

the VOTER

JANUARY 2024
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Co-Presidents' Communiqué

Happy New Year League Members,

As you'll see, this is a shortened version of our monthly newsletter. We'll be back on a traditional schedule in February. However, one item to mention is that the second half of our fiscal year will include continued conversations with our legislators. As previously reported, we gave our lawmakers a copy of the LWVSNM legislative priorities, which means we are willing to advocate for legislation that benefits New Mexicans. We want to be sure and follow-up prior to, and during, the session.

This means we need several volunteers willing to make quick phone calls, or to send emails to legislators when we know of proposed bills that align with our League's priorities. Please contact Jo Nash or Kathe Kanim if you can help us with this type of communication.



The quick session will run from January 16 to February 15 and the focus will be on budget items, plus items that the Governor puts on her agenda. This will more than likely include gun legislation, which the League is interested in following. As a reminder, we've included the list of LWVSNM priorities here.

In the meantime, we'll be working with the state League's Action Committee which does an amazing job of tracking dozens of bills that the state is following.

Finally, both of us are encouraged to continue our work with the League in 2024. It's going to be a busy year with two upcoming elections requiring all of us to entice residents to get registered and to cast their votes.

— Jo Galván Nash & Kathe Kanim, Co-Presidents

Brainstorming at Jan 13 Meeting

On Saturday, Jan. 13, League members will meet to brainstorm and do some critical planning. Please attend and offer your suggestions. Beginning at 2:00 p.m., the hybrid meeting will be held at the DACC Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada Ave.

We will discuss, plan, and prepare for:

- 2024 Voter Services activities;
- January's New Members' Orientation meeting;
- February's Program Planning Meeting; and
- Legislature Outreach & Advocacy.

Light snacks and refreshments will be provided and your brain power will be appreciated!

2024 LWVSNM LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY:

1. Independent Redistricting (requires a Constitutional Amendment) with creation of an independent redistricting commission.
2. Pay Legislators a salary (requires a Constitutional Amendment).
3. Gun Safety, particularly with regulations on assault weapons.
4. Educational Funding: more bilingual/multicultural and special education teachers and materials; community schools and school social workers to combat absenteeism; strengthen elementary reading.
5. Water Resources protection and conservation including implementation of the 2023 Water Security Planning Act; and restoring staff to the state's water agencies.

See these priorities on the LWVSNM website (lwvsnm.org).

New Mexico's Attorney General Raul Torres is the keynote speaker at the Jan. 15 Breakfast by the DAC Chapter of the NAACP



Several members from our League are planning to attend this year's breakfast on January 15 by the NAACP commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The organization has several events planned for that weekend which emphasize Dr. King's principles of non-violence and the value of collaboration. This year's theme is "Thriving Together".

Contact LWVSNM and NAACP member [Liz Rodriguez-Johnson](#) if you'd like to get a ticket or for more information about the upcoming events which also includes a march on Sunday, Jan. 14th from City Hall to the AFSCME Union Hall. In addition to the march and the breakfast, celebrations will include church services at local black churches throughout the city on Sunday morning, January 14th.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Please consider one or more of the following:

- ✓ Join an LWVSNM Committee
- ✓ Volunteer in a local classroom (LCPS background checks are required)
- ✓ Join the local Observer Corps and attend a monthly government meeting
- ✓ Become a poll worker or watcher during the 2024 elections
- ✓ Encourage a friend to join the League or to attend a monthly meeting with you.
- ✓ Follow and like LWVSNM on social media

2023/24 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO BOARD:

Jo Galván Nash & Kathe Kanim – Co-Presidents
Beth Bardwell – Vice-President
Edwina Jaramillo – Secretary
Kathy Brook – Treasurer
Kathy Brook & Eileen VanWie – Past Presidents
Dale Yeo – Voter Services Co-Director and
TBA, Co-Director
Kate Mangelsdorf – Membership Director
Eileen VanWie & Josie Miller – Youth Engagement
Co-Directors
TBA – Public Relations Director
and
Nancy Stanton — Development Chair
Jo Galván Nash – The Voter Editor
Mary Flynn, Chair, and Johnnie Aldrich and Kate
Mangelsdorf, Members – Nominating Committee
TBA — Historians
Claudia Powell & Cindy Broughton — Otero Unit
Liaisons

