be required to present a photo ID. While this was a very popular decision, the problem was that the photo ID was required only for in person voters, not those who voted by absentee ballot.

LWV/ABC was asked to join the ACLU and other plaintiffs in a federal court challenge to this new law. Because it was in keeping with League principles and positions, and because other Leagues have been parties to similar lawsuits in other states, our Board of Directors voted to join the lawsuit in December 2005. The lawsuit alleged that the Voter ID amendment was an unconstitutional violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution because it created an unfair, unequal system of voting, holding people who vote in person to a higher standard of identification from those who voted absentee.

Our involvement meant that the LWV/ABC President had to give a deposition and file an affidavit on behalf of the League. Some of our members helped by responding to an email that asked if they generally voted in person or absentee and if they felt their driver's license photo was a good likeness.

U.S. District Court Judge M. Christine Armijo struck down the photo ID requirement, finding that it violated the Equal Protection Clause "because it imposes a significant burden on the fundamental right to vote, and because that burden is not narrowly tailored to meet the City's interest in preventing voter impersonation at the polls." In her ruling, Judge Armijo found that the City of Albuquerque failed to present "evidence of voter fraud or voting irregularities among Albuquerque voters who vote in person at their precinct polling place on election day." Instead, she determined that the most convincing evidence of voter fraud presented to the court lay with absentee voting that was not included in the photo ID requirement.

This case will very likely be appealed to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals and may eventually go to the U.S. Supreme Court. The ACLU will continue to provide representation for the plaintiffs, including the League.

The League's input contributed to the court's decision. Our Board and membership are proud to have been part of this important decision. James Scarantino, the attorney who handled this case for the ACLU, will be the speaker at the LWV/ABC Annual Meeting on May 5.

Diane Goldfarb *Jessamine Porter*

LWVNM Drug Policy Study Committee Annual Report

RECOMMENDATION TO CHANGE WORDING OF DRUG POLICY POSITION STATEMENT

The Drug Policy Study Committee has spent the year studying Addiction and has two recommendations for changes in the position statements. The purpose of the first change is to clarify the difference between Addiction and Physical Dependency. New wording to remove the word "dependent" in treatment programs is recommended to reflect current definitions and information gathered since 2003. The second change is to include the DWI statement under Drug Policy, since alcohol is a drug. Separate labeling leads to confusion about assessment, treatment and regulation. Minor wording changes are also included to make the statement clear.

Background information to support these recommendations can be found in the article "Times are Changing." The Committee believes an updated position statement is essential to effective advocacy education and action.

LWV/ABC DRUG POLICY POSITION STATEMENT

Deletions are ~~strikeout~~. Additions are in bold

Drug Policy

Supports:

- a. Drug Court programs;
 - b. ~~Treatment for drug-dependent persons including jail-based treatment for drug-dependent prisoners;~~ **Treatment for all persons with drug addiction;** and
 - c. Syringe exchange programs in the State of New Mexico
- These programs should be prudently and appropriately funded. (2002, rev. 2003, 2007)

Driving while Intoxicated (DWI)

Believes that there **is** a serious problem of driving while intoxicated (DWI) **that** demands legislative programs.

The League supports:

- a. Strong and equitable penalties for all offenders-including

first offenders;

- b. Strict and prompt enforcement;
- c. Rehabilitation programs;
- d. Public education programs;
- e. Close cooperation between tribal, local and state officials; and
- f. Adequate funding for enforcement, rehabilitation and education programs. (1984, 2007)

RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE STUDY.

The LWVNM Drug Policy Study Committee recommends continuing the Drug Policy study with this focus.

1. Review the scope of the Drug Policy Study and develop consensus questions to consider adding to the position statement based on the last three years of study about pain management.
2. Develop outreach activities through community coalition building. Focus on sharing information about pain management throughout the state; connect with other groups who have concerns about drug policy; and advocate for expansion of drug courts.
3. The study component will include:
 - Treatment programs for addiction;
 - Facts about marijuana and other high-profile community concerns such as methamphetamine;
 - Updates on pain management, syringe exchange and drug courts.

This will be a good year to join this committee. Materials are available in hard copy to catch up with the committee work. Use of lwvnm.org as a distribution site is also a goal. The committee is considering the use of fact sheets, quizzes, web site surveys and phone communication to accomplish the task of consensus. Let the committee know of your interest to either read materials or actively participate.

Dee Watkins, Chair Drug Policy Study Committee 505-823-2308.

Proposed Review of State Education Positions

The Santa Fe league, as a result of our program planning meeting, recommends that the state education positions be reviewed and updated to delete obsolete language as a result of recent constitutional and legislative changes. Background information related to the current positions will be summarized and evaluated for its current relevance. The outcome will be recommendations for some changes and/or enhancements to the positions.

The LWV/ABC Board of Directors recommends that the LWVNM Education Committee review the state education positions.

