

THE VOTER

MARCH 2008

2403 San Mateo NE, W-16C
Albuquerque, NM 87110
505-884-8441
FAX 505-884-8488
www.lwvabc.org

Diane Goldfarb
President

Aileen Gatterman
Voter Editor

MARCH UNITS: 2008 SUNSHINE WEEK—March 16-22

Now in its fourth year, Sunshine Week is a national initiative that calls attention to threats to “sunshine” or transparency in government. On July 4, 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). We have the right to know what our government is doing. However, recently “sunshine laws” and the opportunities for citizens to gain access to information have been constricted.

The League of Women Voters joins news media, students, libraries, government officials, and non-government organizations to keep our community strong, healthy and vibrant. We start with having an open government. Sunshine Honorary Chairs this year are Ben Bradlee of the Washington Post, Tom Brokaw of NBC News and Judy Woodruff of PBS NewsHour.

Celebrate Sunshine Week at any or all of the following programs and bring guests.

Thursday, March 13, 11:45 a.m., Luncheon Unit

Reservations are required*

Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel (Formerly the Wyndham)
2910 Yale SE

Speaker: Steven Robert Allen

Steven Robert Allen is Executive Director of Common Cause New Mexico. He manages the state office in Albuquerque, organizes and coordinates legislative programs, conducts research, directs all fundraising initiatives, oversees the budget and acts as a lobbyist. Allen holds a B.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of law. He is a member of the State Bar of New Mexico. Allen is also the former editor of the *Weekly Alibi*, Albuquerque’s alternative newsweekly.

Monday, March 17, 1:30 p.m., Midtown Unit

Manzano del Sol, Hobby Room, 5201 Roma NE
and

Tuesday, March 18, 6:00 p.m., Evening Unit

Cherry Hills Library, Community Room, 6901 Barstow NE

Speaker: Daniel Ivey-Soto

Daniel Ivey-Soto is the State Bureau of Elections Director appointed by Mary Herrera in 2007, replacing Ernie Marquez. As Director of the Elections Bureau, Ivey-Soto is responsible for running the state’s election operations and administering election laws. He earned his law degree and master’s of business administration from the University of New Mexico. Ivey-Soto is also the Second Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Bernalillo County and once served as General Counsel for the state Democratic Party. He looks forward to speaking to two of our unit meetings.

Wednesday, March 19, 11:30 a.m., Sandoval County Unit

Joe’s Pasta House, 3201 Southern Boulevard, Rio Rancho**

Speaker: Attorney General Gary King

Gary King was elected Attorney General of New Mexico in 2006. His previous experience in government includes twelve years in the New Mexico Legislature and service as Policy Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management of the U.S. Department of Energy. In the private sector, he formed the law firm of King and Stanley in Moriarty, New Mexico and has also been Corporate General Counsel and Senior Environmental Scientist for an environmental consulting firm. King received a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Colorado. His J.D. is from the University of New Mexico.

*Cost of the March 13 luncheon is \$16, payable at the door. Reservations are required. Call the office at 884-8441 by 10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 10. If you prefer a fruit plate rather than the menu item, please let us know at the time you make your reservations

**Reservations are required for the March 19 luncheon. Seating is limited to 50. Please see page 3 for more information.

Reserve Your Place Now for the League’s 88th Birthday!

Once again we will celebrate the League’s birthday with a special afternoon at the Adobe Theater. Join us on Sunday, March 30, for a 2 p.m. matinee performance of *Harvey*, one of America’s best-loved plays. Your \$25 per person will include the play, a birthday “goodie” and a contribution to the LWVABC operating fund. See page 4 for further details.

**LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
ALBUQUERQUE/
BERNALILLO COUNTY**

Board Meeting

1st Thursday of each month
5:30 p.m.
Offices of
Sutin, Thayer & Browne
6565 Americas Parkway NE

Program Committees

Check with the following
League members about
community activities:

Advocacy

Delores Watkins

Drug Policy

Delores Watkins

Natural Resources

JoAnne Ramponi

Includes transportation,
land use, air quality,
water and energy

All League members
are welcome at all
unit meetings, committee,
and board meetings.