Upcoming Calendar Events

JANUARY 2024

National Blood Donor Month

- Jan. 6, Saturday: **LWV-NM Webinar** "Effective Citizen Advocacy at the Legislature" [Register Here](#); 10 am – Noon, Zoom; features Sen. Carrie Hamblen of Las Cruces.
- Jan. 2 **CANCELLED** Board Meeting;
RESCHEDULED to Monday, Jan. 8, 5:30 p.m., Zoom
- Jan. 8: **Education Committee** will be **rescheduled**. Watch for an email from Eileen VanWie for new date/time.
- Jan. 2, Tues.: **Affordable Housing Committee**, **RESCHEDULED to Tues. Jan. 9th at 3:30-5pm**, ZOOM, contact Beth betbardwell@gmail.com
- Jan. 13, Saturday: Planning Meeting (see page 1), hybrid
- Jan. 15, Monday: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- Jan. 20, Saturday: LWV-NM Meeting, Zoom
- Jan. 27, Saturday: **NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION**, 10 a.m., via Zoom; **This is a tentative** day/time. Emails will be sent to members to verify date/time.



League Days at the NM Legislature

Attending the Legislative session during League days is very informative and special. If you're interested in attending, here is an outline from the state.

LEAGUE DAYS AT THE LEGISLATURE

Members will receive more details including info on nearby hotels and lunch options

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

- 8 am to 2 pm** **Three informational tables in the West Hall of History – State Capitol**
- 5:30 to 7:30 pm** **Legislative Reception – Rio Chama Steakhouse**
Speaker: Raul Torrez, New Mexico Attorney General - AG Legislative and other priorities

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Program at New Mexico State Land Office
310 Old Santa Fe Trail
Just down the street from the Roundhouse

- 10 -10:30** Explanation of packet contents, answer questions from League members

Joint Resolution for an Independent Redistricting Commission **Heather Balas, VP for Programs - Elections Reformers Network.**

A fifth-generation New Mexican, Heather W. Balas brings over 25 years of experience in public policy, including policy research, citizen deliberation, legislative advocacy, voter education, and coalition-building. She was previously the President and Executive Director of New Mexico First and good government program officer for Thornburg Foundation. Heather is a Board member of the LWVNM

- 11:15 – 12:00** **Taxes and Funding for Essential Services – Paige Knight, Deputy Policy Director, New Mexico Voices for Children**
Paige joined NM Voices in 2018 and focuses on tax, fiscal policy, & environmental issues. She was promoted to Deputy Policy Director in 2023. Originally from Minnesota, she moved to Albuquerque in early 2017. Previously she worked with youth and families at a variety of nonprofits. In New Mexico, she worked with DreamSpring and interned with the Legislative Finance Committee.
Her experience with nonprofit and governmental organizations further developed interest in public policy issues, particularly those surrounding family economic well-being. She received her BA in Economics from Luther College in Iowa and her Master's in Public Policy from UNM.

- 12 - 1 pm** **Lunch on your own**

Building a Budget to Support LWVSNM Activities and Priorities

The LWVSNM Budget Committee will be meeting over the next few weeks to formulate a proposed budget for the next fiscal year beginning May 1, 2024. Although we have a small committee working on this important task, please feel free to email your thoughts about income or expenditures. The budget is primarily funded from your dues. After SNM pays the state and national Leagues, we try to prioritize the local needs which includes items such as the Voters' Guides (one of the largest expenses each year), office supplies, technical assistance with the website, a minimal amount of advertising, League "goodies" such as brochures, pins, and printing, among other activities. Don't forget that some activities require funding, such as NM Listens, Youth Engagement events, the Making Democracy Work Award, and partnering with the Women's Suffrage Alliance during Women's History Week. And, we encourage members of the Otero County unit to think about their specific needs and activities next fiscal year.

So, please consider what the financial needs of the League might be over the coming year. Email any of the following individuals with your ideas or what you consider to be the financial priorities for 2024/2025:

[Nancy Stanton, development chair and budget chairwoman;](#)

[Kathy Brook, interim treasurer;](#)

[Jo Galvan Nash, co-president.](#)

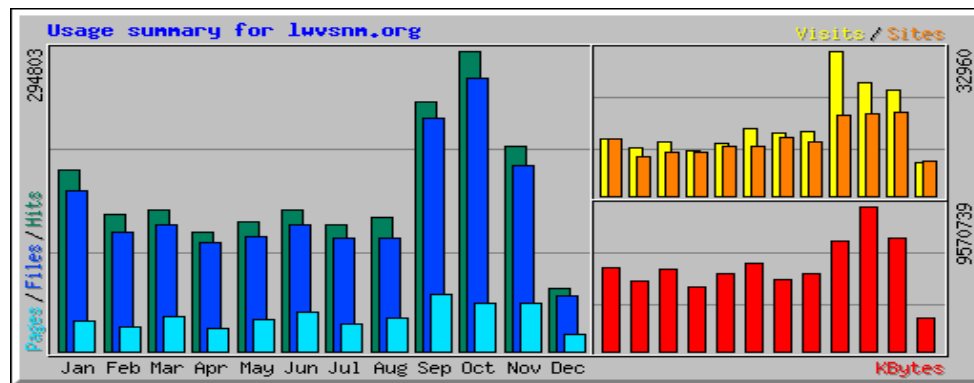
If there are new activities that we should undertake to better serve our members and the community, feel free to suggest them to the Budget Committee. The proposed budget will be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting, tentatively set for April 13, 2024.

