



# The VOTER

APRIL 2024

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

6739 Academy Rd. NE Suite 124, Albuquerque, NM 87109 lwvcnm.org (505) 884-8441

## **CALL TO THE LWVCNM ANNUAL MEETING**

***Saturday, April 20, 2024***

***The League of Women Voters® of Central New Mexico***

***Invites***

***ALL MEMBERS***

***To our 2024 Annual Meeting***

***Location: Marriot Uptown Hotel***

***2101 Louisiana Blvd NE***

***Guest Speaker: UNM Regent Paula Tackett***

***Schedule of Events***

***Registration: 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.***

***Business Meeting: 10 a.m. 11:30 a.m.***

***Brunch: 11:30 a.m. \$30 for members \$35 for guests***

***RSVP by April 15<sup>th</sup>*** Call the office and leave a voicemail (505)-884-8441, email [lunch@lwvcnm.org](mailto:lunch@lwvcnm.org), go to our website [lwvcnm.org](http://lwvcnm.org) and fill out the form. You can pay on the website, by sending a check to LWVCNM 6739 Academy Rd NE Suite 124 Albuquerque NM 87109-3352, or at the meeting with a credit card.



**League of Women Voters® of Central New Mexico**  
**Annual Meeting Agenda**

**Marriot Uptown**

**April 20, 2024 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Registration Begins at 9:30 a.m.**

Introductions

Registration Committee Report

Adoption of Agenda

Recognition of Board

*LWVUS Framing the Future* Strategic Plan: New Membership System

Presentation of Budget

Program Presentation

Election of Board

Bylaw Revision

Other Business

Directions to Board

Directions to LWVNM Council and LWVUS 2024 Convention

Volunteer Recognition

Breakfast Buffet \$30 Members \$35 Guests

Speaker - UNM Regent Paula Tackett

**Rules for Annual Meeting**

1. No person may speak twice to the same motion until all who wish to speak have had the opportunity to do so.
2. Each speaker is limited to two minutes.
3. All motions must be made in writing and a copy given to the Secretary.
4. Only members in good standing will be allowed to speak on a motion.

## UNM Regent Paula Tackett to Address LWVCNM Annual Meeting



Please join LWVCNM members in the Annual Meeting to be held Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Uptown Marriott Hotel, with registration beginning at 9:30 am.

LWVCNM is pleased to announce that UNM Regent, Ms. Paula Tackett, JD, will address the LWVCNM Annual Meeting, discussing both the ins and outs of the NM Legislature from her vantage point as Director of the NM Legislative Council Service and her involvement in recognizing women trailblazers with commemorative Markers. Regent Tackett recently secured a \$350K grant for Trail Markers which complements the LWVNM Pomeroy Trail Markers for women's achievement. The National Trails for Women and Pomeroy Trail Markers awarded to NM women included Ms. Julia Brown Asplund, the first woman to hold both the UNM Librarian appointment and UNM Regent position, with a Pomeroy Trail Marker emplaced at Hodgkin Hall,

which housed UNM's first Library. LWVCNM plans to celebrate Ms. Asplund's contributions in a ceremony August 26, 2024 (Women's Equality Day) at UNM Hodgkin Hall.

Paula was born and grew up in Albuquerque. She holds both a bachelor's and a law degree from the University of New Mexico. In 2009, Tackett was the recipient of the law school's Distinguished Achievement Award.

Tackett worked for 28 years at the New Mexico Legislative Council Service, serving as Director for the last 22 plus years. During her time as director, she oversaw two major renovations of the state Capitol, including the birth of the New Mexico Capitol Art Collection—that array of New Mexico art that adorns the walls of the Roundhouse. She received the Legislative Staff Achievement Award from the National Conference of State Legislators and in 2010 received the Public Lawyer of the Year Award.

More recently, Paula has worked with the New Mexico Historic Women Markers program to honor women in New Mexico history, serving on the New Mexico Historic Women's Marker Committee, sharing the knowledge and impact of notable women throughout New Mexico, including representatives from every county and including representation from New Mexico's tribes, pueblos and the Navajo nation through highway markers that you can see throughout our state.

Tackett served on the New Mexico Compilation Commission during 1988-2010 and provided on-going support and counsel for the commission as it evolved to self-publication of statutes, case law and administrative rules. Tackett currently serves as chair of the advisory committee to the commission. In 2005, the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce awarded Tackett the *Steve Reynolds Public Service Award*.

During 2012-2023, Tackett served on the Governing Council of the New Mexico School for the Arts, and she served on the Art Institute's construction committee that oversaw the conversion of the Sanbusco Market into the School for the Arts.



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## Membership Corner

If you have not renewed your annual dues yet,  
you will be ineligible to vote on issues  
at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on April 20th.

Exceptions include Lifetime members and  
Student members who do not have to pay dues.

Dues may be paid online at [lwvcnm.org](http://lwvcnm.org) or by check to  
LWVCNM, 6739 Academy Rd. NE, Suite 124, Albuquerque, NM 87109-3352

If you are unsure about your membership status please call me (559.578.5670)  
or email [elizs44@yahoo.com](mailto:elizs44@yahoo.com)

**Thank you for your continued support!**

## Report of the Nominating Committee for the 2024 Board Elections

According to the Bylaws, three officer and three other director positions are elected at the annual meeting in even-numbered years. The Nominating Committee appointed by the Board nominates the following members to fill many of the open positions, but it has not found members to fill all of the positions, as noted below.

