

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO

Board of Directors Meeting

March 8, 2008 – 12:30 – 5:30 p.m.

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology  
Skeen Library, Don Trip Conference Room 212

**Call to Order:** President Campbell called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

**Members present:** Johnnie Aldrich, Bonnie Burn, Katherine Campbell, Diane Goldfarb, Cheryl Haaker, Jody Larson, Lora Lucero, Richard Mason, and Linda Moscarella.

**Absent:** Diane Albert, Cathy Mathews

**Approval of Agenda:** No additions.

## Announcements:

1. La Palabra: Deadline is March 15. Council information will be covered in this issue. Summary reports for study committees and local League president reports (January – March) will be published. A short Action Committee report is needed. About 175 words per article will fit four articles to a page.

**Action:** Campbell will develop a draft table of contents and distribute to Board members.

2. Girls' State: On June 2, Campbell will to be a guest speaker at Girl's State.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes 1/12/2008:** Minutes stand approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** The two reports submitted by Albert were accepted. The CD rolled over and remains out of state. The League's annual filing was not accepted by the Public Relation Commission (PRC) in time to move the CD to New Mexico. To complete the League's filing with the Attorney General's office, a copy of the Article of Incorporation was needed and was obtained from the PRC.

## Old Business

**League Day Report/Follow-up:** The event was a success. The table in the state house rotunda was very successful and gave the League good visibility. An area for improvement is advocacy. Perhaps shorter list of focus issues, better prioritizing and some education for members about advocacy may be helpful. These discussion issues will be on the agenda for the Action Committee's next teleconference. A special legislative session may be scheduled after the Primary Election—focus: health care.

**League Archives and File Storage:** Assess, inventory, and location remain unresolved. The issue arose again when the Treasurer needed a copy of the League's Articles of Incorporations.

## Voters' Guide Issues:

**Editor:** Jennice Fishburn has accepted our invitation to be the editor (see new Board List for contact information). We will compile state elected offices information, publish it on web and send it to local Leagues for their local *Voters' Guides* produced for the November 2008 General Election. Filing date for Primary Election is March 18. The Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network invites the State League to include a link to the *Voters' Guides*. National Association of Community Health Centers also would like to link to State web site for *Voters' Guide*. From the League's web site, access is available to local Leagues *Voters' Guides*.

**Voters' Guide Procedure:** This document was reviewed. Item #2 should include a statement that "unopposed candidates do not receive questionnaire." #9 Publisher's statement must be modified by local Leagues to reflect exactly how the *Voters' Guide* is paid for. Top of page 2 delete sentence about instructions.

Mason moved that the Board allocate the editing of the Voters' Guide procedure to the President and the editor of the *Voters' Guide*. Haaker seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Portfolio Development:** Campbell advised that the portfolios are available on the web site in draft form. Those officers and directors who chose to make changes should let her know.

**La Palabra Courtesy List:** The issue of accurate courtesy lists was discussed. Local League presidents were asked to review them and send comments as quickly as possible. Individuals who should be on the courtesy list: nonmembers, county clerks, and election supervisors. La Palabra creates visibility for the League among those audiences. Some local Leagues choose to include their legislative delegation. Board members are asked to send updates to her as soon as possible. NM Association of Counties has a list of county clerks. Goldfarb advised that the Albuquerque County Clerk's name is now Maggie Toulouse Oliver.

**Action:** Board members were asked to update Courtesy List

### New Business

**LWVNM Council:** May 17, 10 a.m. to Noon, Place: First Methodist Church, Los Alamos Hotel: Holiday Inn Express. The Board must attend, and each local League has 2 delegates. Registration fee is \$20. Registration fee for Board members will be paid by LWVNM. A board Meeting will follow from 1:15 – 3 p.m., same location as Council Meeting

- Budget Committee Report: The budget was reviewed.
  - Phone line for the president would cost approximately \$40 per month plus taxes. The League qualifies for a small business line. Questions were asked about cell phone that would travel with the president. Tracfone allows purchase of minutes only and involves no monthly charges. Caution: watch for hidden costs. \$200 was allocated to get a track phone that would be for the President's use and would be the number given out by the staff of the Albuquerque office.
  - State Office: National requires that we have a permanent address for the State. Albuquerque has a physical presence on the phone and in the office. This relationship will continue at a rate of \$600.
  - *Voter's Key*: Distribution budget allocation (\$1,600) will remain as proposed, but number of copies (10,000) may change. **Campbell needs to get more information.**
  - *Voters' Guide*: The State League does not print copies of the *Voters' Guide* but only places it on the web site. The amount allocated for printing was discussed as a revenue sharing opportunity for local League *Voters' Guide* printing.
 