The *VOTER* is published
each month by the
League of Women Voters
of Albuquerque/Bernalillo
County.

President's Corner

Dear League Members,

The letter arrived from LWVUS last month. "Permission has been granted to the League of Women Voters of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County to change its name to the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico and to change its basis of organization to include Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia Counties effective as of January 26, 2008."

You're not going to see any changes in our local League for a couple of months, however. Even though our membership approved of the name change through the consensus process, it cannot legally take effect until it is voted on at our annual meeting on May 3. That is when we will vote on changing the bylaws to reflect the new name. The Board of Directors thought it prudent to wait until then to use Central New Mexico as our name on anything. With your approval we will begin the next fiscal year with our new name.

This has been a long process and there will be more to do once the vote takes place, but we're almost there. I hope you will plan to attend the annual meeting and participate in the vote. We have operated as Albuquerque/Bernalillo County for sixty years, so you can help us make local League history!

I would like to extend thanks to some of our hardworking volunteers again this month. JoAnne Ramponi has done an excellent job of keeping our office running smoothly. She and the group of volunteers who staffed the office during the Democratic presidential caucus are to be especially commended for fielding the huge number of calls that came in. Based on that experience we know we will be busy for the upcoming primary and general election. Please give some thought to volunteering in the office during those times if you cannot do it on a regular basis.

And thank you to Therese Barts and Mary Mulvany for taking the lead in distributing the *Who's Who* around Sandoval County. Therese, a graphic artist, has also made some brightly colored holders for the brochures so that they can be easily seen. These efforts should help the League become more visible in Sandoval County.

Keep up the good work everyone.

Diane

Board Highlights—February 7, 2008

LWV/ABC Board:

- An increase in membership makes LWV/ABC eligible for a fourth delegate to the 2008 LWVUS Convention. The budget was amended accordingly.
- The Board authorized upgrading the office telephone and internet service.
- There was a large volume of calls to the office concerning the February 5 Democratic Presidential Caucus.
- 91 people attended unit meetings in January.
- *Who's Whos* are being distributed throughout Sandoval County.
- Michelle MacDonald will work on job descriptions for Board and committee chairs.
- Revisions were made to the Board Policy.

LWV/ABC Education Fund Board:

- Bylaws need to be updated. Dick Mason and Ellen Evans will serve as Ed Fund Bylaws Committee.
- Authorization was given to apply for two grants from LWVUS as part of the "Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Promoting a Fair and Independent Judiciary" project.
- Josephine Porter is representing LWV/ABC in organizing stakeholder meetings during selection of a new APS superintendent.
- We will be moderating and keeping time for mayoral forums in Edgewood and Rio Rancho.

ADVOCACY CORNER

The Steering Committee has identified two topics of focus for LWV/ABC: Ethics and Campaign Finance Reform and Voter ID. We have knowledgeable members to monitor the topics and represent League in coalition groups. The current status of these topics is as follows:

Ethics and Campaign Finance Reform—LWV/ABC will be asked to participate in a stakeholders review of Albuquerque's first effort with public financing of campaigns. The general opinion is that this first effort, which took place in the October 2007 election, was a very successful process. However, there is a need for some improvements, several of which were identified at the Evening Unit in January. Councilors Winter and O'Malley provided specific information about issues and process, then involved the group in a motivating discussion.

Voter ID—LWV/ABC'S President, Diane Goldfarb, and 1st Vice President, Josephine Porter, continue to monitor the Voter ID issues at the local, state and national levels. You can participate in the monitoring through the media and the LWVUS and LWV/ABC websites. Watch for the Supreme Court decision regarding Indiana.