The following members have been nominated to fill these officer positions:

2nd Vice President – Membership: Elizabeth Shields (2<sup>nd</sup> elected term)

3rd Vice President – Program Planning: Karen Douglas (1<sup>st</sup> elected term in this position)

Treasurer – Gina Mahfouz (1<sup>st</sup> elected term in this position)

Elected Director Jennifer Black (1<sup>st</sup> term), to work as Historian and with Special Projects

### **Other open positions:**

An email was sent to all CNM members on January 18, 2024, seeking nominations for Board members and the next Nominating Committee, but there were no responses. The bottom line is that the current Nominating Committee has not identified candidates for the following positions.

1. A non-officer director to coordinate Voter Services. (The Nominating Committee suggests the Board make this person the chair of a Voter Services committee.)
2. A non-officer director to coordinate Event Planning
3. The non-Board chair of the Nominating Committee for the 2025 Board elections
4. Two other non-Board members of the Nominating Committee

## Biographical Statements of Nominated Officers and Directors

**Liz Shields** moved to Albuquerque in 2021 from Fresno, California to be closer to her daughter and her family after her husband died in 2018. Liz was very active in the League in Fresno and its parting gift to her was a year's membership in LWVCNM. After a year as a regular member Liz was asked to be Membership Chair and has served in that office for the past two years. Born in Northern Ireland, Liz has lived and worked in Botswana and Turkey before moving to the United States in 1970 with her husband, a Peace Corps volunteer she met in Botswana. She became a US citizen in 1977. She retired from the Department of Finance and Business Law at Fresno State in 2009 after teaching finance for 30 years and assisting in development projects in Armenia.

**Karen Douglas** served as LWVCNM 3<sup>rd</sup> VP/Program and member of the CNM Leadership Team 2015-17 with Andrea Targhetta, Carol Tucker Trelease, and Peggy Howell. She then served as LWVNM Director and Chair of the LWVNM Spent Nuclear Storage Safety Committee since May 2017 with SNF Storage Safety Advocacy Statement approved by LWVUS December 2019 and 2021 Consensus meetings involving members of the four NM local leagues resulting in the SNF Storage Safety Position adopted by the LWVNM Convention delegates April 2021. Karen also served as LWVNM Nuclear Issues Director 2023-24, chairing a study seeking to revisit the current LWVUS Position opposing increased reliance on nuclear position, however, Consensus was not reached 2023. She served as LWVCNM Co-President with Karen Wentworth 2019-21 and with Donna Sandoval 2021-23. Karen continues to be involved with LWVCNM activities including her service as APD Forward representative since 2015, 2024 Program Planning, and both 2019-20 and 2024 suffrage observance including the LWV 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party February 2020 and continuing efforts to recognize NM women trailblazers.

Karen is a Nuclear Engineer, Nuclear Safety Specialist, and ASME NQA-1 Lead Nuclear Quality Assurance Auditor who contributed to both Federal and private sector initiatives. Karen also served as Chair of ASQ Energy & Environment Division 2020-21 and currently serves as EDGe Chair (Energy & Environment Division, Design & Construction Division, and Government Division) offering education to 15,000 ASQ members internationally. Karen had previously been employed by General Electric Nuclear Energy Division, Raychem Corporation, Longenecker & Associates, US DOE/NNSA, and Motorola Corporation. Karen earned her undergraduate engineering degree from UNM in 1979 and completed her MS in Materials Science and Engineering at Stanford University in 1983.

**Gina Mahfouz** has a strong business background focused on professional accounting and reporting, internal and external audit, and finance. Gina has been at Gap, Inc. for the past 17 years working with many teams throughout the organization including finance, internal audit, and real estate. She is currently a manager on the statutory reporting team of the Corporate Controller's Group. She leads a team on reporting for Puerto Rico and Canada legal entities, supporting the treasury accounting and tax teams. Gina received her BA at the University of New Mexico with a concentration on accounting, and her MBA for Louisiana State University at Shreveport with a concentration in project management. She is a CPA and Certified Internal Auditor.

Gina has been a League member since 2020 and has served as the Voter Services chair since 2022 helping to coordinate community activities, voter registration events, and candidate forums.

**Jennifer Black** retired in 2018 and moved to Albuquerque from the Chicago area. Most recently Jennifer was the Communications Director of a large suburban library. Responsibilities included expanding the library's marketing profile and public relations function, editing, and producing the quarterly newsletter (circulation 46,000), developing the Adult Cultural Enrichment and Film series, and coordinating special events. Previously, Jennifer was Director of Membership and Annual Giving at the

Chicago Botanic Garden, the largest membership-based public garden in the nation. With the support of a dynamic team, Jennifer was instrumental in tripling the Garden's membership family over a decade. Jennifer began her career in Washington, D.C. as a legislative analyst for the Federal Government Affairs Division of the 3M Company. Following in her mother's footsteps in the League of Women Voters, Jennifer served on the Board of Directors of the same suburban Chicago chapter her mother was involved in for many decades. A graduate of Vassar College with a degree in East Asian Studies and the Chinese language, Jennifer is the mother of three sons (including a set of identical twins), a passionate gardener, and an avid collector of cookbooks. Having served as Third Vice-President since 2020, Jennifer looks forward to delving into new tasks as chapter historian and other special projects.

