



La Palabra

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

CALL TO COUNCIL -- MAY 12, 2012

9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

MGM Elegante Hotel

2020 Menaul N.E., Albuquerque

Hosted by the League of Women Voters of
Central New Mexico

Peggy Hill, the LWVUS liaison to the League of Women Voters of New Mexico, will be the luncheon speaker during the biennial League of Women Voters of New Mexico Council meeting set for May 12 from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the MGM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul N.E. in Albuquerque. Speaker Hill is a member of a League of Women Voters of the United States Education Study Committee, consisting of seven members from Leagues across the country. The study is titled "The Role of Federal Government in Public Education."

Each League will have two delegates -- the president or an alternate and one additional member. Also serving as delegates will be all state 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 and stay for the lunch and speaker at noon.

Registration for the Council will extend from 9:30-10 a.m., followed by the business meeting which will start at 10 a.m.

Cost of the luncheon is \$20. Reservations for the Council meeting and lunch must be made by Monday, May 7. Please send in the registration form on page 2 and your check for \$20 to:

League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico
2315 San Pedro NE, F-6
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Tentative Agenda

9:30-10 a.m.	Registration
10:00-11:45 a.m.	Business meeting
	* Treasurer's Report
	* Presentation & adoption of budget changes
	* Report from state committees
	* Reports from local Leagues
Noon	Lunch
12:30-1:15 p.m.	Speaker
1:15-3 p.m.	LWVNM Board Meeting

Leadership Team Message

This year, for the first time, LWVNM is being run by a leadership team in lieu of a president and vice president. Your team -- Dick Mason, Linda Moscarella, Meredith Machen and Joe Keefe -- invite you to State Council May 12 in Albuquerque. It's a morning meeting plus lunch with a speaker. (Read more in this issue of *La Palabra*.) The main purpose of Council is to review the budget and discuss issues that might have arisen since the last state convention. It is also a time to share news with each other, renew acquaintances and have some fun.

The state and the action committee have been busy during this year's short legislative session. Dick Mason reports (see page 6) that because of our

efforts, some of the worst outcomes on many issues of interest to the League (e.g. Voter Photo ID) were averted. A win was a Memorial calling for a U.S. Constitutional Amendment that would reverse the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision, Citizens United. League members enjoyed a lively and well-attended panel discussion on the issue of Voter Verification held at Garrett's Desert Inn the evening before League Day at the Legislature. The LWVUS Public Advocacy for Voter Protection grant funded this event.

Have you looked at the State League website recently? lwvnm.org Find out more about what the State League is doing.

Council Registration Form -- May 12, 2012

Please send this Council registration form and a check for \$20 payable to LWVCNM by May 7.
Mail to: LWVCNM, 2315 San Pedro NE, F-6, Albuquerque, NM 87110

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

I am attending as (Please check one)

Local League delegate from _____

MAL delegate*

LWVNM Board Member*

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

*LWVNM Board members and MAL delegates should NOT send a check with their registration. Instead, contact State Treasurer Cheryl Haaker, who will be paying your registration fee. Phone 505-298-7415 or email cheryl@haaker.org.

Call 505-884-8441 with questions.

Reports by Cheryl Haaker

Redistricting Committee

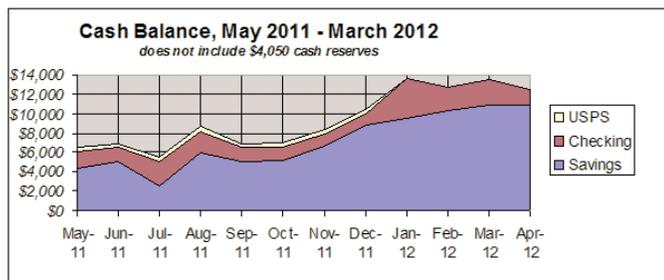
Last summer, the State's Redistricting Committee held a series of public meetings throughout the state where options for new redistricting maps for the Congressional, state House and Senate and Public Regulation Commission were displayed. Members of the LWV (Judith Binder, Bonnie Burn, Lisa Franzen, Barbara Goedecke, Joe Keefe, Gayle Prinkey, Shelly Shepherd, Delores Watkins, Judy Williams, Mary Wilson and others) were present at these meetings and gave statements. Joe Keefe, the LWVNM Communications Chair, recorded complete videos of all the meetings and gave copies for the state to post on its website so that the public could view the meetings at will.

