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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.

The President's Corner

By Hannah Burling

LWVNM President: president@lwvnm.org

The 2021 LWVNM Convention was held successfully on Zoom. The format allowed 41 delegates to attend. The New Mexico League was welcomed to Las Cruces by Yvonne Flores, Las Cruces City Councilor and the opening address was given by Liz Bander, our LWVUS liaison. We had some excellent speakers; Dr. Jim Peach spoke on the future of New Mexico's economy, Dr. Christa Slaton spoke on the future of democracy and Johana Bencomo, Las Cruces City Councilor, spoke on border and social justice issues.

We welcomed new board members at the Convention: Donna Sandoval, the new co-president of LWVNM, Bobbi Riedel, Director of Women's Issues, Rebecca Álvarez from JEDI, Susan Haase, Membership and Events and Renny Ashleman, Director of Voting and Elections. Also, Maxine McReynolds volunteered to help with Vote 411. There's still room on the board, so if you're interested, please let the Nominations Committee know at nominations@lwvnm.org.

The delegates adopted the revised Education position and a new position on Reproductive Health (a concurrence with the LWV Florida position) without amendment. When asked to adopt an amendment to the Election Procedures position, they adopted the section that supports allowing an unaffiliated voter to vote on one party's ballot in a primary without having to enroll in that

party. The delegates rejected the second section, which said, "voters enrolled in a major political party can vote only on the ballot of their party."

The delegates also voted to allow a two-year extension of the study of the qualifications and selection of judges of the lower courts and to approve a study of tribal law codification at the state level.

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The President's Corner

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Along with Kathy Brook of LWVSNM, Karen Douglas of LWVCNM and Ellen Mills of LWVLA, I attended the LWVUS Council at the end of June. It's always an inspirational and energizing event offering more resources than we can possibly use over the next two years. I was particularly interested in Asset Framing as a tool for engagement and partnership. I'm including some of what was said here: Asset Framing defines communities by their assets rather than their challenges and deficits. Challenges are not ignored but focusing on what people can contribute is far more constructive. This engages everyone, strengthens arguments for equity, places the value of people at the center and keeps us focused on the positive. I will keep you all updated on how to learn more.

The pandemic appears to be winding down spasmodically and what we have gained is Zoom, which has expanded our meeting capability significantly. We're going to be coordinating with LWVSFC on some very interesting speaker events they're scheduling. What this means is that these events will be open to all League members and will be accessible from your own homes.

Please stay safe, everyone!

LWVUS Council Workshops

“Living Our DEI Values – Powering Democracy through Our DEI Lens” and “Maximizing VOTE 411 to Mobilize and Educate Voters”

By Kathy Brook, LWVNM Program Director

LWVUS staff did a wonderful job of putting together a virtual Council meeting complete with opportunities to interact with small groups among the 150-200 people in attendance.

On behalf of LWVNM, I attended two workshops, the first of which was focused on powering democracy through our Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) lens. Important questions to consider with respect to DEI were repeated throughout the meeting:

- Who is involved?
- Who is impacted?
- Who isn't at the table?
- What are the intended and unintended outcomes?
- How do the actions align with our mission?
- What changes can make the actions more equitable?

Participants were asked about how their Leagues approached community work through a DEI lens. Examples included paying attention to vendors, outreach to minority bookstores, meetings at women-owned or minority-owned businesses, and use of social media to highlight activities of other organizations and community artist events. For example, LWV Texas has worked with NAACP and LULAC on press releases, ads and the Democracy is Good for Business initiative to fight against anti-voter bills; California's criminal justice position has engaged new membership; holding meetings from 4-6 p.m. has removed barriers to participation.

The second workshop I attended discussed VOTE411, particularly the integration of VOTE411 with Outreach Circle, which provides a mechanism for sharing information with a network. I have been interested in exploring the use of Outreach Circle, for which LWVUS provides regular demos, but have not yet done so. This workshop provided motivation to take the next steps. There will be many trainings offered, the technology is improving,

and state-specific training is available. Outreach Circle can be used to survey voters in the network the League establishes and to collect reports on voting issues on the day of the election.

Improvements planned for VOTE 411 include a section on current elected officials.

Countering Mis- and Dis-information

By Karen Douglas

Distinctions between Misinformation and Disinformation:

Misinformation – Sharing false or misleading information without intent of harm (common among journalists, social media posts)

Disinformation – Creating and sharing false information with intent of harm

Recognition:

Misinformation & Disinformation increased 232% in Twitter in 2020. Disinformation may be identified when “About” appears at top of website – check the author. Are other reputable sources reporting the same information? Question emotionally charged content. Recognize vocabulary “Fixing our Democracy” vs. “For the People Act.”