Proposed Changes to LWVNM Positions and Bylaws

Deletions are ~~strikeout~~; additions are underlined

Positions

Legislative Compensation (Adopted 1993)

~~The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports legislative compensation that is fair and reasonable, recognizing that there is a cost to government and that the cost should be paid by the taxpayers of New Mexico.~~

Election Procedures (Revised and adopted January 1999)

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports:

1. protection of the right of every citizen to vote; (1999)
2. procedures to guarantee the integrity of all statutory methods of voting in New Mexico; (1999)
3. funding to meet the requirements of the law and to serve the needs of the voters to ensure that elections are conducted accurately, fairly, and efficiently; (1999)
4. a centralized voter registration and election management system; (1999)
5. statewide uniformity in early voting for all elections; (1999)
6. an all-inclusive system of voting that allows all registered voters to participate in the primary election; (Adopted 1969; Revised 1971, 1983, 1987, 1995)
7. ~~firm and consistent enforcement of campaign finance reporting laws with significant penalties for non-compliance, and wide public dissemination of reports; (1999)~~
8. more direct citizen involvement in the candidate selection process for special elections to fill a vacancy in the US House of Representatives; (1999)
8. amending the State Constitution to allow run-off elections in the case of non-partisan elections. (Adopted March 1998)
9. consolidation of elections in New Mexico. (Adopted 2001)

Campaign Finance and Ethics Reform (Adopted 2002; revised 2007)

~~The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports a fair, equitable and reasonable combination of public/private funding of campaigns for New Mexico state elective offices. Participation in the public/private financing would be voluntary and participants would agree to a voluntary spending limit. The legislation should provide for a source of revenue to fund the program.~~

~~The League of Women Voters of New Mexico endorses the LWVUS position that the "methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process."~~

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico believes that methods of financing political campaigns and public offices should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption

and undue influence, maximize fiscal accountability and transparency, and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports legislative compensation that is fair and reasonable, recognizing that there is a cost to government and that the cost should be paid by the taxpayers of New Mexico.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports a fair, equitable and reasonable combination of public/private funding of campaigns for New Mexico state elective offices. Participation in the public/private financing should be voluntary. Participants should agree to voluntary spending limits. The legislation should provide for a source of revenue to fund the program.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports limits on gifts and contributions to candidates for elected offices and to the holders of elected and appointed offices.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico supports firm and consistent enforcement of campaign finance, gift and contribution reporting laws with significant penalties for non-compliance and wide public dissemination of reports. An independent office or commission should have the authority to oversee campaign finance and gift laws as well as other ethics rules and lobbying laws, to receive allegations and complaints, to conduct investigations and to present cases to the appropriate enforcement agencies.

Bylaws

Article V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS (STATE BOARD)

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office.

[no change]

Section 2. Vacancies. *[no change]*

Section 3. Powers and Duties. *[no change]*

Section 4. Regular Meetings. *[no change]*

Section 5. Special Meetings. *[no change]*

Section 6. Electronic Board Meetings. The Board may conduct either regular or special meetings by e-mail or telephone conferencing provided that all board members shall have access to the electronic media used. Procedures for discussion, debate and voting shall be in place prior to the convening of such a meeting.

Section 6- 7. Emergency Polling of the Board. When an urgent decision must be made by the Board between regular meetings, the President may call and/or e-mail the members of the Board. Board members must be given full information about the issue to be decided and sufficient time to share opinions before the final decision is given. A quorum of the Board must respond. The emergency decision must be presented to the next Board meeting for ratification and official report in the minutes.

Section 7. 8. Quorum. A majority of members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

PROPOSED LWVNM BUDGET 2007-2008**EXPENSES****A. Operating**

1. Stationery/Supplies	\$ 75.00
2. Postage, excluding bulk mail	\$ 75.00
3. LWV-ABC, use of office	\$ 600.00
4. Insurance	\$ 510.00
5. Other	\$ 100.00
6. Telephone	\$ 240.00

Total Operating \$ 1600.00

B. Board/Administration

1. President	\$ 400.00
2. Board Travel Expenses.	\$ 275.00
3. Training	\$ 100.00

Total Board/Administration \$ 775.00

C. Organizational Services

1. Services to members at large	\$ 50.00
2. Membership development	\$ 100.00

Total Organizational Services \$ 150.00

D. Meetings

1. LWVUS Council 2008 (2)	\$ 1500.00
2. LWVUS Convention 2008 (3) Registrations	\$ 900.00
3. LWVNM Council 2008	\$ 100.00

Total Meetings \$ 2600.00

E. Fundraising

1. Silent Auction	\$ 25.00
2. Special Event	\$ 0.00
3. Raffle	\$ 0.00
4. Member Solicitation	\$ 200.00

Total Fundraising \$ 225.00

F. PMP/LWVUS (11 @ \$26.30) \$ 291.30

G. La Palabra & Bulk Mailings

1. Printing & Postage	\$ 2010.00
2. Bulk Mailing Permit	\$ 175.00
3. Editor's Expense	\$ 250.00

Total La Palabra & Bulk Mailings \$ 2435.00

H. State Studies \$ 1500.00

I. Position Support \$ 500.00

J. LWVNM Voters Services \$ 200.00

K. League Day at the Legislature \$ 400.00

Total Expenses \$10676.30

INCOME**A. Local League PMP @ \$8.00/\$4.00**

1. Albuquerque (265 full & 40 half)	\$ 2280.00
2. Las Cruces (61 full & 14 half)	\$ 544.00
3. Los Alamos (51 full & 13 half)	\$ 460.00
4. Santa Fe (164 full & 17 half)	\$ 1364.00

