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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 Council

May 19, 2018

MCM Elegante, 2020 Menaul Blvd NE, Albuquerque

In even years the state League holds a council meeting. In odd years we hold a convention. This year, the meeting will be in Albuquerque. Each local League is allowed two delegates – the president or alternate plus one additional member. Also serving as delegates will be all LWVNM board members, including officers and on-board directors, plus one delegate representing the members at large. All other League members are invited to attend as observers. Registration for the meeting will be from 11:30 to 11:45 a.m., followed by lunch and a speaker at noon. Registration, which includes lunch, is \$22.00.

Please send in the registration form in this newsletter with your check by May 14. Please see page 3 for registration form and agenda information.



The guest speaker will be James Jimenez, Executive Director, New Mexico Voices for Children. He will speak about poverty in New Mexico and examine the differences between rural and urban poverty. New Mexico Voices for Children is a data-driven organization that analyzes information to assist policymakers in finding answers to problems in the state.

Jimenez joined NM Voices in 2013 as the Director of Research and Policy and was hired as Executive Director in 2016. He also serves as an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico's School of Public Administration. In both positions he draws from his considerable experience in using the budget as a strategic tool while working in state and city government.

Jimenez served as the Chief of Staff under Governor Bill Richardson from 2006 to 2008, and as Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration from 2003 to 2006. He was also City Manager for the city of Rio Rancho and serves on the boards of directors for several nonprofit organizations.

President's Corner



Greetings, Fellow League Members!

The New Mexico legislative session was interesting, as always. See Dick Mason's summary in this issue. The budget outlook was somewhat better than in recent years, so the budget was a bit fatter this year. Medicaid was fully funded, for example, and the judiciary got some much-needed funds. Funds for early childhood programs were slightly increased, but there was no progress toward the much-needed massive investment in 100 percent of children in New Mexico. This fight will continue next year.

Here we are, again in election season. Even though this is "only" the mid-terms, when many take a pass instead of voting, this year just might be a bit different. We see more candidates running in New Mexico, though a large number of house districts remain uncompetitive. This means that 25 candidates – a third of the 70 seats in the House of Representatives - face no opponent in either the primary or the general election. This is one big reason why New Mexico is rated as one of the most uncompetitive states in the U.S.

A conclusion that one might reasonably draw from this is that district boundaries might need to be reexamined. Or that we need more challengers. Incumbents who win election after election can become complacent and take their voters and even their jobs for granted. Would an independent redistricting commission mitigate this lack of competitiveness? The League of Women Voters believes such a commission would "provide the people with a meaningful choice in electing their representatives and facilitate holding government responsible."

In addition to candidates in 2018, we will be supporting the creation of an independent ethics commission by constitutional amendment. An independent body would be better able to keep all

branches of government honest, and monitor such areas as campaign finance laws and abusive behavior. Another reason to get people out to vote!

Young people appear to be highly motivated to make changes this year, as do women. I can attest to some of this personally – my Vermont niece, a teacher who has never run for anything, recently ran for her local school board.

Now, we here in New Mexico need all the help we can get. Let's get out and register voters. And then let's get them to go out and vote. Join your local League colleagues in planning and participating in voter registration drives this spring and summer. Turnout is going to be a challenge in spite of the excitement about all the candidates running. This is in part a result of efforts by some organizations to separate voters from their rightful ballot by claiming Fake News and putting out false stories of their own. We have to convince voters that it doesn't help to just complain, "oh, they are all corrupt" or "my vote doesn't count." League members are among the most informed people in the nation, and we are in a great position to work to convince voters that they matter.

The LWVUS Convention will be in Chicago June 28-July 1. Chief among the topics will be the League's "Transformational Journey" and discussion of reorganizing the relationships among the levels of the League. Please plan to attend if at all possible – it will be stimulating (meeting an outstanding group of activists), important (letting LWVUS know our opinions), and fun (Comedy Night, etc.). Keep up with convention registration and events here: <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/council-and-convention/convention-2018>.