In Las Cruces, League members worked with city councilors and county commissioners during their redistricting processes. Three members -- Jane Asche, Al McBrayer and Diane Prindeville -- served on the independent Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the mayor and city council and made sure that the committee's recommendations were heard. Bonnie Burn was the League observer at the Dona Ana County meetings.

In Santa Fe, the county requested that the League be included in their redistricting meetings. Santa Fe League has established a presence in local government by its internationally-known Transparency Study and by sending observers to meetings and forming relationships with elected officials and staff.

Treasurer's Report

Operations Fund: The League's assets are near their annual maximum at present. All PMP payments are in, and reimbursement requests for National Convention have yet to arrive. LWVNM received a \$5,000 grant from National for PAVP



(see article in this issue), and has not yet spent it all. We have canceled the USPS postal account, which saves the \$200/year fee and are piggybacking on LWV CNM's postal account when we send out mass mailings. These mailings have been dramatically reduced, since *La Palabra* is going out mainly by email this year. As can be seen by the chart, the bulk of the League's assets are kept in the savings account, with just enough in checking to meet the minimum balance requirements and pay checks. This policy dates back to when savings accounts actually paid interest.

Education Fund: With the publication of the Voters' Key last year, the Ed fund is down to \$1,161.

The Web Monkey

(aka "Tech Support" Report)

In spite of the simplified, easy to update conversion of the website lwvnm.org, updates have been infrequent this year. Experience with LWVCNM's website lwvcnm.org has shown that, when the site is not updated regularly, visits go down.

Mailing Lists: Membership in the League's mailing lists has held fairly constant, a bad sign when our membership rolls continue to be dynamic. Sign up! It's easy - just send an email to the address {mailing list name}-subscribe@yahoogroups.com, then reply to the acknowledgement email that will arrive minutes later, and you're in!

Here's more detail:

LWVNM Topics: The Topics mailing list is a low-traffic exchange for information on events, articles, legislation, etc. To subscribe, send an email to lwvnmtopics-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

LWVNM Action: The Action list is most active before and during the legislative session. It carries information on current League bills which LWVNM supports or opposes and calls for action. To get involved, send an email to lwvnmaction-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

LWVNM Fair: This list is used by the Fair Representation (now Redistricting) committee, and carries news of committee activities, events, and articles. To join in, send an email to lwvnmfair-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

LWVNM Communications

Joe Keefe

The major event of the spring season happened Saturday, March 24 at the Moriarty Civic Center. The Third Annual Torrance County Health and Safety Fair attracted more than 300 people. One exhibit featured Mary Wilson, former president of the League of Women Voters of the U.S., who talked with people and handed out LWV information for the duration of the show.

Many health and community organizations from the East Mountain and Torrance County area provided information, free testing and a free take back of outdated or unneeded prescription drugs, to keep them from being stolen or destroying septic systems.

Another popular attraction was an abundance of superheroes and villains, ranging from McGruff and his Take a Bite Out of Crime wrist bands, to Storm Troopers of Star Wars fame. Appropriately, they got together with LWV superhero Mary Wilson to commemorate her efforts on behalf of the women of New Mexico!



*Mary Wilson, former president of the League of Women Voters of the US is flanked by Storm Troopers at the March 24 Third Annual Torrance County Health and Safety Fair.
(Photo by Cathy Lynch, Member-at-Large)*

Board Meeting Highlights

Chris Burroughs, Secretary

January 7, 2012 -- University of New Mexico Law School, Albuquerque, 10:30 a.m.- 3 p.m.

* Treasurer Cheryl Haaker presented the Treasurer's report. She said there was a total of \$13,647.26 in the bank accounts, including \$9,495.28 in the Wells Fargo savings account and \$4,151.98 in the Wells Fargo checking account.

* Dick Mason said that League Day at the Legislature will be Jan. 24, 2012. League Day will start at the Capitol. Members are encouraged to attend sessions in the House and Senate and/or committee hearings before 10:30 a.m. when they will hear from a panel talking about the 30-day session.

* Mason said legislators will be invited to the educational forum/reception Jan. 23. There will be a panel of experts who will discuss the facts that counter the generalizations and distortions regarding voter fraud. This event has been coordinated with the New Mexico Election Administration Coalition and is being paid for by a grant the LWVNM received from the National League of Women Voters Education Fund to educate the public and legislators about

Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA).