▪ *Kathy Brook and Jo Galván Nash*

LWVSNM Website

Have you ever wondered if our LWVSNM website is doing the job we created it for and reaching people with reliable information? Here are statistics from Amazon Web Services that may surprise you.

Below is a chart of website usage between January of 2023 and December (16th) of 2023.



The statistics of most interest to us are the number of hits (green) and visits (yellow).

"Hits" means the number of times any given page is requested to be seen by someone.

"Visits" means the number of times someone comes to the LWVSNM website.

From January 1 of 2023 to December 16 of 2023 there were 1,892,445 hits on the pages in our website.

In the same time period there were 193,058 visits.

Finally, there were the following number of unique visitors. That means **different people who checked out our website**. That number was **56,518**. Yes, and even a few people in China checked us out.

The moral of my story is that we must make a mental note that our website is very important and becoming a significant source of reliable information to more and more people.

Dale E Yeo
LWVSNM Voter Services

SHORT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT SUMMARY

November 20, 2023 • 5:00pm • Via Zoom

Board Members: Beth Bardwell (Vice President), Kathy Brook (Past President), Edwina Jaramillo (Secretary), Jo Galván Nash (co-President), Kathe Kanim (co-President), Kate Mangelsdorf (Membership Director), Josie Miller (Co-Youth Engagement Director -ABS), Eileen VanWie (Past President & Co-Director, Youth Engagement), Dale Yeo (Voter Services Co-Director)

Otero County Unit (OCU) Liaison: none

Non-Board Member: Nancy Stanton

A. MEETING ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Consent Agenda Items (noted by asterisk*)

K. Brook made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; it was seconded by D. Yeo. The amendment remove Renewals and New Members from the consent agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. CO-PRESIDENTS & OFFICERS REPORTS: The Board discussed recent membership dues received and removal of one person off the membership list. **Action Item:** K. Mangelsdorf will update the membership list to reflect the changes.

- a. PMPs are due in December: K. Brook reported that the LWVSNM has to pay the LWVNM approximately \$1,200 for their portion of the dues received (as of January 2023 membership). LWVSNM received an invoice from Kim Sorenson, LWVNM Treasurer, for the amount. The LWVUS payment is due June 2024.
- b. Making Democracy Work Award (MDWA) Subcommittee: The MDWA subcommittee comprised of E. VanWie, N. Stanton, E. Jaramillo, and J. Galván Nash will meet to formalize the process for 2024.
- c. Decision whether to hold Dec. 18, 2023 Board Meeting: A decision was made to cancel the December 18, 2023 Board meeting.

Vice President Report/Meetings

- a. Dec. 2, 2023 Legislative Conversation and Social Update
 - (1) Legislative Attendees: B. Bardwell reported that several legislators are expected to attend.
 - (2) Logistics: Numerous logistics were discussed to ensure the event will run smoothly. J. Galván Nash will send an email to League members requesting an RSVP by 11/26/23 for the event.
- b. [Upcoming Meetings](#)

Several possible topics were discussed for upcoming general meetings: • Program planning. K. Brook reported that our program plan is due to LWVUS by March; • Panel on electrification and affordable housing; • Education; • Library; • Unit consensus meetings

Treasurer's Report

Review and Discussion of Budget Report: K. Brook noted that with the submission of the Treasurer's report she detailed deposits since September; expenses to include consumer cellular, director's insurance, and printing of brochures; upcoming expenses to include Camino Real translation and printing, and the Osteen Group (LC Bulletin printing of the Voters' Guide).

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Legislative Priorities: The bulk of the meeting was to discuss the LWVNM's priorities to discuss with the legislators at the December 2nd Legislative Conversation. Several topics were discussed but five issues surfaced as the most important. They are listed below with some comments received:

Gun Safety: Independent Redistricting: Water Conservation: LWVSNM position has not changed since 2001; Legislative Salaries; Education.