—Judy Williams, LWVNM President

president@lwvnm.org

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League of Women Voters Council Agenda May 19, 2018

11:30 am	Registration
11:45	Call to Order
12:00	Luncheon with James Jimenez, Executive Director, New Mexico Voices for Children
1:00 – 2:30	LWVNM Council President's Report Membership Report and Official 2018 Numbers Treasurer's Report Presentation and Adoption of FY 2019 Budget Committee Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer of Federal Public Lands • Nuclear Waste Storage • Health Care Voter Guide, Election Calendar, and Candidate Forums Local League Reports— Sharing of Programs, Studies, Activities Planning and Directions to the Board Adjourn Council
2:30-3:00	LWVNM Board Meeting

Registration Form

Please send this form and a check for \$22.00 payable to LWVNCNM by May 14.
Mail to LWVNCNM, 3115 San Pedro Dr., NE, Suite F-6, Albuquerque NM 87110

Name _____

Address _____

Email: _____ Telephone _____

I am attending as (please check one)

Local League delegate from _____

Member at large delegate

LWVNM Board Member*

Non-delegate member/observer/guest (circle one)

*LWVNM Board members who are not local League presidents or delegates or members-at-large (MAL) delegates, should email their registration forms to LWVNM Treasurer, Suzanne Ronneau, who will be paying your registration fee sronneau@bellsouth.net.

Report on the 2018 Legislative Session



The League always evaluates the success of a legislative session based upon two criteria: first keep bad things from happening, and second make good things happen.

On the first criterion the session was a great success. There were no tax giveaways and we were able to kill anti-choice bills and reinstatement of the death penalty in the first committee.

On the second criterion there was some success. Most importantly,

HB98 – Local Election Act was passed and signed by the Governor. This bill will consolidate many nonpartisan elections and require them to be held in November of odd numbered years. Municipalities can opt out, but other nonpartisan elections have to comply including bond and other funding propositions. We are still waiting for an analysis of what is in the final version. Rep. Paul Bandy and Senator Daniel Ivey-Soto deserve credit for sticking with this bill for the last four years.



Associated Press photo

Also, The Senate passed a League-initiated rule (SR1) that requires amendments and committee substitutes to be posted in the context of the original bill before action is taken in committee or on the floor. This provides more transparency to the legislative process. Thanks to Senator Jeff Steinborn for sponsoring this rule.

Other League-supported bills that were passed and signed by the Governor included: SB52 – Create a Governor’s Contingency Fund; SB11 – Guidelines for Drug Step Therapy; SB119 – Increase Teacher Minimum Salaries; and HB65 – Wastewater System Financing.

Among the League-supported bills that the Governor vetoed were: SB2 – Medicaid Changes – this bill would have created due process for Medicaid providers who were accused of fraud; and SB79 – Solar Market Development Tax Credit – this bill would have reinstated the tax credit that elapsed last year.

So overall, the League considers the 2018 legislative session a moderate success.

— Dick Mason, Chair of the Action Committee

LWVNM Reports and Updates:

Natural Resources Report: A reprieve from drilling near Chaco

In early March, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke halted the proposed sale of 4,434 acres of federal lands in the Greater Chaco region to the oil and gas industry. The sale had been planned for March 8 by the administration, but the enormous public pressure from tribes, environmental groups and the public apparently gave them second thoughts. As with the Bears Ears National Monument, many tribes came together to protest the sale. The All Pueblo Council of Governors and Navajo leaders were among the groups formally opposing it.

The tribes and others who submitted comments said the sites are too close to both the park itself and outlying cultural sites and ruins. In addition to the tribal and environmental comments, both New Mexico senators voiced their strong concerns about the planned leasing.

However, this is a temporary reprieve, in order to do “some cultural consultation,” according to Zinke. He said the Bureau of Land Management has been conducting “required consultation with the affected parties on the proposed parcels under the National Historic Preservation Act”

A group of tribal officials, tribal members and other volunteers have been conducting a Health Impact Assessment in the area. They are seeking to measure and report potential drilling impacts on air, water, livestock and area residents.

Senator Udall has pushed for the Interior Department’s 2016 plan to do a review of resource management of public and tribal lands in Northwestern New Mexico. Senator Heinrich has introduced a bill to repatriate certain public lands to Native peoples.

A group of tribal officials, tribal members, and other volunteers, have been conducting a Health Impact Assessment in the area. They are seeking to measure and report potential drilling impacts on air, water, livestock and area residents.