## **ANNUAL REPORTS**

**The Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs are pleased to provide the following reports of their activities for the 2023-2024 year.**

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FIRST CO-VICE PRESIDENTS – APRIL 2024**

**by Lani Desaulniers & Karen Wentworth**

The last 12 months have been busy for the First Vice President position. We would like to thank all the members of the VOTE411/Voter Guide Committee for their tireless efforts in coming up with questions for the candidates and tracking down candidates who were slow to answer those questions. This was an enormous joint effort.

The Who's Who publication was put together after the November 2023 election and circulated to libraries and other locations. A special thank you to Ashley Benning who did the work to keep this publication current.

The League put together an online Voter Guide and a PDF (portable document format) version of the guide for the LWVCNM website for the municipal elections in Bernalillo, Sandoval, Tarrant, and Valencia Counties in November 2023. The Voter Guide Committee tracked down information for more than 70 races, and researched bond issues in Bernalillo County. The committee also produced an online Voter Guide for the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Election in October of 2023.

The Voter Guide Committee is also dealing with an increasingly more complex election calendar. In 2018, the New Mexico Legislature passed legislation requiring county clerks to conduct all elections, but with a phase in period. Most municipalities decided to turn their elections over to county clerks. However, communities did have to opt in to the process, with several communities in Sandoval County deciding to conduct their own elections. As a result, the Voter Guide Committee produced a separate Voter Guide for Rio Rancho, Bernalillo, Cuba, and Jemez Springs for a March 5<sup>th</sup> 2024 election.

**The Committee has now turned its attention to the upcoming statewide primary election on June 4<sup>th</sup> in which nearly 100 races will be on the ballot in our four-county area. Our non-partisan Voter Guide is a special effort of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico. We've been doing this community service continuously since the early 1950's. We are fortunate that we are now able to provide both online and printed guides for the general**

election in November, but the printed guide has become more expensive. League members are working to raise additional funds to print the guide this year and will be soliciting donations from the membership and the community.

We anticipate a great deal of interest in the elections this year. LWVCNM remains committed to producing these valuable resources to help voters think through the challenging issues we face in our communities. We are seeking volunteers, both experienced and new, to help with this effort. There are many tasks to be done, both large and small, over the next several months. Anyone who wishes to help can contact Lani Desaulniers at [LMDesaul@aol.com](mailto:LMDesaul@aol.com), who is leading the effort this year.

## **SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT - MEMBERSHIP**

**by Liz Shields**

Thirty-four new members joined the League in 2023 with eight more joining so far in 2024. As of March 4<sup>th</sup>, there were 174 members on our national roster. In December, thanks to Donna Sandoval's generous hospitality, we hosted a Holiday Open House for members. It was an opportunity for old and new members to meet in person. In February, Betsy Carlson opened her home for a New Member Reception – thank you, Betsy. Fourteen new members joined Board members and volunteers for an opportunity to find out more about the League and volunteer needs. Several have signed on to help with fundraising and outreach, as well as help with the Voter Guide preparation and distribution. **(Please note, many more are needed)** We look forward to seeing new and returning members at our Annual General Meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Remember, to be able to vote at the AGM your dues need to be current.

Our annual Membership Handbook, which includes national, state, and LWVCNM information on positions, policies, and leadership personnel, as well as our membership roster, was sent out to LWVCNM members in August. Dues renewal letters were sent in September to our members, except to our Lifetime and Student members.

New members receive a Welcome letter, a Member Handbook, a list of Volunteer Opportunities and an updated version of Who's Who, a directory of our representatives at all levels of government in Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties. Our members are the foundation of the League, and it is because of their involvement that we can live the motto "Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport."

## **THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT – CALENDAR & PROGRAM PLANNING**

**by Jennifer Black**

### **Calendar Planning**

#### *Monthly Educational Meetings and Special Programs*

2023 was a milestone year, as we returned to in-person programming after the three-year COVID hiatus. While the monthly educational meetings had traditionally been held at a hotel with a luncheon option, the decision was made to host the monthly meetings at the LWVCNM Office Conference Room. The hotel option had become cost-prohibitive post-COVID and we are fortunate to have the usage of the Conference Room as part of our office lease agreement at no extra charge. The Conference Room also has the technical infrastructure to accommodate a hybrid option (in-person and Zoom) for our monthly meetings. Thanks to the technical skills of Starlyn Brown and Linda Miller, we have been able to take advantage of this technical infrastructure. We encourage in-person attendees to bring a brown bag lunch. The Board hosts light refreshments after the meetings to encourage socializing and

discussion amongst our members. Members and monthly speakers fairly evenly split meeting attendance between in-person and remote participation, with an average combined attendance of between 20-40 participants. We also introduced several two-part series to enable deeper exploration of a topic. With the success of our brown bag “Lunch & Learn” format, we will continue with the hybrid model in 2024.

Another 2023 innovation was the introduction of the LWVCNM Book Club. The concept of a book club was casually mentioned at the 2023 Annual Meeting. Three League members, Janet Kilpatrick, Laura Downing, and Mary Mulvany heard the idea and immediately jumped into action to form the Book Club. The Book Club meets every two months, focusing on nonfiction titles of relevance to the League’s mission and positions. In March 2024, the Book Club will host its first author event.