* Mason provided a list of bills the LWVNM will be watching over the course of the legislative session.

March 17, 2012 -- REI meeting room, Santa Fe, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

* Treasurer Haaker presented the Treasurer's report. A total of \$2,688.61 remains in the PAVP grant. She also said that she was unable to open an account with the New Mexico Educators Federal Credit Union because individuals signed on to the account have to be affiliated with a school.

* Mason said that some 35-40 people attended League Day at the Legislature Jan. 24. He said it was a good event and there was also a full house at the reception/panel the evening before.

* Mason said the organization Deliberative Democracy is planning to conduct a state-wide polling project to address the subject, "What public services do you want and expect from your government, and how do you wish them to be paid for."

(Continued on page 5)

LWVNM Land Use

Barbara Calef, Chair

Since the adoption of the land use study at convention last year, two local Leagues have hosted meetings about aspects of the issue. Santa Fe held a panel discussion about "land use or misuse, pitfalls, rules and tools.". The Central New Mexico League heard from State Land Commissioner Ray Powell at a luncheon.

Subsequently the study committee has published two articles in *La Palabra*, one by Lora Lucero describing the history of land use laws in the state, and one by Barbara Calef about how the State Land Office works. The committee has much material still to cover and will require additional time to complete its work before bringing consensus questions to the local Leagues.

Recently we have been investigating the link between land use and environmental justice. The following preliminary report was written by Judy Williams and Barbara Calef

Land use and environmental justice

One of the considerations that should guide decision-making regarding land use is the principle of environmental justice, which was developed in the United States in the early 1980's in response to the realization that landfills, including those containing hazardous waste, were largely located where the residents were members of minority groups, poorly educated, low-income, without political power. "Environmental justice is the principle that all people,

regardless of socioeconomic status, race or ethnicity, deserve to live in a clean, healthy environment." (Southwest Environmental Law Center)

Society and the economy demand the benefits of certain inherently polluting activities such as mining operations and solid waste disposal facilities. According to the tenet of environmental justice, the adverse impact of such activities must be mitigated equally for all communities, rich and poor.

In New Mexico, Native Americans have suffered from uranium mining as well as coal-burning power plants. Church Rock was home to the longest continuous uranium mining in any Navajo land. From 1954 until 1968, the tribe leased land to mining companies that did not obtain consent from Navajo families or report any consequences of their activities. Water supplies were depleted and contaminated with uranium. Kerr-McGee and United Nuclear Corporation, the two largest mining companies, argued that the Federal Water Pollution Control Act did not apply to them, and maintained that Native American land is not subject to environmental protections. The courts did not force them to comply with US clean water regulations until 1980. (Source: Justice in the Air: Tracking Toxic Pollution from America's Industries and Companies to Our States, Cities, and Neighborhoods Michael Ash, [http://www.peri.umass.edu/justice/.](http://www.peri.umass.edu/justice/))

Board Highlights

(Continued from page 4)

They want the League to support the event. Mason said he is willing to be part of the planning process but does not want the League to be part of the coalition. Mason moved to participate in the planing of the event, but not be part of the coalition. Shepherd seconded.

* LWVCNM President Shelly Shepherd said the LWVCNM Board agreed to postpone the Salute to New Mexico banquet and fundraising event for several reasons. There didn't seem to be a lot of support for it, and \$80 a seat is a lot of money in this economy. She said the board also agreed to do a smaller event, maybe a Saturday lunch, later in the year.

* The Board selected three people to attend

the national convention. They are Joe Keefe, Cheryl Haaker and Dick Mason. The convention is June 8-12 in Washington, D.C.

Jane Gaziano passes

Jane Gaziano, president of LWVSFC from 2005-2007, passed away April 3. A celebration of her life will be held Saturday, April 14 at the Santa Fe International Folk Art Museum from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

For those who knew Jane, who was also the education director of LWVNM, this is an untimely loss. For those who didn't know her, you missed a fireball. She was terrific at engaging people to become active and involved League members. She worked tirelessly on voter registration in the schools before she became ill about three years ago. She inspired many of us to become more active in the League and other organizations.