Actions:

Don’t click on links or share misinformation. Instead, share correct information without reference to incorrect information. Don’t quote misinformation but instead reference without repeating. Frame conversation with “What Is” without referencing Mis/Dis as “Is Not”

Common Cause recommendation: Report/Defeat/Promote Withdrawal of Mis/Dis using this website: www.reportdisinfo.org

Voter Suppression

By Ellen Mills

The Council meeting focused on several issues with voter suppression a main discussion item. Voter suppression laws have passed in several states and other states are likely to pass restrictive laws in the near future. Educating the voter population, registering potential voters, and lobbying against voter suppression was an ongoing discussion during the Council meetings.



An emphasis on utilizing social media to reach a broader population of voters was also reviewed. There is support from the national organization to help local Leagues around the country develop and/or increase effective use of social media. There was also a presentation on building membership with particular focus on the younger voting population.

In summary, the League’s mission is to educate the population regarding voter suppression, and to increase membership across the country, particularly the younger voters.

Writing a Bill for the Legislature

By Akkana Peck

In the 2021 session, I had the exciting opportunity to help write and advocate for a bill in the New Mexico Legislature. It started with our 2020 Online Voter Guide. Vote411 asks for an address and then shows a ballot customized for that address. But to do that, the software needs to know which voting districts cover which addresses: in other words, what geographic area each district covers. This type of data is called GIS, for Geographic Information Systems.

GIS data was easy to get for Congressional, House, and Senate districts. But for other races, like judicial, PRC, and county-level offices, finding GIS data was difficult. Our Voter Guide volunteers spent many hours contacting county officials and the Secretary of State. In the end we got most of the files we needed, but for a handful of counties, we weren't able to show voters their local races.

Somewhere along the way, I moaned, "Why isn't this data public? It should all be on a public website!" Someone, maybe Judy Williams, replied "Maybe we should write a bill." We can do that? Yes, we can. And with a lot of help from veterans Judy Williams, Diane Goldfarb, plus Dick Mason and the Action Committee, we did just that.

Creating the Bill

The first step is finding a sponsor. My representative, Christine Chandler, agreed to sponsor it. But then the House passed a last-minute rule that Representatives could only introduce five bills. The Senate had no such rule, so Diane contacted Brenda McKenna, who agreed to be our sponsor.

Next, the sponsor contacts a bill writer in the Legislative Council Service. After a little back-and-forth to make sure the language was clear, the bill was ready to go. Once the session starts, the sponsor introduces the bill and it gets a number - ours was SB304 - and committee assignments. Our bill was assigned to Senate Rules (SRC) and Senate Health and Public Affairs (SHPAC). I would be on the hook as a "Subject Matter Expert" to give a 3-minute speech explaining the bill, and to answer questions.

The SRC meeting went well. The Secretary of State was there advocating for our bill, and committee chair Ivey-Soto had read the bill, understood it, and had a couple of good amendments to suggest. The amended bill passed unanimously. SHPAC wasn't so easy. It was nearly two weeks before the bill even showed up on their schedule, and another couple of days before they actually discussed it. A few senators were opposed to it. Fortunately, Kari Fresquez, from the Secretary of State's office, was there to help me explain the bill. She did a better job than I did. In the end it passed on a narrow party-line vote - strange, we hadn't thought it was a partisan issue.

Having passed its two committees, the bill went to the Senate floor. Subject Matter Experts and members of the public can't speak on the House or Senate floors, but we needed to be available for Sen. McKenna to text or call us in case anyone had questions she couldn't answer. That wasn't a problem, though, and the bill passed 31 - 6. Whew!

On to the House

Next, the bill moves to the House and the process starts all over again with committee assignments. We were lucky: SB304 only got assigned one committee, the House State Government, Elections & Indian Affairs Committee. A few of the committee members had some pointed questions, but that resulted in a productive discussion of what GIS data was and wasn't. The bill passed unanimously.

The final step was the House floor, where Representative Christine Chandler took over as the bill's House spon-

sor. We were feeling pretty confident at this point, with a week and a half left in the session -- but the hard part was just beginning.