Action Item: send additional thoughts/comments to J. Galván Nash on these issues. They will be reviewed at the next Board meeting on 11/28/23 at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico

Treasurer's Report • 12/01/2023 - 12/30/2023

Prepared on 12/30/2023 by Kathy Brook

DATE	DETAIL	AMOUNT
	BALANCE FORWARD as of 12/01/2023	\$ 13,295.86
NEW INCOME		
12/4/23	Deposit	
	PayPal transfer:3-1 Dues	\$ 35.00
	PayPal fee	\$ (1.19)
12/4/23	Deposit	
	4.2 Additional fundraising (Dec raffle, donations)	\$ 795.00
	3.1: Member dues	\$ 130.00
12/12/23	Deposit	
	PayPal transfer: 3-1 Member dues	\$ 102.50
	4-5: Donations/Gifts in Addition to Dues	\$ 300.00
	12.1 PayPal fees	\$ (9.48)
12/29/23	Deposit	
	4-5: Donation, AAUW	\$ 100.00
	TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,451.83
NEW EXPENSES		
12/4/23	Debit card:	\$ 109.41
12/5/23	Check 1168: Per member paymt, LWVNM - 6-1.2	\$ 1,209.00
12/5/23	Check 1169: Osteen Media Group	\$ 2,770.72
12/8/23	Check 1171: Camino Real	\$ 2,100.00
12/12/23	Check 1170: Reimb J. Nash	\$ 52.00
12/22/23	Check 1172: Per member payment, LWVUS - 6-1.1	\$ 2,976.00
12/29/23	Check 1173: Consumer Cellular, 10-2 Board Expense, Phone	\$ 21.94
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 9,239.07
	BANK BALANCE (12/30/2023)	<u>\$ 5,508.62</u>
Upcoming Payments		
	Consumer Cellular (bills for October and November) - 10.1	\$ 43.03

COMMITTED FUNDS

Diversity Fund: Miller & Nunez Memberships Paid 6/1/23	\$ 220.00
Youth Engagement Fund	\$ 625.00
Social Media Fund	\$ 250.00
New Mexico Listens Project	\$ 500.00
TOTAL COMMITTED FUNDS	<u><u>\$ 1,595.00</u></u>

Donations designated for Voter Guides totaled \$1295.53 and have been fully expended.

NAACP Doña Ana Chapter - Meeting on 12/16/2023

Chapter president, Dr. Bobbie Green, talked about her participation on the Law Enforcement Academy Board. This Board reviews and takes action on incidents involving law enforcement officers around the state. Dr. Green said the Board, which traditionally has met in Santa Fe, will now have meetings around the state. The next Board meeting will be in Las Cruces on March 21st at 9 AM. The location will be announced later. She asked people to attend and show an interest in this Board's duties.

The guest speaker at this meeting was Senator Jeff Steinborn. He spoke about a wide range of legislative issues, including his interest in funding media scholarships to combat the decline of journalists at the local level.

Senator Steinborn encouraged people to contact him with questions and ideas.

- Submitted by Jennifer Kreie

Attend the Next Naturalization Ceremony

The League is always invited and recognized at the Naturalization Ceremonies conducted by the U.S. District Courts. The next event, when dozens of people will become U.S. citizens, will be Friday, January 12, 2024. The ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m. at the Las Cruces Convention Center on University Ave. League participation is encouraged! Special seating will be available for those who RSVP to the courts. (If you attend, please arrive 15 minutes early to check in with Court officials.)

RSVP to Clerk of the Court JoAnn Standridge by January 8th via email JoAnn_Standridge@nmd.uscourts.gov or call her at (575) 528-1408.



Residents from countries all over the globe become naturalized citizens after studying and taking a test. US District Court Judges administer the oaths that the new citizens repeat.

UPCOMING GOVT. MEETINGS

LC City Council:

Jan. 2; Jan. 8 (work session); Jan. 16; Jan. 22 (work session) all at 1:00 p.m., City Hall

County Commission:

Jan. 9; Jan. 23; 9:00 am, DAC Govt. Center.

LCPS School Board:

Jan. 16, 6:00 pm, LCPS Admin. Bldg. Board Room. [No other January meetings are listed on the LCPS website as of Jan. 1, 2024]

A Recommendation to All Members

The LWVSNM book club feels that our latest read **“Tyranny of the Minority: Why American Democracy Reached the Breaking Point”** by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt is highly appropriate to the League’s mission. This book explains how we got to the current political situation and is a call to reform our antiquated institutions before it is too late. Our book club recommends that all our League members read this book – it is strongly aligned with League objectives, such as strengthening Democracy and supporting the voting process.