Report of the LWVNM Action Committee for 2011-13

Dick Mason, Chair

If I were to summarize the LWVNM view of the 2012 session in one sentence it would be, "We kept bad things from happening." Sometimes that is all you can hope for. We kept voter photo ID, repeal of the law allowing driver's licenses for the undocumented, reinstatement of the death penalty and parental notification for abortion from coming to a floor vote in either the Senate or the House.

The state budget that was passed did adequately fund Medicaid and other essential services. As always, it would have been better to see additional funding for these services. But after the cuts of the last couple of years, it was a relief not to have to fight just to maintain existing funding. This was a 30-day session, so the Legislature could only deal with budget items and issues that the Governor put on her "call." The Governor did not put any bills dealing with implementing federal health care reform on her "call." This was very

disappointing.

We did pass SB9, which required combined reporting for out-of-state corporations with "big box" stores in New Mexico. This would have leveled the playing field for New Mexico-based companies. The Governor vetoed the bill.

LWVNM did support, in principle, the Governor's effort to do something about requiring students to be proficient in reading before they can leave the third grade. There were a number of bills that provided early intervention and provided resources to address the problem, but none of them passed. Maybe in the 2013 session we will be able to fully address this issue.

League Day at the Legislature on Jan. 24 was a success with more than 40 League members attending. Our forum the night before on "Voter Verification" was a great success with the room totally packed and great presentations from the four panelists.

Local League News from the Presidents

Central New Mexico -- Shelly Shepherd & Sandra Browne, Co-Presidents

It's hard to believe that we have completed another LWVNM fiscal year and will be holding Annual Meeting next month on May 5th. A special thank you is due Josephine Porter, Getta Gatterman, Sharon Moynahan, Carl Tucker Trelease and Pati Brummett, the 2012-13 nominating committee, for their diligent efforts in obtaining an outstanding slate for the LWVNM board this coming year. We are indebted to Richard Mason, Don Goldfarb and Terry Quinn for their efforts in developing a two-year budget for 2012-14.

We were truly blessed with the 2011-12 LWVNM board. Thank you Andrea Targhetta, Karen Wentworth, Dan Rudolph, Pati Brummett, Richard Mason, Chris Burroughs, Cheryl Haaker, Gayle Prinkey, Mary Smith and Carol Tucker Trelease for their dedication and support, both when board decisions are easy and when they are challenging. Happily, most of the 2011-12 Board have already agreed to stay on the board another year.

Last month we celebrated League of

Women Voters' 92nd birthday with the annual Theater Party at Rodey Theatre. Cole Porter's *Anything Goes* was a delightful musical, and the following reception was an opportunity to visit with fellow League members and meet their guests. Andrea Targhetta and Josephine Porter were extremely helpful in organizing the event.

LWVNM Annual Meeting will be held at the MCM Elegante, 2020 Menaul, NE. Registration begins at 9 a.m. The business meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. A brunch will be served following the business meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with the business of League, meet and great new board members, ask questions and make suggestions.

LWVNM will be hosting LWVNM Council May 12 at the MGM Elegante. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m., and the business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. LWVNM will have two delegates, but all members are welcome to attend. The luncheon speaker will be Peggy Hill, our LWVNM Liaison to National Board.

The LWVUS Convention will be held in Washington, D.C June 8-12. LWVNM will have

(Continued on page 7)

Local League News

(Continued from page 6)

three delegates. All members are welcome to attend. This should be a very special convention, being the 50th year since the first National Convention. Registration may be completed on line.

Later in the year we will have a function to celebrate the Centennial of New Mexico Statehood. For several reasons, the board decided to postpone the event. Details about the event will be provided later in the year.

We hope to see you at the May 5th Annual Meeting and perhaps at the State Council and National Convention as well.

Los Alamos -- Barbara Calef, President

Following a consensus meeting on March 5, the Los Alamos League's land use and transportation committee drafted a new position on the environment. The essence of the position is:

* The League of Women Voters of Los Alamos believes that our natural environment is integral to our community's unique sense of place and to our well-being and prosperity.

* We support protection of this environment, including the canyons and other open space, vistas, wildlife habitat, and dark skies.

* We support the use of natural processes to provide services such as storm water management in the built environment for the sake of healthy ecosystems and community livability.

During our program planning meeting League members agreed to continue the study of sustainable land use. Having addressed the issue of the natural environment, the committee still plans to research livability, mobility, and commercial centers.