Total Local League PMP @ \$8.00/\$4.00	\$ 4648.00
B. Members at Large (11 @ \$40)	\$ 440.00
C. Contributions	
1. Members	\$ 1000.00
2. Nonmembers	\$ 325.00
Total Contributions	\$ 1325.00
D. Fundraising	
1. Silent Auction	\$ 500.00
2. Special Event	\$ 00.00
3. Non Member Solicitation	\$ 900.00
4. Membership Solicitation	\$ 1500.00
Total Fundraising	\$ 2900.00
E. Education Fund Reimbursement	\$ 500.00
F. Interest	\$ 125.00
G. League Reserves _____	\$ 1178.30
Total Income	<u>\$10676.30</u>

LWVNM 2007 Convention - May 18-20, 2007

Hosted by the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

Staybridge Suites, 2651 Northrise Drive, Las Cruces

(on north side of town, just east of I-25 and south of eastbound Highway 70)

Schedule

Friday, May 18

4:30 p.m. Registration and reception
Silent Auction begins.

Saturday, May 19

8:00 a.m. Registration
8:30 a.m. First Convention session

Saturday, May 19 continued

12:00 p.m. Lunch with box lunch
12:45 p.m. Convention reconvenes; Workshop
3:30 p.m. Optional field trips
5:30 p.m. Silent Auction closes
6:30 p.m. Banquet at Picacho Country Club

Directions to the hotel: Exit 6 I-25, east on U. S. Highway 70 (left-toward the Organ Mountains) ca. 1.2 miles, exit south on North Roadrunner Parkway, right (west) on Northrise Drive. The hotel is on the right (between Highway 70 and Northrise Drive).

All convention events will take place at the Staybridge Suites except the Saturday dinner at the Picacho Hills Country Club and the Saturday afternoon field trips.

Room Reservations at the Staybridge: To get the Special Rate for Convention, call (505) 521-7999, make your reservation before Friday, May 4, 2007, and say that your reservation is for the League of Women Voters of New Mexico Convention.. [Please note: room reservations must be cancelled directly with the hotel.] The special rate applies to three kinds of rooms: Queen Studio-\$79; One Bedroom with two queen size beds-\$89; Two Bedroom Suite (one bedroom with two queen size beds, the other with a king size bed)-\$119. All rooms have a couch, a refrigerator, and a microwave. You may put as many people as you want in each room. Guests at the hotel will also receive a complimentary hot breakfast.

Convention Registration

Fee Includes: Friday reception, Saturday box lunch, Hospitality Suite hosted by LWV/GLC, convention packet, meeting room with two microphones, coffee and water throughout the convention. Convention registration cancellations will be accepted until May 14.

Questions? Contact Christina Little: cslittle@zianet.com or 505-373-1882.

Print or type form clearly - one person or couple per form. **Make your check** for the full amount and make payable to LWV/GLC.

Mail your check with your form to Convention Treasurer, William Little, 5640 Real del Norte, Las Cruces NM 88012.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Local League Delegate _____ State Board _____ MAL _____ Observer _____

Registration Fee: Early Registration (postmark by May 4) \$35.00 \$ _____

Late Registration (postmark after May 4) \$40.00 \$ _____

Saturday Banquet \$25.00 \$ _____

GUESTS. Guests may accompany you to the luncheon or banquet for the cost of the meal.

Number of Guests for Lunch _____ \$10.00 each \$ _____

Number of Guests for Banquet _____ \$25.00 each \$ _____

Total Remittance \$ _____

CHOICE OF ENTREES

Luncheon (one ✓ for each person) Meat _____ Vegetarian _____

Banquet (one ✓ for each person)

_____ Chicken Mesilla - Honey-pecan crusted breast of chicken with green chili cream sauce, roasted red potatoes and vegetables du jour

_____ Surf and Turf - Petite filet of beef with merlot truffle sauce and grilled crab cake served with wild rice and vegetable du jour

_____ Vegetarian - Pasta plate prepared by Chef

In This Issue

- 1 Call to Convention 2007
- 2 President's Message Membership Report Board Meeting Summary
- 3 League Activities
- 4 How Can New Mexico Achieve Fair Representation? Bylaws Change Directed by LWVUS
- 5 Health Care Committee Report Proposed Revisions to Health Care Position LWVNM Board Proposal...
- 6 Proposed Death Penalty Position Proposal for LWVNM Study of Water Supply and Demand
Sustainability 2007-2009 Nominees for the LWVNM Board Wanted: Donations
- 7 Times are Changing Albuquerque and Voter ID
- 8 LWVNM Drug Policy Study Committee Annual Report Proposed Review of State Education Positions
- 9 Proposed Changes to LWVNM Positions and Bylaws
- 10 LWVNM Budget
- 11 LWVNM 2007 Convention