John Horning, executive director of WildEarth Guardians, said the federal government must act to preserve the local economy by creating different jobs and training opportunities, and to provide for joint management of the land by all the affected tribal entities. Horning and others say coordinated and sustained action will be needed to protect this World Heritage site.

It will be important to follow the progress of the cultural review, to comment on its results, and to comment on any proposed leases in the future.

On April 2, a federal judge issued a ruling in a lawsuit by several organizations protesting the Chaco area leasing. The judge ruled in a preliminary finding that BLM violated the National Historical Preservation Act with regards to many of its fracking approvals. This is not the final ruling, but it indicates the court will rule in favor of the Chaco advocates.

NM Legislature: The governor signed a bill (SB189) that allows the state to increase the amount of insurance from well operators. The bill increases the amount the Oil Conservation Division can require from \$50,000 to \$250,000. The OCD is not required to increase the amounts however.

—*Judy Williams, Natural Resources Committee*

Report on Spent Nuclear Fuel Transportation in New Mexico

The issue of consolidated interim storage of spent nuclear fuel is of particular interest to New Mexicans because one of the two currently active applications before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is for a storage site in southeastern New Mexico, and the second is a few miles across the border in Texas. The Nuclear Waste Study Committee is trying to determine whether LWVNM should support the development of consolidated interim storage sites for spent nuclear fuel.

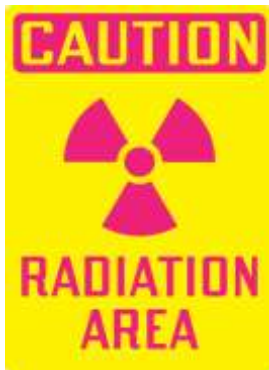
In this article we look at the transport of spent nuclear fuel from decommissioned or working reactors to New Mexico for storage.

The U.S. Government promised in the [1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act](#) to take title to spent nuclear fuel from civilian nuclear reactors used to generate electricity by 1998 and deposit it in permanent geologic storage at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. For political and other reasons that has not happened. Utilities who wished to dispose of their spent nuclear fuel have had few options but to store it on site until the U.S. government acts.



Proposed Yucca Mountain site in Nevada

[Eddy Lea County Energy Alliance \(ELEA\)](#) and [Holtec International](#) have applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a [license to construct a consolidated interim storage site](#) for the spent nuclear fuel in Lea County in southeastern New Mexico. The site is isolated, with the nearest population center in Loving, New Mexico, about thirty miles away. The second company, Waste Control Specialists, in a joint venture with French based ORANO USA, has proposed siting a facility in West Texas close to the New Mexico border.



The safety of spent nuclear fuel transportation was evaluated by the NRC in NUREG-2125, *Spent Fuel Transportation Risk Assessment*, dated January 2014. A significant unanswered question concerning the temporary solution of Consolidated Interim Storage Facilities is the cost of moving large amounts of spent nuclear fuel across the country. The U.S. government officially prefers rail transport and works with states to assure the safety of routes.

However, the State of New Mexico has no experience with rail transport of nuclear waste, and the state's official [rail transportation plan](#) shows no indication of upgrading Class 3 rail lines in southeastern New Mexico to Class One lines as required by the NRC. Figure 1 of the application from ELEA/Holtec proposal lays out a proposed rail route for the fuel from one of these power plants. But fuel would be transported from nuclear reactor sites all over the United States.

Figure 1 (reconstructed from the ELEA/HOLTEC application)

Blue = route from Maine Yankee reactor to the Consolidated Interim Storage Facility in NM
 Pink = route from San Onofre reactor to New Mexico
 Green = the anticipated route from New Mexico to Yucca Mountain in Nevada



The problem is, the blue and green lines in New Mexico represent a proposal rather than a reality. This figure from the [2014 New Mexico Rail Transportation Plan](#) shows the difficulty.

Figure 2



The red lines represent rail lines. The thick red lines show the Class 1 rail lines, the thinner red lines show the Class 3 rail lines. Class 1 lines are better built and able to handle much heavier loads. The blue dot shows the approximate location of the proposed site. It is clear from even

this cursory look at the problem that one of the private railway operators in New Mexico would have to build a considerable length of Class 1 rail line in order for the site to use rail transport. In the application for the site ELEA and Holtec International indicate they intend to build a 3.8 mile spur from a class 3 railroad spur now used to transport potash to market. Although it is not spelled out in official documents, the private company that currently operates the line would probably have to rebuild most of their current class 3 railbed in order to make it a class 1 railbed.