Regarding the request from LWVUS to make suggestions for the national program, the group supported (and the board approved) a recommendation to request concurrence by LWVUS with the following position on sentencing policy from LWVDC:

1) The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime.

2) The LWVUS opposes mandatory mini-

mum sentences for drug offenses.

Recent speakers for Lunch with a Leader have included

* Christine Chavez, the Water and Energy Conservation Coordinator for the County. Chavez, who served in a similar position in Las Cruces, explained that utilities in the state are required to file a conservation plan and submit reports with the Office of the State Engineer. In addition to updating the county's five-year conservation plan, she offers free audits of water and energy use to residents, and provides conservation education to the schools.

* Anne Laurent, Director of Capital Projects and Facilities, has supervised the construction of Pajarito Cliffs (the new complex of county offices and shops), the Justice Center, and the Animal Shelter. Laurent noted that while county policy requires that all public buildings greater than 5,000 square feet be built to a standard of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver, Pajarito Cliffs achieved a standard of LEED Gold!

* Neva van Peski, Karen Heldmeyer and Jody Larson drove up from Santa Fe recently to share their knowledge about the deficits of the PRC and to discuss how they might be remedied. Contrary to the impressions of some League members, passage of the amendments proposed by the legislature during the recent session will not solve all of the problems. The discussion was intriguing because the solution to some of the problems is not obvious, especially the question of qualifications for candidates for the PRC.

We look forward to our next meeting with our very capable League study leaders.

Santa Fe County -- Judy Williams, President

The Santa Fe League finalized the study of vote by mail ballots for non-candidate elections. The consensus is that such voting method should be used whenever possible. The position is at www.lwvsfc.org.

We decided not to recommend any new studies for next year, as members are already working on three continuing studies: the local courts (including specialty courts), criteria for reviewing local referenda and a study to determine how the

(Continued on page 8)

Local League News

(Continued from page 7)

City of Santa Fe should use its undeveloped northwest quadrant. In addition, three local members are working on the state study of the Public Regulation Commission.

LWVSFC has informed the U.S. League that we support a concurrence with the District of Columbia's study recommending review of sentencing laws, specifically minimum sentencing requirements for minor drug infractions.

We have begun review and consideration of the LWVUS privatization study and the consensus questions. The meetings were on March 20 and April 4. Carol Burleson prepared background materials including a summary of the main issues.

In 2011 the Santa Fe City Council adopted a variant of the LWVSFC position on transparency. However, they have been singularly unable to live by it. The latest was the subject of numerous articles in the *New Mexican*. The Santa Fe League has written letters to the city council reminding them of their rule and pointing to the violations.

The league continues to follow the development of the code implementing the new Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan. In January we had an opinion article in the *New Mexican* highlighting the need for a strong building code with energy efficiency provisions. In addition, we have urged timely roll-out of the code.

Greater Las Cruces -- Bonnie Burn, President

All of our current local studies are concluded. On Feb. 1 the Board of Directors approved a concurrence position for Affordable Housing proposed by study co-chairs, Christina Little and Vicki Simons, after unit meetings were held in January. We learned a lot about this issue in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County. We viewed a slide presentation compiled by William Little that illustrated how changed affordable housing has become so that the newer units are no longer distin-

guishable from other housing in a community. The study revealed the great need for affordable housing—approximately 4,700 additional units in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County.

Members of the Board of Education of the Las Cruces Public Schools presented a resolution to us in recognition of the 92nd anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters. The complete resolution was published in the March 2012 issue of GLC's *Voter*. We were very impressed with the number of items cited in the "Whereas" sentences that recognized achievements at all three levels of the League. We received great cooperation from the school district administration, teachers, parents and students during our recent study of public education in Las Cruces. This kind of acknowledgement and respect was unexpected and very much appreciated.

March was Women's History Month. The League collaborated with Branigan Library to organize an exhibit that displayed the achievements of Hispanic women. Posters obtained from the Women's History Project (Santa Rosa, Calif.) pictured the women and gave a narrative in English and Spanish about them.