After discussion about best way to do this, Burn moved that the current amount of approximately \$4300, divided proportionally according to pmp numbers, be shared with local Leagues to produce their *Voters' Guide* for the November 2008 general election. Lucero seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Funds will be sent to local Leagues after the budget is adopted at Council on May 21. Quick calculations showed:

ABC:	268.5 members - \$2,200
SF:	138.5 members - \$1,136
GLC:	67.5 members - \$556
LA:	50.0 members - \$408
  - The deficit between expenses and income will be balanced by taking funds from Reserved Funds, which are identified as the checking and savings accounts.
  - Member solicitation letters for education fund drive were suggested for distribution in September or October 2008 as an enclosure to *La Palabra*. Mailing company will be contacted to determine the increase in cost for asking them to insert a return envelop with the issue.
 

**Action:** Burn will contact Mailing Company and ask if return envelopes can be included in the *La Palabra* mailing and process to be used.

- Several housekeeping suggestions such as category name and location in budget were made: insurance moved to operating budget, separate printing and mailing for La Palabra. Haaker moved that the proposed budget be adopted as amended. Aldrich seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Agenda –
  - Parliamentarian: Suggested that the NM Association of Parliamentarians be contacted to engage a parliamentarian. Cost is approximately \$35.  
**Action: Goldfarb will send a phone number to Campbell.**
  - Campbell reviewed an extensive agenda prepared by Marilyn Morgan. She will winnow it into an appropriate agenda for the Council meeting.
  - Introductory speaker: members felt that one speaker at lunch time was enough. In Las Cruces at the convention, Mayor Mattiace opened the meeting by welcoming the League to Las Cruces.
  - Early morning hike: There is an opportunity to do this; however, it will have to be early as the meeting starts at 10 a.m.
- Hotel and Other Los Alamos Arrangements: Holiday Inn Express will have a block of rooms. Concern was about the number of rooms to reserve.  
**Action: Local Leagues, especially Las Cruces, need to poll members to determine how many members will need a hotel room.**  
Bonnie and Johnnie will be coming from Las Cruces.  
There is a get together for dinner on Friday night.
- Spring *La Palabra* contents: Council information will be covered in Spring issue.

**LWVUS Convention Delegates:** Linda Moscarella, Cheryl Haaker, and Lora Lucero were recommended as voting members to attend the Convention.

Mason moved that these three individual represent LWVNM at convention. Aldrich seconded and motion passed unanimously.

**Civil Liberties Update:** Survey request sent to local League presidents on February 17. Local Leagues were asked to update information that had already been submitted through 2006, which would be 2007 and 2008 activities. Questions on back asks about local League interest in working on this issue. Xandra Kayden is leaving the LWVUS Board and is concerned that civil liberties will not receive attention in the future. Some local League presidents reported that boards are interested in this issue but interest isn't expressed by local members. National League has made this a priority issue by supporting or opposing legislation based upon its past positions and has also signed letters in collaboration with other organizations. The amount of activity associated with the issue in the future will depend on the responses national receive from local Leagues.

**Proposed Voter Registration Efforts:** A state wide voter registration effort would dovetail with the Strategic Plan goal of creating more visibility for the state League. Local Leagues are scheduling Spring Voter Registration drives. As the discussion evolved it was evident that a large effort at the State League would be in the hands of the Communication Committee. Lucero, who has pulled together a committee, will contact the members. She briefly described a plan of action, still in draft stage, that would offer publicity before the Primary and General Elections. The theme, VOTE is a four letter word, might be used in the campaign. She will report back to the Board after she convenes the committee.

Additionally, Lucero introduced a new video about hacking voting machines that she encouraged board members to view. She had a copy from Netflix. She also distributed two articles: (1) Voting Machine Crisis Looms on Election Day, *Albuquerque Journal*, Saturday, 3/8/2008, and (2) Ballot Booth Woes, published in *State Reporter*, March 5, 2008.

### 2009 Legislation and Position review

- Environmental Review Legislation: Lucero reviewed the state League's position on natural resources. She mentioned that there are three bills coming up in the 2009 Legislative Session that the League should support. One proposes a mini-NEPA review of some projects that are currently exempt from federal NEPA requirements. Our League position would support such a review. The board suggested Lucero become an active member of the Action Committee which would be the first place to address League support for any issues coming up in the Legislative Session. Mason will add her to the group list.
- Other – As natural resources director, Lucero asked how she would interface with the Water Study (See Report on Water Study below.)