The information in the Holtec/ELEA application is fragmentary about the actual weight of the casks that would be placed on the rail cars, but one example of a possible storage and transport cask, the HI Star 190 Transport Cask has a weight when empty of 261,000 pounds. The weight of the cask when loaded and fitted with impact limiters to absorb some of the impact in case of an accident is more than 414,000 pounds, much greater than the maximum weight allowed on Class 3 lines, and greater than the normal loads on Class 1 lines.

The application gives no information about possible costs of upgrading rail lines to handle the spent nuclear fuel transport. In this article we only examined transportation concerns in New Mexico, although there are other stretches of the rail lines through other states that have similar weight concerns. The railroads are privately owned and would require considerable infrastructure investment in order to make this storage plan viable, but that is not addressed either in the ELEA/Holtec application or in the New Mexico Railroad Transportation plan. That appears to be a major omission that must be resolved in some way.

In their application ELEA and Holtec say they expect the facility to receive up to 10,000 canisters over a 20-year period from decommissioned and working nuclear reactor sites. The site operators expect about 500 canisters to arrive at the site each year.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has spent years researching the best ways to transport nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel. For a technical discussion of the issue [please visit their website](#). If you are interested in learning more about this issue or joining the Spent Nuclear Fuel Study Group, please contact [Karen Douglas](#).

—Karen Wentworth, Nuclear Waste Study Committee Member

Transfer of Federal Public Lands Report

United States Forest Service



The policies of the United States Forest Service (USFS) have evolved with changing attitudes and the corresponding federal legislation. Starting in 1897, legislation called on the USFS to improve and protect the forests, protect the flow of water, and to furnish a continuous (sustainable) supply of timber to its citizens. However, the emphasis on lumber production was terminated with the passage of the 1960 Multiple Use – Sustained Yield Act by Congress. This law directed the Secretary of Agriculture to develop and administer the renewable resources of timber, range, water, recreation, and wildlife on the national forests for multiple use and sustained yield of the products and services.



The National Forest Management Act of 1976, like the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) for the BLM, requires the USFS to prepare extensive plans for its forests with public involvement. The main purpose of this act was to protect the forests from misuse or overuse. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1970 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 both impact the forest plans.

On February 20 members of the Transfer of Federal Public Lands Committee met with Regional Forester Cal Joyner to inquire about the current policies of the USFS. Joyner told the group that the Southwestern regional office of the USFS covers NM, AZ, OK, and TX with 2,700 employees across the four states. Most employees are in NM and AZ where the 11 national forests in the region are located. NM, TX, and OK have grasslands under USFS management.

Joyner confirmed that the Forest Service remains under the multiple-use, sustained yield mandate, and also referred to the 2012 Planning Rule. That rule guides the development of the plans that determine how the forests are administered with a list of essential goals such as restoring watersheds, addressing climate change, protecting fish and wildlife, and maintaining sustainable recreation plans.

In terms of economic value of Forest Service lands, Joyner stated that recreation and tourism now contribute far more than mining, grazing, and logging combined. Water is also a major component of the economic value of USFS assets. Regarding the cultural value of grazing, he explained that even though the region offers a large number of grazing permits, the herds are small and the owners are not full-time ranchers with large holdings of their own. Generally, the Forest Service and BLM require that ranchers own sufficient property to pasture their herds, but to maintain the existing social structure of these communities, base property ownership criteria have been waived.



Bosque Del Apache by Barbara Caler

Like the BLM, the Forest Service is trying to establish collaborative agreements with local organizations to work on different landscapes. For example, the Southwest Jemez Collaborative Landscape Project sends thinned trees to a small lumber mill in Jemez Pueblo that provides about 30 jobs.

Joyner said the Forest Service budget has not kept up with its needs. With the increasing number and severity of fires, there is less and less money for other budget line items. The Forest Service is the only federal agency that has to pay for natural disasters out of its annual budget; other agencies get supplemental disaster relief funding. Yet they respond to fires on all federal lands and, when asked, respond to fires on other wildlands. Most funds now are used for containing fires and protecting houses and communities.