There were several opportunities for increasing League visibility. At the Healthy U, a one-day event, sponsored by the *Las Cruces Sun-News*, the League sponsored a booth where visitors could register to vote or update their voter registration information. We also participated in the Southwest Senior Lifestyle 2012 Expo, a two-day trade show that attracted over 90 community organizations. The League had a booth display where we registered voters and conducted a "straw poll" about issues that would influence voter decisions in November. We also participated in Information Sessions where we presented our studies about affordable housing and public education in Las Cruces and discussed the women's suffrage movement. The theme of the expo was a return to the nostalgic 1950s and concluded with a Sock Hop on Saturday evening. Both events earned revenue for our Education Fund.

LWVNM Budget for 2012-2013

Fiscal Year is May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013

*Note: At its April 17 meeting the LWVNM Board recommended no changes be made to the budget since it was approved last year at the state convention. However, it was later suggested that the budget should be amended because there was not enough money allocated to send three delegates to the national convention. No vote on this was taken.

Operating Fund		
Expenses	2011-2012	2012-2013
Board Admin		
Meeting Space	100	100
Meeting Travel	275	275
Training	0	0
Delegate Expenses		
LWVNM Convention	800	300
LWVNM Council	150	75
LWVUS Convention	600	1,600
LWVUS Council	800	0
Fundraising Expenses		
Events	0	0
Mailing	200	0
Member Services		
MAL Services	0	0
Newsletter Printing	2,368	1,243
Mailing Services	450	250
Newsletter Postage	660	335
Newsletter Editor's Ex100	100	105
Membership Dev.	100	100
MAL PMP	420	420
Operating Expenses		
Office Use	600	600
Office Supplies	20	20
Postage Bulk Mail		
Permit	200	200
Postage Stamps	50	50
Telephone		
Phonecards for Local	50	50
Website	0	0
Copying	50	50
Insurance	400	400
Miscellaneous	0	0
Program Expense Advocacy		
League Day	300	300
Position Support	500	500
State Studies	450	450

Grants to Local Leagues		
Voters' Guide Support	0	0
Voter Services		
Advertising	0	500
Veterans Services other	200	200
Total Expenses	9,993	8,273

Income		
Contributions	500	500
Fundraising Events	500	500
Local League PMP		
LWVCNM	2,790	2,790
LWVGLC	1,104	1,104
LWVLA	738	738
LWVSFC	1,523	1,512
MAL Dues	560	560
Other Income		
Special Events	400	400
Interest	10	10
LWVNM Convention		
Auction	1,000	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
Total Income	9,993	8,614
Net Gain/Loss	0	0

Education Fund		
Expenses	2011-2012	2012-2013
Voters Key	0	1,600
For Revenue Sharing	0	0
Total Expenses	0	1,600
Income		
Solicitation Letter	1,600	0
Total Income	1,600	0
Net Gain/Loss	1,600	-1,600

Calendar	
May 12	State Council, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
May 12	LWVNM Board Meeting (after Council)
June 8-12	LWVUS Convention, Washington, D.C.

Peggy Hill recounts time with League

Peggy Hill, who will be the keynote speaker at the LWVNM Council meeting, said the following of her experiences with the League:

“I joined the League of Women Voters in Richardson, Texas in 1973 with an infant and a toddler in tow. The League was the smartest group of women I could find, and they could help me become familiar with Texas political situation. Since I’d lived in California up to that time, I felt like I really needed to learn what Texas was like.

“In Richardson, the League members were a wonderful support system. I quickly became a board member and in 1977-1979 I was president of the Richardson, Texas League. Our focus was on recycling, roads and bridges and environmental issues. When we moved to Houston, Texas in 1979, the Houston League members were on my doorstep to help me unpack and become involved in the Houston Area League. For two years I ran “Election Central,” which was the way we had then to report election outcomes immediately.

“During the 1980’s, while I worked on my

doctorate, I was unit chair, served on the board and helped with education studies.

“In 2010 I was invited to serve on the National Board for the League of Women Voters, and that was the year that the Education Study was selected as one of two national studies. Working on the education study for the past two years has given me additional in-depth knowledge of national education issues. With a very professional team of seven other League members from across the country, we researched, wrote, reported, developed and analyzed the consensus and finally wrote the national education position. This is the first time in the history of the League of Women Voters there has been a national position written on education.

“Being a member of the League of Women Voters has been a 40-year journey for me, educating me, guiding me and nurturing me in so many ways. I’ve learned to run effective meetings, to understand how critical a strong well-educated electorate is and how important our voter service is to the entire community in which we serve.”

Return Service Requested

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