A webpage has been created to follow the Book Club at [lwvcnm.org/book-club](https://lwvcnm.org/book-club) to assist members in keeping up with selected titles and meeting dates.

In celebration of Women’s History Month 2024, a special event was hosted by the Albuquerque Museum. A curator-led tour took our members through the *News for the People: Local Journalism in the 1970s* exhibit, followed by a Happy Hour at the Sawmill Market. The LWVCNM Archives Committee provided an important historical document (an ancestor of the *Voter Guide*) for the exhibit. It was truly inspiring to hear that the League of Women Voters is one of the few organizations featured in the exhibit that is still operating and influential today.

All CNM members will be invited to attend a creative brainstorming session to offer topic/speaker suggestions or any new program concepts to engage the LWVCNM membership for the September 2024 through July 2025 program year. This meeting will be Zoom only on Saturday, June 22, 2024 10am – 12pm. Member input is deeply valued.

## **Program Planning**

Karen Douglas, LWVCNM Director, conducted the Annual LWVCNM Program Planning meeting Saturday February 24, 2024 via zoom with 22 LWV members in attendance. LWVCNM had previously noted that restrictions and methods for developing LWV Positions essential for advocacy were unclear to many members. Bylaws restricting member advocacy; LWV hierarchy and involvement in Position development; methods for formulating Positions with required approvals; current League positions at the national, state, and local levels; and current LWVNM advocacy were discussed with links to current approved Positions available. LWVCNM is a 501c3 organization emphasizing voter participation and education, however, LWVNM includes a 501c4 organization with a dedicated Action/Advocacy Committee. Jeanne Logsdon discussed the LWVNM Advocacy Corps and activity during the recent 30-day NM Legislative Session.

The value of the recently formed LWVCNM Observer Corps in viewing local governmental entities considering issues was highlighted with encouragement of more member involvement. Issues warranting LWVCNM Advocacy could warrant new Position development and attendees expressed interest in greater participation in both observation of government decision-making and advocacy to shape responsible outcomes. Those interested in the 2024 LWVCNM Program Planning but unable to attend may view the recording: <https://youtu.be/HKKBaUiuCvs>



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2024, VOLUNTEER AND OUTREACH**

**By Linda Miller**

LWVCNM continues work on outreach in the community. This last year LWVCNM had an increasing presence on social media. We gave presentations to several groups. We attended the statewide New Mexico Civics Bee. We worked with both the Albuquerque Museum and the Archives at the Center for Southwest Research at Zimmerman Library to make our archives available to the public.

The League held a variety of social events for members, including the usual holiday party and new member social gathering, and inaugurated two newly formed ongoing events: the LWVCNM Bookclub and the LWVCNM Happy Hours.

We continue to see new members becoming involved in League activities. These include volunteering to work on the Voter Guide, Advocacy, joining the Observer Corp, Development/Fund raising, Outreach, and in the League Office. Thanks go to our volunteers, both new and ongoing, for helping our League do important work in our community.

## **ANNUAL REPORT – DEVELOPMENT / OUTREACH**

**by Betsy Carlson**

Seven people have joined the Development/Outreach Committee since the New Member Reception was held on Sunday, February 11. Each committee member brings knowledge about fundraising and outreach. Our first meeting was on Sunday, February 3 and it was a great success as shown by the initiatives underway:

- 1) Members are seeking viable prospects for fundraising.
- 2) Engage with the high school voter education and registration of 18 year olds in schools. The State League has a program that we can replicate.
- 3) Engage with PERG, an organized consortium of Public Interest Groups to get people registered and out to vote and make contacts (in process).
- 4) Further explore the Foundation list that Mary Mulvany has compiled for potential donors (in process).
- 5) Develop a letter for new members, as well as a letter for solicitation of potential and current donors (in process).
- 6) Devise plan for social media and outreach to university students for voter registration and education (in process).
- 7) Actively encourage our committee members to become registrars.
- 8) Identified one committee member to be our grant writer. She is a great asset.
- 9) Two members of the committee will be attending the Albuquerque Community Foundation planning session on April 2 for networking, as well as to get LWVCNM on the list for future funding.

As of today, no additional donations have come in from our new efforts. We are still in the early stages of planning our initiatives and hope to see our efforts come to fruition in the coming year. The most recent donation was the \$6,000 grant from the Albuquerque Community Foundation.

Mary Mulvany and I are committee members for the State League Education Fund. Hannah Burling is the Chair, and she is a great driver. In the February meeting, a list of large foundations was given to us to contact for donations. The LWVNM Education Fund will provide the letters and follow up script. Any funds raised by these efforts will be funneled through the state Ed Fund, eventually disbursed in part to the local leagues for their needs. As requested, Mary Mulvany and I will be making those contacts of the foundations in our region.

Due to several generous donations and a one-time bequest this year, our current budget is sound. However, funding needs for our major projects continue to grow. It was proposed in my committee that we undertake a dollar analysis per voter to help demonstrate our need for assistance from the Ed Fund. LWVNM supports many more voters in our diverse four county region than the other NM Leagues and we hope this may encourage the Ed Fund to support our League's financial goals and needs.

I also want to ask all LWVNM members for any business contacts that might be a prospect for our calls. As our business network expands, we hope to meet like-minded people who may be willing and able to support our ongoing voter education efforts.