The next Advocacy Steering Committee meeting will be Wednesday, March 5, 2008, from 1-3 p.m., at the LWV/ABC office. You are always welcome to come, listen and ask questions. Dee Watkins, Chair

FAIR REPRESENTATION—SPRING UNITS

The Study Group is continuing its first series of unit meetings, holding discussions in Las Cruces and Los Alamos. The Las Cruces unit meeting will be Wednesday, March 26 from 9:00 – 10:30am, and will be preceded by a reception the night before at 6:00pm. The Los Alamos unit will meet Thursday, March 20, at 6:30pm.

To accommodate the schedule, the March meeting will be moved to Tuesday, March 18. We encourage you to attend, or participate by teleconference. For more information, contact Cheryl Haaker or check out the web page (www.lwvabc.org/fair/).

Also check out Lisa Franzen's article on "New Mexico Redistricting 2001 – What went wrong?" (*pages 5-6*) This article details an event that in part triggered the Fair Representation study. A longer version appears online at <http://www.lwvabc.org/fair/reports/edistricting2001.doc> (Word format, 82 KB). Also online, you will find an article on "Redistricting Basics" by Cheryl Haaker at <http://www.lwvabc.org/fair/reports/RedistrictingBasics.doc>.

Submitted by Cheryl Haaker, Chair

SUNSHINE WEEK WELCOMES ATTORNEY GENERAL GARY KING

On March 19 our celebration of Sunshine Week 2008 concludes with an address by New Mexico Attorney General Gary King at a luncheon at the Pasta House restaurant in Rio Rancho. The responsibilities of the Attorney General's Office include enforcing the laws relating to open government and ethics in government such as the Public Records Act, the Open Meetings Act, and the Governmental Conduct Act. Since his election, Attorney General King has been very proactive and he has much to tell us about New Mexico, our state law enforcement and your right to know.

In addition to League members, we are inviting friends and the public to participate so we expect a full room of New Mexicans eager to listen and learn. We have only fifty reservations to offer for this event, so get your reservations in early! Information on reservations appears below.

Luncheon: Wednesday, March 19, 11:30 a.m.*

Joe's Pasta House, 3201 Southern Blvd., Rio Rancho

Cost of the Luncheon is \$20

(Includes salad, bread, drinks, a choice from five entrees and dessert)

For Reservations:

Make your check out to LWV/ABC and send to Lisa Franzen, 13 Calle Piñon, Placitas, NM 87043. Reservations must be received by March 14.

All reservations must be paid in advance. Please be advised that you will be charged for your meal if you cancel your reservation after March 14 or if you make a reservation and do not attend the luncheon.

*Doors open at 11:00 a.m.; Food service at 11:30 a.m. Joe's Pasta House is near the corner of Southern Boulevard and Golf Course, in the same complex as Albertsons

HARVEY
Sunday, March 30, 2 p.m.
\$25 per person
The Adobe Theater, 9813 4th St. NW
(2 blocks north of Alameda Blvd.)

Spend an enjoyable afternoon and support your local League as part of an LWV/ABC tradition. We have 60 seats reserved to celebrate the League's birthday at a performance of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Harvey*.

Harvey is a "pooka", in this case a 6-foot-tall invisible rabbit, who accompanies his likeable friend Elwood P. Dowd around town. The two companions spend their time going from bar to bar. The play is well-known to many Americans. First produced on Broadway in 1944, it was adapted for the screen in 1950, earning James Stewart an Oscar nomination. There have been television versions and many a school theater troupe has presented *Harvey*.

Sorry we are unable to put on the after-theater party this year, but the afternoon will be fun and you have the satisfaction of knowing that proceeds from the event will help us keep the League office running.

Please send or bring your check for \$25/person to the League office, 2403 San Mateo NE, W-16C, Albuquerque 87110 today. Include the names of all those attending so nametags can be printed.

This is an intimate theater where all seats are good ones, but if you have a preference, arrive early to claim a seat. Handicapped seating is available.

Questions? Call Diane Goldfarb at 884-8441.

LEAGUE GARAGE SALE APRIL 19

Mark Your Calendar! Saturday, April 19 is the new date for the League's Garage Sale at First Congregational Church, located at Lomas and Girard. Doing spring cleaning? What treasures might you find in your guest room chest of drawers? We will sell just about anything except clothing. We will be collecting donations at the Church on April 17 and 18, Thursday and Friday afternoon, before the Saturday sale.