**History updates:** The agenda packet included a document, *LWVNM State Program History 1997-99*. Campbell called this to the attention of Board members. The document needs to be updated to include the period from 2000-2008. Suggestions of members who might be in a position to do the updating would be appreciated.

### Strategic plan update/progress

- Communications Committee: As mentioned in the item, Proposed Voter Registration Efforts (see above), Lucero discussed activating the Committee and developing a draft plan that publicized voter registration. If there are budget implications for committee work, she will return to the Board and request approval.
- Visibility: The League Day report covers the visibility the League received during the short Legislative Session. Activating the Communications Committee and focusing on voter registration will give more visibility to the League. On Friday, March 13, Campbell will speak to Fullbright scholars who will be meeting at Santa Ana Pueblo.
- Election Processes: Moscarella introduced a grant program that funds mock elections for school students. This is an opportunity for increased visibility. Campbell mentioned the Judicial Election pass-through grants, also. Goldfarb advised that the Albuquerque League does apply and has received some grant moneys for special activities.

### Study Reports

- Fair Representation (see attached report): has been conducting unit meetings and is scheduled to travel to Las Cruces (March 26) and Albuquerque (April) to complete the series. Next steps are to develop questions, reach consensus and adopt a position so that advocacy can occur during redistricting after the 2010 census.
- Water Study – Campbell gave a brief report. Committee members are in the educational phase of the study. They have been attending statewide meetings (e.g., Land use-water disconnect meeting coordinated by Conci Bokum, 1000 Friends of New Mexico; Bob Wesley, Water Assembly, presentation at the Sandoval County unit meeting in September). The committee hasn't yet, however, reached a point where they could develop questions that would lead to a consensus. The Study may have to continue beyond its current two years. Lucero, as the natural resources director, asked the board for direction about how she could help the committee. She offered to send some ideas to Barbara Calef that might help in thinking through the complicated issues involving water. Campbell welcomed that idea. Campbell also reported that Los Alamos is going to have a forum that will be taped and available for viewing by local Leagues.

**Local League Reports:** (See attachments)

### Coalition Reports (Health Care, Death Penalty)

- Death Penalty coalition has many events coming up, and there is much interest nationwide because NM may be next state to repeal the death penalty. One event is a Photo Art Exhibit

funded by Amnesty Foundations. Among the state legislators, Las Cruces and Albuquerque have some legislators who oppose death penalty, which could be helpful.

- Health Care: The League was instrumental in defeating the Governor's health care plan and in advocating for the Health Security Act. All advocates are looking to a special session whenever it is scheduled to see what the next steps are. The Action Committee will discuss and recommend a role for League if the next Special Legislative Session focuses on health care.

[Next Scheduled Meeting:](#) May 17, 2008, 1:15 – 3 p.m. Los Alamos – First United Methodist Church.

[Future Agenda Items:](#) None were suggested.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Submitted by: Bonnie Burn, Secretary

League of Women Voters Albuquerque/Bernalillo County  
Report to LWVNM Board – Diane Goldfarb, President  
March 8, 2008

This is a big year for the League. As soon as the new year began, the phone at the LWV/ABC office began ringing off the hook with questions regarding the Democratic Presidential Caucus and voter registration. Our office was open all day on the Monday before and the day of the caucus, and our volunteers fielded more than 420 calls requesting polling place information. The Bernalillo County Clerk's office did a voter registrar training for our members in February, and we now have a good pool of third party agents who have been responding to community requests. We provided moderators and timekeepers for two mayoral forums in Rio Rancho and Edgewood prior to the March 4 elections. And on March 7 we assisted the Albuquerque Public School System with its public meetings for superintendent candidates.

In January the topic for our units dealt with legislative action and local advocacy, and Matt Brix, Policy Director for the Center for Civic Policy, Albuquerque City Councilors Brad Winter and Debbie O'Malley and member and LWVNM Action Co-Chair Dick Mason spoke at the four meetings. In February Delores Watkins and the Drug Policy Study Committee lead consensus discussions for a new drug policy position on pain management. March speakers for Sunshine Week are NM Attorney General Gary King, Steven Robert Allen, Executive Director of Common Cause New Mexico, and Daniel Ivey-Soto, State Bureau of Elections Director.

Membership as of January 30 had increased by 6% and continues to grow. And LWVUS approved our request for a name change to the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico. A bylaws change in the name will be voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting on May 3. Our boundaries will also officially change to include Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia Counties.