## **ANNUAL REPORT – OBSERVER / ADVOCACY COMMITTEE**

**by Karen Wentworth**

### **Observers find there is more to government meetings than we see in the media.**

The Central New Mexico Observer Corps is currently watching, and regularly reporting to LWVNM members, the meetings of the Albuquerque City Council, the Albuquerque Public School Board, the Bernalillo County Commission, and the Sandoval County Commission.

We have seen how the conflicts between the City of Albuquerque and the Bernalillo County Commission are playing out and what happens when local governments make poor decisions.

For instance, the recent history of the city and county has been one of general cooperation. But when City Councilor Dan Lewis persuaded his fellow councilors to abolish the joint air quality control board it started an avalanche of change.

The county sued the city over the action since it was a joint board. Now a court will decide whether the city has the legal authority to do what it decided to do. The county is also examining the possibility of setting up its own environmental health department. And it is discussing the idea of making changes in current zoning plans to allow the county much more control over what businesses can locate in the Mountain View area of the county.

By trying to abolish the air quality control board, the city council accidentally brought environmental justice issues front and center of public attention, the exact opposite of what they intended to do.

In Sandoval County, we are watching how partisan politics is pulling the county commission apart and distracting commissioners. For example, they are not talking much about affordable housing, a problem for several communities in the county, but they spend hours discussing whether residents should be allowed to feed feral horses, a problem in only one small area of the county.

The Albuquerque School Board is also changing. It is now asking people to help them make budget decisions and set priorities, something the board has not done historically.

**If you are interested in seeing how government really works, please consider joining the Observer Corps. Real life is frequently more interesting and unexpected than anything you can watch or stream on television. Our reports are posted in the Voter and on the website.**

## **ANNUAL REPORT - OFFICE MANAGER / WEBMASTER / ZOOM HOST**

**by Starlyn Brown**

The office has been relatively quiet for the past year. We continue to have dedicated weekly office volunteers Kalya Cotkin, Eileen Grass, Terry Quinn, Linda Miller, and MaryEllen Smith. This core group of volunteers continues to answer calls in person and remotely, respond to messages and process mail. Their dedication makes it possible for me to focus on other tasks. **That said, we need more office volunteers.** 2024 is a big election year. The volume of calls will increase substantially from candidates and voters. Responding to calls is a great way to learn more about voter concerns, election and voting processes, and how our democracy works. Many callers have told us that the Bernalillo County Clerk's office and the Secretary of State's office referred them to us as a trusted source for information.

Our website, lwvcnm.org, continues to grow and change. Linda Miller is really the Webmaster now. We are consistently adding new information and updating existing information. Election information on the Voters and Elections page is constantly being updated and maintained throughout the year. There are new pages for the Book Club and monthly Observer reports. Recordings of our monthly meetings are on YouTube and easily accessible from our website. If you have suggestions for improvements, please let us know.

We are continuing to use Zoom. Our monthly educational meetings are now hybrid. Members can attend either in-person or via Zoom depending on their preference. The technology in the conference room continues to change and occasionally some piece just won't work. While frustrating, we are persevering and going forward. It is anticipated that some meetings will always be Zoom only such as the Program planning meeting and the Calendar Planning meeting.

## **ANNUAL REPORT – VOTER SERVICES**

**by Gina Mahfouz**

### **National Voter Registration Day**

We staffed an informational table at the Bernalillo County Voter Registration Day event. The event was mainly attended by county employees and people coming to visit the county office. Next year, I plan to speak to the county about the possibility of hosting the event at a more public location such as the UNM campus. This year's event was staffed by Karen Wentworth, Michelle Meaders, Starlyn Brown, Charles Powell, and me.

### **Candidate Forums**

In total, LWVCNM staffed five candidate forums for the Fall 2023 election. The forums were well received, and we generally received appreciation from the attendees. Karen Wentworth provided

feedback on a few items that need to be addressed around organization and standardization of rules and procedures. We are always learning and adapting!

**We are expecting to receive many requests to co-host and/or staff forums for the Primary and General 2024 elections. More forum volunteers are needed. Please consider joining our forum team!**

## **2023 Candidate Forums**

- **Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> - ABQ City Council District 8 - 2 Candidates**  
Co-hosted by the District 8 City Council Candidate Forum with the District 8 Coalition at Holiday Park Community Center. Candidates fielded a total of 26 questions. Mary H. Smith moderated, question organizers/collectors were Karen Douglas, Michelle Meaders, Starlyn Brown, Judy Binder, Sharon Sharp, Judith Minks, Elene Gusch, and Sharon Sharp, timekeepers Vivian Skadron and Vivian Harris (trainee).
- **Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> - Village of Los Ranchos - Trustee Candidate Forum - 4 candidates**, Betsy Carlson moderated, question organizers were Peggy Neff and Karen Wentworth, timekeepers Mary Mulvany and Starlyn Brown.
- **Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> - ABQ City Council District 6 - 4 candidates** at the Monte Vista Christian Church. The co-sponsor was the Nob Hill Neighborhood Association. Betsy Carlson moderated, question organizers were Michelle Meaders and a NHNA volunteer, timekeepers were Vivian Skadron and Elene Gusch. May Goldenberg helped greet attendees and gather audience questions.
- **Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> - Village of Los Ranchos - Mayor Candidate Forum - 4 candidates**, Trish Lopez moderated, question organizers were Karen Wentworth and a community volunteer, timekeepers were Starlyn Brown and Linda Miller.
- **Friday December 8<sup>th</sup>, ABQ City Council District 6 Run Off Election - 2 candidates**  
Radio Station KANW, Betsy Carlson moderated, timekeeper Starlyn Brown.