Cougar on Mt. Taylor, courtesy of US Forest Service

As a result, the number of non-fire activity employees has been reduced by more than a third. The lost positions include hydrologists, geologists, wildlife biologists, soil experts, etc. This decreased diversity in the agency's skill base coupled with fewer financial resources means that activities such as endangered species recovery, maintenance of roads and campgrounds, and watershed restoration are severely understaffed. Budget cuts have also impacted enforcement of federal rules.

Since our meeting with Cal Joyner, the newly adopted Omnibus Spending Package addresses the problems he cited. New firefighting funds are provided for the Forest Service, and starting in 2020 it will be able to draw from billions of dollars in new disaster-relief funding to pay for fire-fighting. Previously, the Forest Service has had to use cash intended for other purposes.

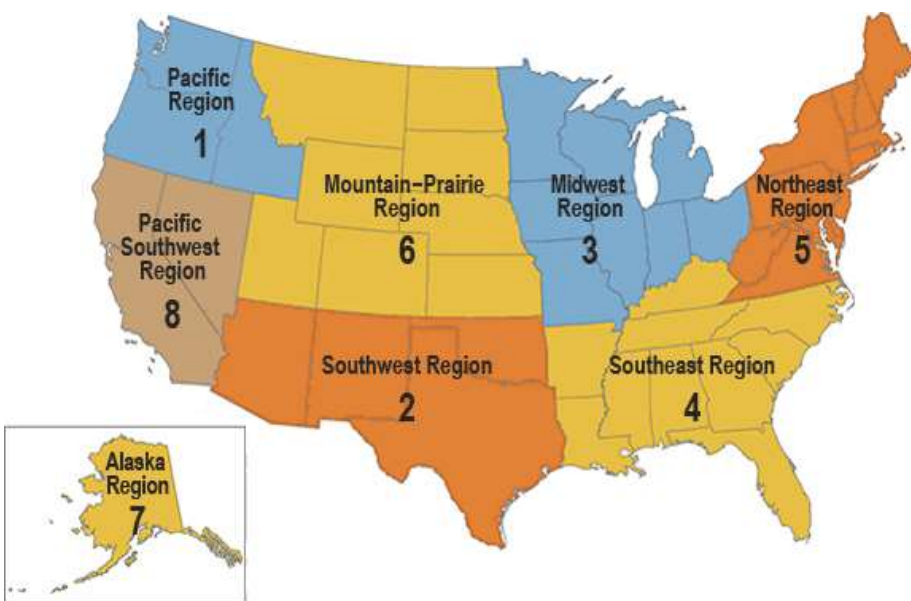
As with the BLM, the Forest Service remits PILT (payments in lieu of taxes) to local governments from timber, mining, recreation (*e.g.*, ski areas) revenues, but these are typically not large amounts. They are also forming Resource Advisory Committees at the local level to provide recommendations on recreational fee proposals.

Joyner believes the biggest change with the transition from the Obama to the Trump administration has been in priorities, although he did point out that it's typical for each new administration to make changes. The Forest Service is now to prioritize jobs and communities first, with management of lands second. This appears to be a big change, but Joyner seems to think they are doing the same work. He again used the SW Jemez project as an example.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), like the BLM, is part of the Interior Department and also manages certain federal public lands, the National Wildlife Refuges. Unlike the BLM and Forest Service, the USFWS is not subject to the multiple use doctrine. The mission of the Refuge System is "To administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation,

management, and where appropriate, restoration of fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of the present and future generations of Americans. (National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997). The Refuge System also



allows for public enjoyment of these areas, although conservation is the priority.

New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, and Arizona comprise Region 2 of the USFWS. Within New Mexico there are ten National Wildlife Refuges with a total of more than 386,000 acres. The largest refuges are Sevilleta, Bosque del Apache, and San

Andres, near Las Cruces. The National Wildlife Refuges date from 1903. The land for the refuges is purchased or leased with funds largely provided by the “Duck Stamp” bought by hunters, birdwatchers, and others.

The agency has created Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCPs) for each refuge, developed through consultation with private and public stakeholders. The CCPs outline conservation goals for 15 years into the future, with the intent that they will be revised every 15 years thereafter.

Each CCP is required to comply with NEPA and must contain several potential alternatives to habitat and wildlife management on the refuge, and identify their possible effects on the refuge. Additionally, NEPA requires FWS planners and refuge staff to engage the public in this planning process to assist them with identifying the most appropriate alternative.