League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County  
President's Report - Jody Larson, President  
March 8, 2008

The Santa Fe County League's winter season has been filled with many and varied activities. For program, our December holiday luncheon speaker was Diane Denish, who provided a look ahead at the legislative session from the administration's viewpoint. It was good preparation for our League Day, and the Q&A session touched on many topics, including the controversial one of oil and gas drilling in the Galisteo basin.

In January we held our second series of units on alternative energy, culminating in a proposal to the board for consensus in areas in which local governments can require or encourage the use of clean or alternative energy, or reduce energy consumption. Our general meeting speaker was the city's new energy specialist, Nick Schiavo, who provided an overview of the city's programs to reduce/reuse/recycle, including use of alternative fuels and other alternative energy options.

In February we participated in units on LWVNM's Fair Representation study, and held our annual program planning meeting, which yielded a proposal for a local study which our board will consider this month. In March we will co-sponsor a civic dialog event with the Santa Fe Community Foundation, in the spirit of Sunshine Week. Our keynote speaker is Fred Harris, former US Senator and chair of the Democratic party, currently professor emeritus at UNM. Panelists include several former elected officials and community activists, who will impart lessons learned and a "tool kit" on how to engage effectively in civic dialog.

Also in March, we will have Breakfast with a Leader with Rob Dean, managing editor of the Santa Fe New Mexican. Our general meeting will feature our County Manager and a County Commissioner, who will update us on progress toward increased access to information about county services within the last year. We will hear about the revamped web site and other county efforts to keep the public informed.

Our Voter Services Chair and supporters composed an excellent Voter Guide to our municipal elections March 4, which was published in the New Mexican and distributed to libraries and other venues about town.

Action and Advocacy efforts included a commentary endorsing six of the seven charter amendments on the ballot, published in two local newspapers. We also submitted comments on the first draft of a proposed county ordinance on oil and gas drilling, and our committee members are monitoring the county's current efforts on a new draft. We are also monitoring several other issues in the county.

We are also gearing up for our Annual Meeting in April, the State Council in May, and the LWVUS convention in June. Never a dull moment!

League of Women Voters of New Mexico  
Study Group Annual Report  
*Fair Representation*

*Submitted by Cheryl Haaker, Study Group Chair*

The Fair Representation Study was approved at the March 2007 Convention. The group has members throughout the state, a listserv (LWVNMFair@yahoo.com) and a web page, [www.lwvabc.org/fair/](http://www.lwvabc.org/fair/). The group meets monthly in Albuquerque, with teleconferencing to all interested participants.

**Articles:** Members of the group have produced several articles, most of which have appeared in *La Palabra* or the *Albuquerque Voter*. Summaries are now being submitted to the state's other local *Voters* as well, with links to longer versions of the articles on the Fair Representation web page. Articles so far are:

- ❖ [A Brief History of Redistricting in New Mexico](#) by Lisa Franzen (9/07)
- ❖ [Alternative Electoral Systems](#) by Katherine Campbell (1/08), LWVNM President
- ❖ [Snapshot of Three State Leagues Pursuing Redistricting Studies](#) by Judith Binder (12/07)
- ❖ [Counting Votes: Who Wins](#) by Cheryl Haaker
- ❖ [Electoral System Criteria](#) by Katherine Campbell
- ❖ [New Mexico Redistricting 2001 - What Went Wrong?"](#) by Lisa Franzen
- ❖ [Redistricting Basics](#) by Cheryl Haaker

**Unit Meetings:** The group has traveled to Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Las Cruces, and Albuquerque to present its first series of unit meetings. Members were briefed on the reasons for the study, New Mexico's mixed history of redistricting, more modern methods of apportioning representatives and counting votes to determine a winner, and defining terms. Then, a series of questions involving redistricting criteria, who draws up the redistricting plans, alternatives to single member districts, and different methods of determining winners in elections were discussed. The objective was to see how members felt about each issue, which they considered important, and the priority of which to work on first. The results are being used to refine the study and prepare for action.

**Plans for Next Year:** This summer the group will formulate a series of consensus questions and submit them to the LWVNM Board at its July meeting. If approved, the questions will be submitted to the membership in another series of unit meetings this fall. From these results, an updated position on representation will be formulated and submitted to the LWVNM Board at its January 2009 meeting. If approved by the Board, the new position will then be used for lobbying the 2009 Legislature.

An attempt was made in the 2008 legislature to authorize an independent, non-partisan redistricting committee, but it failed. The upcoming legislative session is a long (60 day) session and will undoubtedly address the redistricting plans for 2011. And the League will be there to educate, lobby and testify!