The League needs everyone's help to make this major operating fund event a financial success. Volunteers are needed to price and organize the sale items on April 17 and 18 before the sale. Volunteers are also needed from 7 a.m. through 1 p.m. on the sale day. Call the League office at 884-8441 to sign up to help.

More details in your April 2008 *Voter*.

Josephine Porter



Photo by Cheryl Haaker

Unit Leader Marilyn Morgan introducing Max Brix, Policy Director for the Center for Civic Policy, at the January 2008 Luncheon Unit. Mr. Brix spoke about legislation emerging from the New Mexico Ethics Task Force.

DRUG POLICY

The next meeting of the Drug Policy Study Committee will be Thursday, March 27, 2008, 1-3 p.m. at Manzano del Sol, 6th floor Lounge.

Agenda:

- A review of the 2008 New Mexico Legislative issues related to Drug Policy.
- The current status and new information about the study of addiction treatment programs.
- Group sharing of new information related to the drug policy topics.

For more information, call Dee Watkins at 884-8441.

THANKS FOR OFFICE HELP

February 4 and 5 were busy days in the League office. We handled over 600 calls during the Democratic caucus. There were the usual calls of: Am I registered? Where do I go to vote? Then there were the calls of: Why don't Republicans get to vote? Do Independents get to vote? What does DTS mean on my voter card?

Our office was open on both days and the following volunteers were there to answer questions: Andrea Targhetta, Anne Letherer, Marilyn Morgan, DeDe Eckles, Marilyn Hunter-Torburn, Susan McKinstry, Ellen Evans, Josephine Porter, Cheryl Haaker, Sandra Browne, Diane Goldfarb and Margaret Krahenbuhl. Thanks to you all.

We have two more opportunities for this community service: the primary in June and the general election in November. If you would like to help, please let me know.

JoAnne Ramponi, Temporary Office Manager

New Mexico Redistricting 2001—What Went Wrong?

Submitted by the LWV/ABC Fair Representation Committee

Redistricting can be an agonizing experience. Shifts in population leave some legislators voting on a redistricting bill that may cost them reelection. Some residents will be moved into new districts, some sections of the state lose power in the lawmaking process to other sections, and political control of the legislature may move from one party to another or from one political philosophy to another. The importance of redistricting to basic citizenship simply cannot be overstated.

On March 22, 2001, the United States Census bureau released the decennial count of the population of New Mexico---1, 819,046---a 20.1% increase over the past decade. Based on the new census, the House of Representative districts were grossly mal-apportioned due to areas of the state losing population and other areas experiencing dramatic growth.

The Legislature was then faced with the task of redistricting its own house and senate seats, the Public Regulation Commission districts, the State Board of Education districts, selected magistrate court districts and the state's three congressional districts.

With a Democratic state legislature and a Republican governor, the state faced a potentially contentious redistricting process. To allow the legislature to perform redistricting in conformity with state requirements, a special legislative session was called for the fall of 2001, and in anticipation of that special session, the bi-partisan New Mexico Legislative Council adopted without dissent certain criteria for the legislature to consider in formulating redistricting plans. The Legislative Council also formed a bi-partisan Interim Redistricting Committee to study the question of redistricting and make recommendations to the full Legislature.

To fulfill these objectives the Redistricting Committee traveled throughout New Mexico holding 14 public meetings in 12 communities to receive comments and input concerning certain congressional redistricting concepts and many plans were prepared for the special legislative session which began on September 4, 2001. On September 20, 2001, the Legislature sent the Governor two senate plans, two House of Representatives plans and one plan each for the congressional, public regulation commission, and state board of education. The governor signed the public regulation commission plan and vetoed all others.