When SB304 showed up on the House calendar, it was #25 of 47 bills ... but it turned out that bills aren't called in order, and most of the bills discussed weren't even on the schedule (apparently there are several unpublished supplemental bill lists). The House start times were different every day, and seldom bore much relation to published start times. Every bill involved hours of long rambling folksy stories in a never-ending game of more-rural-than-thou. It's not called filibustering in the House, but it's the same thing. Since there was no schedule, and thus no telling when our bill might come up, we had to sit through all of it -- 54 hours over eight days. Thank goodness it was Zoom, not in person. Turning the sound down helped my plummeting mood.

What we didn't know was that the redistricting advocates, including the League's Dick Mason, had been busy merging the two redistricting bills. On Friday afternoon, the last full day of the session, I got a message that our little bill was going to be merged with the combined redistricting bill. That was good news, and it made sense since the topics are related.

In the end, the opposite happened. For some reason, they took the 19-page combined redistricting bill and appended it as an amendment onto our tiny 2-page GIS data bill. Crazy!

A little after 10 pm, the House broke for dinner. When they came back, they were all business. No more filibustering: they raced through thirty or more bills, passing most of them without debate. The amended Frankenbill SB304 was finally introduced. Around 12:30 a.m. it passed, 64-2! The following morning, SB304 passed the Senate unanimously, and a few weeks later the Governor signed it.

What a ride! But the next time we prepare a statewide Voter Guide, we'll be able to show candidates for ALL the districts in the state!

Report of the LWVNM Action Committee

By Dick Mason, Action Committee Chair

LWVNM 2022 Action Calendar:

- December 1 Estimated start of the special session on redistricting
- December 11 Virtual Advocacy Workshop – 10 a.m. to noon.
Senator Gay Kernan (R), Representative Susan Herrera (D) and lobbyist Linda Siegle.
- January 13 LWVNM Virtual Legislative Prep - at 5:30 p.m.
- February 2 LWVNM Evening Reception - 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. – Location to be determined
- February 3 League Day 9:45 a.m.-noon Welcome from State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard and two additional speakers

2022 Session Dates: *This is a 30-day session.*

- January 4-January 14, 2022 Legislation may be pre-filed;
- January 18 Opening day (noon)
- February 2 Deadline for introduction of legislation;
- February 17 Session ends (noon);
- March 9 Legislation not acted upon by governor is pocket vetoed;
- May 18 Effective date of legislation not a general appropriation bill or a bill that does not have a specified effective date. Appropriation bills become effective July 1.

Fair Districts Report

By Dick Mason, Action Chair

The Thornburg Foundation has given the League a \$45,000 grant; \$35,000 for our redistricting work and \$10,000 for Vote 411.

SB 304, which created the Citizen Redistricting Committee (CRC), went into effect on July 1.

The first round of public meetings is set for early August. For the latest news on the CRC, visit their website: <https://www.nmredistricting.org/>

The CRC expects to start to develop district maps when the Census Bureau releases the initial data set on August 16. The CRC will then hold its second round of public meetings to get public input on the maps they have developed.

The CRC's goal is to deliver their recommended district maps to the Legislature by October 30. The Legislature plans to go into a special session for redistricting around December 1. The League would like the Legislature to accept the preferred district maps recommended by the CRC. The district maps are statutes, so they must be signed by the Governor.

For the latest advocacy on redistricting visit the Fair Districts for New Mexico website: <http://fairdistrictsnm.org/>

Tribal Law Study

By Rebecca Álvarez

At the April 2021 State Convention, LWVNM proposed a one-year study of the pros and cons of codifying federal Indian law at the state level, and where possible, laws supporting tribes at the state level, considering what is the best option for preservation of tribal sovereignty. The study was adopted at convention with unanimous approval. The first objective of this study is to educate ourselves about the complexities of enforcing federal Indian law as well as the complexities of tribal sovereignty. The second objective is to identify possible legislative solutions for supporting tribal sovereignty and tribes at the state level. The third objective is to develop a position for advocacy.



Rebecca Álvarez and daughter. Courtesy photo

All League members are invited to participate in the study.