## **League of Women Voters National Pilot Program**

**Young Voter Engagement Pilot** – met with LWVUS and Jacob Merkle from Rhizome, a grassroots organization promoting civic engagement in high schools and college campuses. Many chapters in states where Rhizome is located are partnering to explore voter education activities this spring. The focus of the pilot is to help organize a student chapter of the LWV on campuses of higher learning institutions. Met with the regional Rhizome representative, Ashley Delgado, on Tuesday, March 5th to learn how we can partner to ‘manifest civic engagement work’. They do not have any chapters in NM, but are learning more about making inroads with young voters.

## **Get Out The Vote (GOTV)**

Hannah Burling, LWVNM Co-president, scheduled a meeting to learn more about GOTV opportunities and partnerships. In a follow up call with Kelly David, Voter Services- Santa Fe chapter and Sila Avcil of NM Open Elections, Sila spoke to the group about a partnership with Global Shapers ABQ. Global Shapers recently partnered with Vo+ER which was founded to increase voter engagement in emergency rooms. Hannah agreed to partner with Global Shapers to promote the GS QR code on our materials for voter registration. They would in turn add a link to our Vote411 site to promote voter information. In addition, they would like to be included in our tabling events.

## TREASURER'S REPORT - PROPOSED TWO-YEAR BUDGET

	May 2024 - April 2025 Budget	May 2025 - April 2026 Budget	Notes
<b>Revenue</b>			
Dues	\$ 10,344	\$ 10,400	
Contributions	\$ 8,000	\$ 15,000	
Contributions for Voter Guide	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,000	
Annual Meeting	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$30/member @50 attending
Rent from state \$160/quarter	\$ 640	\$ 640	
Handbook Ads	\$ 200	\$ 200	
Miscellaneous/Grants	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
Income from CD	\$ 765		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 33,449</b>	<b>\$ 37,740</b>	

<b>Expenses</b>			
National Dues	\$ 5,275	\$ 3,500	
State Dues	\$ 3,827	\$ 4,900	
Public Relations	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
Voter Services/table supplies	\$ 200	\$ 200	
Who's Who	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	
Voter Guide	\$ 36,000	\$ 2,000	
Insurance	\$ 1,533	\$ 1,675	
Postage	\$ 150	\$ 150	
Bulk Mail Permit/Postage	\$ 320	\$ 320	
Office Rent	\$ 9,143	\$ 9,496	Rent increase 3.5%
Telephone	\$ 100	\$ 100	
Office Supplies	\$ 800	\$ 800	
Brother Printer Drum	\$ 120		
Printing - Annual Meeting	\$ 475	\$ 475	
Internet/Zoom	\$ 162	\$ 162	
Zoom Webinar three months	\$ 255	\$ 255	\$83/mo x 3 months
Member Handbook	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	
Annual Meeting / Room & Food cost	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	best estimate
Pay Pal/Bank Fees	\$ 130	\$ 130	
LWVUS Convention Registration	\$ 1,725	\$ -	Washington DC June 27-30, 2024 3 delegates
Development Committee	\$ 600	\$ 600	
SOS Annual Fee	\$ 12	\$ 12	

Domain Registration	\$	60	\$	60	
New LWVCNM	\$	975			
Database/Website Setup					Board have not decided on this
ClubExpress					Board have not decided on this
ClubExpress monthly charge \$30/month	\$	120	\$	360	
Marker Event	\$	1,250			
Forum Supplies	\$	150			Refresh forum bags
Signage	\$	200			
League in Action	\$	400	\$	400	Texting application
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$70,082</b>		<b>\$31,695</b>	

<b>Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (36,633)</b>	<b>\$6,045</b>
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<b>Transfer (to)/from savings account</b>	<b>\$36,633</b>	<b>\$ (6045)</b>
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**Assets**

<b>Checking</b>	<b>\$4,584.01</b>
<b>Savings</b>	<b>\$70,473.81</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$75,057.82</b>

**BYLAWS REPORT – 2024**

As The League of Women Voters® of Central New Mexico continues to evolve and adapt, our Bylaws need to do the same. The following proposed revisions to the LWVCNM Bylaws add clarification to the existing Bylaws, remove outdated language, or correct a typographical error. Added language is underlined, deleted language is struck through.

Underlined text – new or replacement text

Strikethrough – deleted

Page Numbers are from the gold member handbook.

**ARTICLE II. Purposes and Policy. Page 39**

**Sec. 1.** Purpose. The LWVCNM is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, the LWVCNM shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. ~~No substantial part of the activities of the LWVCNM shall be attempting to influence legislation.~~

**Sec. 2.** Political Policy. The LWVCNM is nonpartisan and shall promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues. The LWVCNM shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

**ARTICLE III. Membership.** Page 39

**Sec. 1.** Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the LWVUS League shall be eligible for membership in the LWVCNM.

**Sec. 2** Types of membership. The membership of the LWVCNM shall be composed of voting members including Student Members attending high school, vocational school or college.

Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the LWVCNM shall also be voting members of LWVNM and of the LWVUS.