Litigation ensued over the lack of new congressional, house of representatives, senate and state board of education redistricting plans, as well as the public regulation commission plan. Challenges were soon dropped, agreed upon or compromise was reached on many issues but redistricting of the house of representatives and congressional districts, primarily a legislative duty, was not accomplished and therefore left to the court system. The Governor petitioned a federal panel to take jurisdiction over the redistricting process; however, the panel rejected his case on November 20, 2001. The Governor then petitioned to have the presiding judge removed from the case. Initially unsuccessful, the state Supreme Court, however, soon ordered a change of the presiding judge in the First Judicial District Court.

With no legislative decision made, suits were filed until a total of six plans were presented to the court, three each by Republicans and Democrats. The congressional redistricting case was tried from December 11, 2001 until January 2, 2002. Evaluation of two plans involved numerous and serious political considerations

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

that the Court determined should be made by the Legislature and Governor working within the political process and not by the court.

Of the remaining plans, the court adopted the Vigil “Least Change” plan which shifted the minimum population necessary to bring New Mexico into compliance with the one-person, one-vote requirement set by the United States Supreme Court. This plan equalized population among the three congressional districts by shifting just eight precincts among districts. On January 8, 2002, judgment was entered and no party sought review of that judgment.

The state house districting phase of the case resulted in eleven days of trial. During the course of the trial, it became obvious that in 1991 the New Mexico Legislature had failed to provide adequately for equal Native American electoral access in Northwestern New Mexico; the Court first considered partial plans submitted by the Navajo and Jicarilla Apache Nations and determined that certain proposals did indeed offer the best remedy for the current plans’ equal protection and Voting Rights Act violations.

The governor submitted no plan nor endorsed any of the plans presented, his position being that the court should draw its own plan. That request was rejected as not necessary under the law and not possible or fair with the time restraints brought on by the coming election, since no court drawn plan could receive the scrutiny from all sides as the six submitted plans had received.

In evaluating the plans submitted by the parties, the Court stated it appropriate to give thoughtful consideration that HB 3 and HB 7 were plans developed through a process which reflected the will of the people, expressed through their elected representatives, and that HB 3 was a compromise plan which attempted to balance the competing social, economic, geographic and racial interests which comprised the state.

On January 24, 2002, findings and conclusions were issued, with the Court adopting the second plan passed by the legislature (HB 3), with alterations to nine house districts to accommodate plans submitted by the Navajo Nation and the Jicarilla Apache Nation.

Costs for the mandated process of redistricting totaled approximately \$1,256,600. After the Legislative and Executive branches could not reach consensus and the Governor vetoed proposed plans, the process moved to litigation and the court system, causing the costs to rise significantly, estimated to be some \$3,300,000. Total costs of the redistricting process outlined by the New Mexico Legislative Council Service were estimated to be at approximately \$5.2 million.

The full article, including a summary of issues to evaluate and sources of the information in this article, can be found at <http://www.lwvabc/fair>

Submitted by Lisa Franzen, Member, Fair Representation Study Group

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Lois Barraclough
5201 Roma NE, #638 87108

Brenda Gray
609 Executive Hills Ln. SE 87123

Kiley E. Moran
1249 7th St NW 87107

Charmazel Dudt
5201 Roma NE, #438 87108

Karen Herzenberg
706 Douglas MacArthur NW 87107

Change of address:
Frances & Dianne Barbour
P.O. Box 14466, 87191-4466

Moira Gerety
1232 Lafayette Drive NE 87108

Elizabeth Madden
P.O. Box 26926 87125

New/Changed Phone Numbers:

Hans Bredemeyer
Ellyn A. Cowden
Pauline Eisenstadt
Mildred G. Elrick
Elene Gusch
Lara Honeycutt

Judith Kaplan
Katherine M. Oppenheimer
Shelly Sherman

Correct Phone Number for:
Petra Duffett

Email addresses available from
League office or JoAnne Ramponi
for:

Lois Barraclough, Charmazel Dudt,
Brenda Gray, Karen Herzenberg,
Elizabeth Madden, Kiley E. Moran

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES

DELEGATES NEEDED

Like to be one of our delegates to the LWVUS Convention in Portland, WA from June 13-17? If so, call LWV/ABC President Diane Goldfarb and let her know you are interested.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to LWV/ABC member Meg Wentz on the publication of her book *And We Ate the Leopard: Serving in the Belgian Congo*. The book is the story of Meg's childhood and the twenty-eight years her parents served as doctor and teacher in a remote post in the Belgian Congo. Meg will be signing her book at Hastings on Tramway and Candelaria on March 15 from 3-5 p.m.