The scope of this study includes the following:

1. List of the 23 tribes and Pueblos in New Mexico

Analysis of the overall issues; explanation of the meaning of tribal sovereignty;

Review of current literature and interviews with key informants (legislators, officials, advocates, and other Indigenous stakeholders) for areas of conflict/lack of enforcement/lack of funding in laws and policy pertaining to various areas of institutions serving Native American populations. This includes the following specific areas:

- Tribal economic development, with an emphasis on infrastructure. LWVCNM member Donna Sandoval is in charge of this effort. She may be contacted at donnamsandoval@aol.com
- Tribal criminal justice, with an emphasis on missing and murdered tribal members. LWVSFC member

Rebecca Álvarez is in charge of this effort. She may be contacted at alvarez.rebecca@yahoo.com

- Tribal education. LWVSFC member Meredith Machen is in charge of this effort. She may be contacted at meredith.machen@gmail.com

- Tribal healthcare access and delivery. LWVSFC member Judy Williams is in charge of this effort. She may be contacted at jkwilliams24@gmail.com

2. Meetings with the local Leagues to discuss what the committee has learned from the study.
3. Development of consensus questions with pros and cons to be presented to the LWVNM Board for approval.
4. Consensus meetings with the local Leagues.
5. Development of a position based on the results of the consensus meetings.

Rationale: Recent years have seen efforts to more rigorously enforce federal Indian law and tribal sovereignty in New Mexico and elsewhere in states with large Indigenous populations. There have also been more assertive efforts at both state and federal levels to increase the resources available to tribal populations in the areas of criminal justice, education, economic development, and healthcare access and delivery. These issues are especially critical to fulfilling the commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

We expect the study to result in a state position that can be used for advocacy at the legislature and may be adopted by other state Leagues and LWVUS.

League members who are already participating in/consulting for the study include Joanna Velasquez, a law student from the LWV of Santa Fe County League, Meredith Machen, a longtime LWV of Santa Fe County leader and former LWV of New Mexico president, Donna Sandoval, city controller of Albuquerque from the LWV of Central New Mexico, Maxine McReynolds, an attorney from the LWV of Los Alamos, Laura Castille, an attorney from the LWV of Southern New Mexico, and Judy Williams, a longtime LWV of Santa Fe County leader and former LWV of New Mexico president. Rebecca Álvarez, a professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice from LWV Santa Fe County, is chairing the study. Brittany Dutton-Leyda, an extern with the US Attorney's Office, Indian Country Crimes Unit from the LWV Santa Fe County League, has also agreed to consult for the study as needed.

Since the organization of the committee, study reports examining issues of funding, tribal inclusion, and tribal sovereignty have all been completed as drafts. We re-extend the original invitation proffered at Convention to *all* League members to join us in researching, drafting, and editing a study guide to educate all League members about these important issues. Please contact Rebecca Álvarez at alvarez.rebecca@yahoo.com to sign up.

Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage Safety Update

By Karen M. Douglas

On May 20, 2021 the NRC issued a Second Request for Additional Information (RAI) for the HOLTEC Consolidated Interim Storage Facility license application. The RAI detailed 69 specific requests for additional information (clarification or omissions in the initial nuclear Safety Analysis Report submission):

- Site Characterization – 16 inadequacies
- Cask contamination upon receipt – 2 inadequacies
- HI-STORE facility design criteria – primarily w/r/t crane in Cask Transfer building

- Structural characterization – 13 inadequacies
- Thermal (heat response) – 14 inadequacies
- Shielding evaluation (protection from radiation) – 6 inadequacies
- Confinement Evaluation (containing irradiated SNF) – 2 inadequacies
- Materials Evaluation (including degradation of containers upon receipt)– 11 inadequacies
- 9 of these RAIs were Proprietary Information that will not be disclosed publicly

The responses are due August 30. If they are satisfactory, the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be issued in November and the final Nuclear Safety Evaluation Report will come out in January 2022. The NRC will hold public meetings to maximize discussion of remaining concerns. Reaching these two major milestones would then permit the US NRC to issue a Construction Permit to HOLTEC 2022.

The LWVNM SNF Storage Safety Position was approved by the delegates at the 2021 LWVNM Convention in April. Subsequent discussions about concurrence with League members in the 35 states with Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations (ISFSI) led to a request for a presentation. Bobbi Merryman Riedel and Karen Douglas of LWVNM, both of whom are nuclear engineers, made a recording and broadcast it via Zoom to League members in all 50 states on July 17 with a live Chat Q&A opportunity. The complete one-hour recording with Chat responses will be posted to the LWVNM website

The July NM Interim Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee meeting scheduled at the NMSU campus in Carlsbad, NM featured a panel discussion including Ed Mayer/HOLTEC Technical Program Director, Bruce Baizel/Legal Director of NMED, Ari Biernoff/General Counsel for the NM Land Office, and Leona Morgan of the Nuclear Issues Study Group. HOLTEC indicated that the CISF would have no impact on potash mining or oil & gas interests, therefore, no negative impact on NM economy. HOLTEC anticipates receiving the CISF license from the NRC in the third quarter of 2022 and receiving Spent Nuclear Fuel beginning in 2024. The NM Environment Department indicated that NM authority was narrowly confined to wastewater, groundwater, and surface water impacts. SNF and technical aspects of the CISF are regulated by the NRC. The NM Land Office reported that HOLTEC did not have total site control, only control of the surface, and that there was no agreement from oil & gas interests regarding disturbance of the property. NM owns mineral, oil, and gas interests. In June a company with oil and gas interests filed a lawsuit in federal court claiming the NRC was violating the Nuclear Waste Policy Act by considering the HOLTEC CISF License application.