—Barbara Calef and Chris Furlanetto,
Transfer of Federal Public Lands Committee



Local League News

Santa Fe County Report : New Digs



We have moved our office from St. Francis Drive to an office located in the building owned by the Santa Fe New Mexican at 202 E. Marcy St. The mailing address is P.O. Box 31547 Santa Fe, NM. In addition to office space, we have storage space and use of their conference room. Internet and phone service are included, so it will cost slightly less than the previous office.

LWVSFC held candidate forums to standing room only crowds. The mayoral forum was held on February 13 and the City Council Candidate Forum on February 15.

The Santa Fe League participated in the International Women's Day event sponsored by Santa Fe Community College on Thursday, March 8. We had a table to introduce students to the work of the League and encourage them to become members.

To celebrate Women's History Month, we held a special event on March 15 featuring Rosanne Roberts Archuleta, who read from her book, *Women Marked for History - Telling the Stories Through New Mexico Historical Markers*. Rosanne is the co-author, with her husband, Phil Archuleta, of the book, which is the compilation of 80 stories about women who have been given New Mexico Historical Markers. These women are celebrated for their accomplishments as New Mexico's leaders in community and government, education, military, business, healing arts, medicine, entertainment, cultural preservation, and the arts. The stories cover a 300-year period.



Office manager Patricia Victor
In her new space.

The Action and Advocacy Committee studied the county land use codes and members spoke at the Santa Fe County Planning Commission hearing on the Flying J Proposal for a truck stop off I-25 on the south side of town. The League argued that a truck stop is not a permitted use in the Code, among other things. There was a unanimous recommendation against the project by the Commission (members used the League's statements in their questioning). The Flying J company plans to appeal to the Board of County Commissioners. The issue will be heard in May.

—Laura Atkins, Representative, LWVSFC

Greater Las Cruces Report: Youth Engagement

The focus of this quarter has been preparing for the Program Planning Committee and the Annual Meeting. Here is a synopsis of the annual report. The 50th Anniversary kickoff began with proclamations from both the City Council and the County Commissioners declaring 2018 the Year of the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces.

The Youth Engagement Committee is pursuing two major activities: 1) a *Study of Voter Participation of 18-24 Year-Olds*, and 2) the ongoing planning for the development of a *Civic En-*

agement Program to be folded into the high school, middle school and, eventually, the elementary school curricula in the Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS). Much progress has been made with regard to these two activities, which have involved a great deal of collaboration with the NMSU Center for Community Analysis and the Government Department at NMSU. The Civic Engagement Project, a collaboration with LCPS, has been launched with the support of LCPS Superintendent Dr. Greg Ewing and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Wendi Miller Tomlinson, along with participation of the curriculum directors for social studies and representatives of classroom teachers.

The Program Planning Meeting took place in mid-February. Members felt that we should concentrate on the three committees (Youth Engagement, 50th Anniversary, Affordable Housing) that have been active, complete the Voter Impediments Study and work on voter services for 2018-2019.

Karen Douglas was our speaker at the membership meeting in March. She gave an informative report on the Nuclear Waste Study that was well received.

—Kim Sorensen, President GLC

Los Alamos Report: Ways to Fight Back

The 2018 LWVLA Legislative Preview was well-attended. The speakers included our three legislators and Artie Pepin, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), who spoke in support of a new constitutional amendment that would give the courts 3% of the budget instead of allowing the legislature and the governor to determine how much to allocate for them each year. Pepin also explained the provisions of the 2016 constitutional amendment to reform the bail system.

This winter for the first time LWVLA held a pre-League Day event to explain the legislative process and encourage members to participate in League Day. There was a good turnout with several new members attending. On February 1 a group from Los Alamos went to lunch after the meeting at the State Land Office and then went to visit our legislators in their offices.

LWVLA applied for 501(c)(3) designation in July and received approval the first week of March. This new status will allow members to deduct all dues and contributions to the LWV Los Alamos and has benefits for the Treasurer, who will no longer have to send checks to the national LWV Education Fund in Washington, D.C., and then apply for reimbursement when we have eligible expenses.