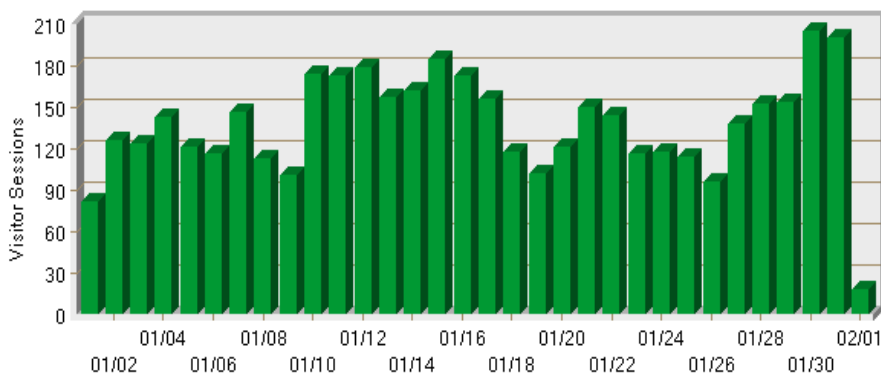
GOOD NEWS!

LWV/ABC has received notice that the LWVUS Board has approved our request to change the name of LWV of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County to LWV of Central New Mexico. The name change will not, however, be done immediately. For information on how and when this change will be made, see The President's Corner on page 2 of this *Voter*.

NOTICE

The Wyndham Albuquerque Hotel, site of our monthly luncheon meeting, has changed its name to the Albuquerque Grand Airport Hotel.

Visitor Sessions



Tue 01/01/2008 - Fri 02/01/2008 (1 Month Scale)

December Web Statistics

Visitor sessions to the lwvabc.org website ramp up from a New Years' low, and again increase as the February 5 Democratic Caucus approaches. For more detail than anyone needs, check out www.lwvabc.org/stats/ and stay tuned for February's election-week statistics!

Submitted by:
Cheryl Haaker, Technology Chair

UNIT	LOCATION	LEADER	MEMBERSHIP
Luncheon 2nd Thursday 11:45 a.m.	Wyndham Hotel 2910 Yale SE Reservations required \$16*	Marilyn Morgan	Vivian Boyle
Midtown 3rd Monday 1:30 p.m.	Manzano del Sol 5201 Roma NE Hobby Room (on first floor)	JoAnne Ramponi	Lois Reed
Evening 3rd Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	Cherry Hills Library 6901 Barstow NE Optional dinner after meeting	Jan Bray	Delores Watkins
Sandoval County 3rd Wednesday 12 noon	Corrales Community Center Meeting Room 4234 Corrales Road Brown Bag Lunch	Mary Mulvany	Carolyn Lindberg

* Luncheon Unit reservations: call the League office (884-8441) by 10:00 a.m. the preceding Monday. If you do not attend and have not cancelled by the deadline, you will be billed for the cost.

March Calendar

5	Advocacy Committee
6	LWV/ABC Board
6	Voter Deadline
13	Luncheon Unit
16	Sunshine
-22	Week
17	Midtown Unit
18	Evening Unit
18	Fair Repr Study Group
19	Sandoval County Unit
27	Drug Pollicy Committee

Membership
You can join LWV anytime of the year. Contact JoAnne Ramponi at 884-8441.

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Albuquerque, NM
Permit No. 443

League of Women Voters
Albuquerque/Bernalillo County
2403 San Mateo NE, W-16C
Albuquerque, NM 87110
Return service requested



The League of Women Voters, 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.