1. Individuals who live within the area of the LWVCNM may join the LWVCNM or any other local League;
2. Those who reside outside the area of the LWVCNM may join any local League or shall be LWVNM members-at-large;
3. Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

**ARTICLE V. Officers.** page 41

**Sec 4.** The Secretary. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the LWVCNM Annual Meeting and of all meetings of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election. The Secretary ~~shall sign, with the President or a Co-President, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office and shall perform such other duties as the President or Co-Presidents and Board may designate.~~

**ARTICLE VII. Meetings.** page 43

**Sec. 2.** LWVCNM Annual Meeting. The LWVCNM Annual Meeting shall be held between April first and May ~~fifteen~~ thirty first, the exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors. The LWVCNM Annual Meeting shall (a) adopt a local Program for the ensuing year; (b) elect officers and directors, and members of the Nominating Committee; (c) adopt an adequate budget and (d) transact such other business as may properly come before it.

# PREVIOUS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CENTRAL NEW MEXICO

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

Sheraton Uptown Hotel, 2600 Louisiana Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico (LWVCNM) was called to order by Karen Douglas, Co-President, at 10:12 a.m. on May 6, 2023. All members and guests were welcomed to this in-person meeting.

Elizabeth Shields, Membership Chair, reported after registration closed that 37 members were in attendance out of 181 total and so we had a quorum. Ashley Benning, Secretary, was introduced as the recorder for this meeting. Vivian Skadron will be the official reader of the Annual Meeting Minutes for 2023. Barbara Posler was introduced as parliamentarian for the meeting.

### Introduction of the Board

Members of the Board were introduced: Donna Sandoval (Co-President/Treasurer), Karen Wentworth (1st Vice President/Voter Guide Editor/leader of Observer Committee), Michal Mudd (The Voter Editor [off-board position]), Liz Shields (2nd Vice President/Membership), Jennifer Black (3rd Vice President/Programs), Betsy Carlson and Mary Mulvany (Co-4th Vice Presidents/Development), Ashley Benning (Secretary/Who's Who Editor), Gina Mahfouz (Voter Services Director), Lani Desaulniers

(Director/Voter Guide Distribution/Observer for the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee), Starlyn Brown (Office Manager/Webmaster/Zoom Host), Linda Miller (Starlyn's backup), Judy Binder (Director), Jeanne Logsdon (Director/Chair of History Committee, Environment/Natural Resources Committee, Nominating Committee). Terry Quinn will be addressing the membership on nominations this morning for Jeanne, who could not attend the meeting.

### A Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed for members lost in the past year. Dorothy "Tooker" Walton and Pat Maben were recognized.

### Adoption of the Agenda, Rules of the Meeting

The agenda for the meeting was distributed prior to the meeting in the April and May 2023 issues of The Voter. Karen Douglas asked if there were any objections to the agenda. There being none, the agenda was adopted. Following that she read out the rules for the meeting and asked if there were any objections. There being none, the rules were adopted as read for the meeting.

### Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting

Liz Shields took the minutes for the 2022 Annual Meeting. Sonia Lersten was appointed as reader and has approved the minutes as written. These approved minutes will be filed for record in the League office. Karen thanked both for their time and effort.

### Treasurer's Report, Adoption of the Budget

Donna Sandoval explained that the Treasurer's Report had been revised slightly since The Voter was sent out. Handouts were shared on all the tables with the final version of the May 2023–April 2024 Proposed Budget (see highlights below). Some differences from the previous budget noted were the addition of \$600 for the Development Committee and \$160 for Forum Webinar Supplies. The main difference from the previous year is nothing budgeted for the Voter Guide since there will only be an online version on VOTE411.org for the elections in 2023. Since the Budget Committee has reviewed and approved the budget, no vote is necessary today.



	<b>Actual</b> <b><u>May 2023–April 2024</u></b>	<b>May 2022–Feb 2023</b> <b><u>Proposed Budget</u></b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Dues	6,573	9,600
Contributions	11,779	20,000
Luncheon	1,100	5,000
Grant	1,000	-
Voter Guide Contributions	23,339	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>43,791</b>	<b>34,600</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
National Dues	4,944	5,000
State Dues	2,009	2,000
Who’s Who	668	1,200
Voters Guide	22,479	-
Printing	158	450
Insurance	-	500
Bulk Mail Permit	300	300
Office Rent	7,168	9,000
Telephone	79	100
Office Supplies	676	800
Voter Services Supplies	-	200
Forum Webinar Supplies	-	160
Zoom	246	300
Development Committee	-	600
Member Handbook	-	1,200
Luncheon - annual meeting	1,942	5,000
Convention Registration	775	-
Miscellaneous	260	200
Move to Savings	-	7,590
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>41,704</b>	<b>34,600</b>

### **WVCNM Bylaw Changes**

The board reviewed and recommended the following changes as outlined in the April Voter.

Added language is underlined, deleted language is struck through.

#### **Article III. Membership**

Sec. 2. Types of membership. The membership of the LWVCNM shall be composed of voting members including Student Members attending high school, vocational school or college at least half time.