Local League News

Santa Fe County

By Jody Larson, SFC Liaison

The Santa Fe League has been involved in several projects and activities during the late spring and summer. Our Civil Discourse project has continued to hold Group Conscience sessions once a month; June's topic was on the individual's responsibility to reparations, and July's was on restorative justice. Action and Advocacy is following several city commissions and projects, watching for opportunities for public inclusion as well as for substantive issues that are addressed in our positions. We continue to work with the local schools on civic education through our High School Civic Project, with emphasis on fostering active participation in our democracy. Voter registra-

tration efforts include high school students as well as local tabling opportunities. Our recent calendar planning meeting yielded many suggestions for speakers and other events.

LWVSFC is participating in the New Mexico Humanities Council's civics outreach, education, and participatory community program "A More Perfect Union," for which LWVNM is the primary partner. We are excited about this endeavor, which aims to strengthen participatory democracy by offering a variety of programs and activities to engage the public in equitable, honest civic conversations around our state, especially rural communities, youth, and Indigenous groups.

LWVSFC Board members recently participated in a very productive retreat, with several items identified for future work that should improve internal communications and the leadership structure, as well as outreach and fundraising efforts.

Voter services for this fall will include elections for our city government, with the mayor's position as well as one city councilor from each of our four districts on the ballot. Positions on the Santa Fe Public Schools Board and the Santa Fe Community College Board will be up for election as well, so this means an extensive Voter Guide as well as several forums, all in the planning stages right now.

Southern New Mexico

By Kathy Brook and Eileen VanWie, Co-Presidents

With the start of a new League year, we have collected materials to be placed in the LWVSNM archives at NMSU. This also provided an opportunity to review some of the materials already in the archives and to visit with the staff member who will be conducting a review of the materials sometime in the fall.

Early in June some of our members participated in a discussion of a Harvard case study titled "Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Struggle for Black Voting Rights." The discussion had originally been scheduled for 2020 but was canceled because of the pandemic. The program reflected a commitment made when Julie Wojtko, a Las Cruces high school history teacher, was selected to be trained in the case study method at Harvard. Participants were asked to prepare by reading the case study, which began and ended with the second march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL. In addition to history concerning voting rights, the study included the evolution of white perspectives, such that city officials in Birmingham and Selma became more accommodating to protestors than county sheriffs.

One of our newest members, who has expertise in organizing and fund-raising, arranged for League members to meet virtually with two funders who are active in NM – the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The goal was to make board members and committee chairs more aware of the potential for funding some of our projects now that we are a 501(c)(3) organization.

The LWVSNM does not hold meetings during the month of July. Beginning in August, general meetings will be conducted in a hybrid format to accommodate the various needs of speakers and members in Southern New Mexico.

Los Alamos

by Barbara Calef, Co-President

At the Annual Meeting LWVLA members elected a new board with some changes from the previous year. The board and off board directors met in June for a retreat at the home of Ellen Mills during which one of the new directors, Felicia Orth, guided us through a discussion of strategic priorities that will help our decision-making

during the next year.

Lunch with a Leader is still being conducted virtually. In March Richard Skolnik, who worked for 40 years in international development and global health, and Doctor Thomas Massaro, the Chief Medical Officer of the New Mexico Department of Health (DOH), explained the importance of strengthening public health in the U.S.

In April Representative Christine Chandler discussed the 2021 legislative session. She noted that the Senate had live floor sessions, while a physical presence was optional in the House, where she felt like a performer in a rock concert with her face projected onto two huge screens when presenting bills on the floor. So many members of the public participated in the committee hearings that a hybrid approach may be used for future sessions. Chandler said that, according to many experienced legislators, it was “the most productive session in decades.”

County Council Chair Randall Ryti spoke in May, telling the League that the Council decided to add broadband to their strategic priorities for the next year. They will hire a broadband manager, who will find a consultant to provide design services. Also, the County website will be updated to make it easier to access information quickly.