Denise Fort, Emerita Professor of Law, spoke at Lunch with a Leader about “what we want from our government.” She noted that the environmental movement is fighting the repeal of the progress we have made over the last 50 years. Environmental law is under attack



LWVLA League members in the photo from left to right: Barbara Calef, Sandra West, Akkana Peck, Kathy Taylor, Dave North, Becky Shankland. Seated is League member Stephanie Garcia Richard.

from two forces, industrial powers like the Koch brothers, and people like Steve Bannon, who are opposed to the regulatory state in principle and seek to cut down the size of the government.

Fort said there are many ways to fight back. There is the Administrative Procedure Act, which governs the process by which federal agencies develop and issue regulations and makes them subject to judicial review. Cities and states can enact similar progressive policies. Economic forces like falling natural gas and renewable energy prices will not be reversed by changes in government rules. And noisy protest can also be effective.

Early in March LWVLA was contacted by students from Los Alamos High School who were organizing a walkout on March 14 to show solidarity with the victims and survivors of the Marjory Stoneham Douglas shooting. The students asked League members to run a voter registration booth during the walkout. Four League members participated, registering 17 students during the half-hour event.

Former County Councilor Robert Gibson spoke to the League about his experience as an analyst at the legislature over a period of years. He explained his role at the Roundhouse, the process of passing laws, and legislative strategy. Gibson also suggested some simple changes to improve the system, such as reducing the number of bills introduced.

--Barbara Calef, LWVLA Co-President

CNM Report: Leadership Changes

The LWVCNM Board approved changes in membership following the resignation of Co-president Judith Binder. Karen Wentworth replaced Judith and Peggy Howell took on the role of Interim 1st VP, the position held formerly by Karen.



LWVCNM issued an undated "Who's Who", a brochure listing government officials, and distributed it in time for use during the January NM Legislative session.

Members of LWVCNM participated in League Day at the NM Legislature.

Speakers at the monthly Luncheon Unit meeting (2nd Thursdays) addressed the following topics- January: A brainstorming session with overview of anticipated legislative actions and tips on advocacy; February: Post Legislative Session update, March: "Inside the Albuquerque Journal Newsroom: Investigative Journalism." The NE Heights unit meeting (4th

Thursday of the month) addressed the following topics – January: Redistricting; February: Legislative Update; and March: Open Government.

On January 26, LWVCNM offered a training for forum moderators, timekeepers and question sorters. The training was captured on video for easy use as more forum personnel need training. Also, detailed instructions were developed to acquaint potential forum hosts and candidates with LWVCNM policies and procedures for advertising and conducting forums. A formal method for requesting assistance with forums helps build development of partnerships that foster timely forum scheduling and effective forum process.

On February 4 LWVCNM held a welcome reception for new members to give them an oppor-



Central NM Leaguers having fun at "A Streetcar Named Desire" fundraiser on Sunday April 8th. We helped raise money to fund the Voters' Guide and had a good time with friends. Front row: (l to r) Donna Riganol) and Mary Ellen Smith. Back: Susan Slankard and Jan Strand. Photo by Karen Wentworth.

tunity to meet board members and to become acquainted with the events sponsored by our League as well as the opportunities to engage in community outreach to the voter public.

LWVCNM Board mem-

bers believe that greater use by the League of social media will enhance effectiveness of messages to encourage voter information and motivation in the coming months. Accordingly, a training for board members in social media was held on March 15.

Two or three members of the LWVCNM plan to attend the LWVUS Convention in Chicago.

A LWVCNM Committee has been formed to review and improve the LWVCNM website.

Two LWVCNM Board members met with staff and members of an organization located on the West side of Albuquerque to exploring the possibility of adding a third unit better to serve the League members at and near that location.

The LWVCNM Board has undertaken fund raising efforts to support voter education activities and materials through both personal contacts with potential funders or through formal grant application procedures. An example is the upcoming theatre party in April.

The LWVCNM Board has approved the merger of "Operations" and "Education" into one 501 (c)(3) entity. New banking arrangements will support this change. At the annual meeting in May, the entire membership will have the opportunity to endorse these changes and to finalize them for the coming fiscal year.

Members of LWVCNM continue to monitor the meetings for APD Forward, an activity related to the Department of Justice review of APD procedures.

—Leah Ingraham, Co-President LWVCNM



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

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

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