## **ARTICLE I. Board of Directors.**

### **Sec. 1. Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office.**

The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers as defined in Article V. Officers of the LWVCNM Bylaws, six (6) elected directors and not more than six (6) additional appointed directors. When an Officer position is filled by Co-Presidents or Co-Vice Presidents each Co-President and each Co-Vice President has one (1) vote. Three (3) directors shall be elected by the general membership at each LWVCNM Annual Meeting and shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected. The officers and elected members directors shall appoint such additional directors not exceeding six (6), as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the LWVCNM. The terms of office of the appointed directors shall be one year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next LWVCNM Annual Meeting. Elected officers and elected directors may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms in a given capacity but may be reelected or appointed in another position.

Sec. 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy, other than in the office of President or one of the Co-Presidents, occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of resignation, death or dis-qualification may be filled, until the expiration of the term, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. Disqualification may occur in the event that any member of the Board of Directors becomes unable or unwilling to perform the duties set forth in Article V below, or as otherwise have been properly directed by the Board. Such members may be deemed disqualified to hold office by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors. Three consecutive absences from a Board meeting of any member without a reason acceptable to the Board of Directors shall be deemed a resignation.

Sec. 7. An executive committee, as named by the LWVCNM Board of Directors, consisting of the President or Co-Presidents and three other members elected officers or elected directors of the Board of Directors appointed by the Board of Directors, shall act for the Board of Directors between regular meetings, provided that any action taken shall be presented to the Board of Directors for ratification at its next meeting. Three members of the executive committee shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

## **ARTICLE II. Officers.**

Sec. 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the LWVCNM shall be a President or Co-Presidents, a First Vice-President or Co-First Vice Presidents, a Second Vice-President or Co-Second Vice Presidents, a Third Vice-President or Co-Third Vice Presidents, a Fourth Vice-President or Co-Fourth Vice Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer who shall be elected for terms of two years by the membership at the LWVCNM Annual Meeting and take office immediately. The President or one Co-President, the First Vice-President or Co-First Vice Presidents, the Fourth Vice-President or Co-Fourth Vice Presidents and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Second Vice-President or Co-Second Vice Presidents, the Third Vice-President or Co-Third Vice Presidents and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.



## **LWVCNM BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Co-Presidents:**

Donna Sandoval & Starlyn Brown

**1st Co-Vice Presidents/Vote411.org:**  
Karen Wentworth & Lani Desaulniers

**2nd Vice President/Membership:**  
Elizabeth Shields

**3rd Vice President/Program:**  
Jennifer Black

**4th Co-Vice Presidents/Development:**  
Betsy Carlson & Mary Mulvany

**Treasurer:** Donna Sandoval

**Secretary:** Vivian Skadron

**Voter Services Chair:** Gina Mahfouz

**Voter Guide Distribution:** Lani Desaulniers

**Sustainability/Climate Change:**  
Jeanne Logsdon

**Office Manager/Webmaster/Zoom Host:**  
Terry Quinn & Linda Miller

**Advocacy Team/Observer Corps:**  
Karen Wentworth

**Directors**  
Terry Quinn

**Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator**  
Linda Miller

**Program**  
Karen Douglas

If you need help with Zoom,  
please reach out to Zoom host, Starlyn Brown,  
[sbrown@unm.edu](mailto:sbrown@unm.edu)

Please submit your articles for the monthly Voter by the  
15th of each month to Michal Mudd at:  
[VoterEditorMichal@gmail.com](mailto:VoterEditorMichal@gmail.com)

## **LWVCNM CALENDAR**

*Please note Board meetings have been changed to the  
first Wednesday of each month.*

APRIL 3<sup>rd</sup> (first Wednesday) 5:30 pm  
LWVCNM Board Meeting, ZOOM only til further notice.  
All members welcome.

April 20<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) registration starts 9:30 am  
LWVCNM Annual Meeting, Marriot Uptown  
Guest speaker: UNM Regent Paula Tackett

*Note: Due to the April Annual Meeting, there  
is no Thursday educational meeting in April.*

May 1st (first Wednesday) 5:30 pm  
LWVCNM Board Meeting, ZOOM only til further notice.  
All members welcome.

LWVCNM Monthly meeting **May 9th**, NOON  
Topic Related to Climate/Environment; Speaker  
TBD

March 27, 5:30 – 7:30 pm  
LWVCNM Book Club  
Special Author Event! March 27, 5:30 – 7:30 pm,  
LWVCNM Office Conference Room. *At The Precipice:*  
*New Mexico's Changing Climate* by local author Laura  
Paskus. Laura will be joining us.

May 22, 5:30-7:30 at 1331 Park Ave. SW. *Why We're  
Polarized* by author Ezra Klein.

Check the Book Club page found on the For Members  
section of the LWVCNM website for book selection  
and location.



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## Volunteer Opportunities

*Because Democracy is not a Spectator Sport....*

We need your skills, your enthusiasm, and your commitment to the myriad of projects always underway. From simple clerical tasks to grass roots advocacy, ongoing or project-by project, we can fit your interests to a volunteer job. Expanding our volunteer base is a top priority of LWVCNM.

### How to Find Out More About Volunteering?

**It's easy: Contact us at 505-884-8441** or [lwvcnmoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcnmoffice@gmail.com) Leave a message with your name/phone number and expressing your interest in finding out more about volunteering. We will contact you to match your interests/skills with a volunteer position, explain tasks involved, review time commitment for various positions, and offer training where needed.

**The League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico, a tax-exempt 501 (c ) (3) organization is a nonpartisan political organization, that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy by education and advocacy.**