State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard spoke to the League about her goals for her office. As we know, most of the income (royalties) comes from the non-renewable sources, primarily oil and gas production, and goes into the Land Grant Permanent Fund. Garcia Richard believes the state should be receiving a larger share of the profits and is trying to get the legislature to raise the royalty rate from 20% to 25% and to close the bonding gap, which threatens to cost the State Land Office as much as \$8.1 billion to remediate damage from oil and gas development. Another of her priorities is to triple the amount of renewable energy produced on State Trust Land during her first term. Already renewable energy has increased from 400 megawatts to over 900.

In another talk to the League, Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver praised the success of the 2020 electoral process in New Mexico. However, she warned that the 2021 elections will be more troublesome due to the legislature’s failure to pass a bill to codify the temporary improvements SB 4 made to election law, including requiring consultation with the tribes about polling places and simplifying the information required on the outer envelope of absentee ballots.

Our centennial exhibit has been scheduled to open on August 21 in Mesa Library, so we are working to prepare for that. Meanwhile, we just conducted a hybrid candidate forum for a vacant position on the Los Alamos School Board.

Central New Mexico

By Karen M. Douglas, Co-President, and Karen Wentworth

Meredith Dixon of Pivotal NM contacted LWVCNM in May to discuss grant application opportunities. The executive committee met with Dixon, who indicated a grant was available from the Herb Block Foundation. However, LWVCNM would have been required to compile some basic data prior to application. The League didn’t have the data to respond during the 24-hour application window.

NM held a special election on June 1 for US Congressional District 1 for NM following appointment of former Congresswoman Deb Haaland to US Secretary of Interior. There were four candidates on the ballot:

Melanie Stansbury – Democrat

Mark Moores – Republican

Chris Manning- Libertarian

Aubrey Dunn – Independent

There were also two official write-in candidates, Laura Olivas and Robert Orneles. Melanie Stansbury was elected Congresswoman.

The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico has moved! Our new office is at 6739 Academy Rd. NE, Suites 124 and 126. We completed the move on July 26th, and once again we owe a debt of gratitude to Two Men and a Truck who moved us as an in-kind contribution. The League now can reserve a conference room with seating for 8 as well as a large conference room with audio-visual equipment.

As part of the move we reassessed our need for filing cabinets and as a result, the old drab olive filing cabinets we've had for decades have moved on. They have gone to the movies as part of the stock of a local prop house, "Back2One Entertainment Production." We are not sure when they might be used in a local movie or television show, but keep your eyes peeled. Our thanks to Robert Elliot-Barry for giving them a good home and even picking them up from the office.



Jeanne Logsdon and Karen Wentworth are cataloging our archives and much of our history will be moved to the Center for Southwest Research at the University of New Mexico Libraries. The library archivists decided to make the Central New Mexico archives separate from the LWVNM archives. At some point our finding guide will be posted on the Rocky Mountain Online Archive and anyone will be able to go back and research work the League has done since we

began in 1947. We have operated continuously as a good government group since our formation.

The Annual Meeting on May 1 proceeded with 39 of 222 members present. Former U.S. Senator Tom Udall offered his perspective on the national outlook and major issues facing our nation. The Climate Change Action position, which was developed as a concurrence with the LWVCA position and introduced by Jeanne Logsdon, was adopted. Logsdon also announced inception of the LWVCNM Environment and Natural Resources committee. The newly elected board includes: Co-President Donna Sandoval, 2nd VP for Membership Cassandra (Sandie) Spacek, Director Jeanne Logsdon, Voter Services Director Cyprian Devine-Perez, and Director Starlyn Brown. Brown will serve as office manager, webmaster, and Zoom Host. Anne Pierce-Jones will serve as the LWVCNM Voter Editor in an off-Board capacity. Alan Ramos introduced the Advocacy Committee with related Observer Corps involvement. Ramos also serves in an off-Board capacity.

The new LWVCNM Member handbook was issued in July and include positions, bylaws, and contact information for elected and appointed LWVNM and local LWVCNM leaders.

The June 11 LWVCNM general meeting featured two former CNM Board members discussing their involvement in the NM legislative process. Brenda McKenna, former CNM Director of Public Relations, was elected to her first term in the NM Legislature and discussed her perspective. Trish Lopez, former 3rd VP and Program Director, had advocated successfully for reform to campaign financing by utilizing social media. The July 8 general meeting featured an address by Dr. James Ginger, Court-Appointed Independent Monitor of the Albuquerque Police Department.



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Please consider helping your local League or LWVNM to pay for our 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.