

the VOTER



December 2024
Volume 56, Issue 7

INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER

Calendar & Events	2	Treasurer's Report	4
Membership Handbook	2	Book Club	5
Legislative Conversation	2	Community Connection	5
Changes to LWV Dues	3	Good Reads	5

President's Communique

With the election season finally behind us, the League now focuses its attention on advocacy — specifically what legislation would be important to our community and to our members. We'll discuss legislation during the upcoming Legislative Conversation & Social; I hope you can attend! Please **RSVP by Dec. 2** by emailing lwvsnm@gmail.com.

I must recognize Veep Beth Bardwell and member Liz Rodriguez-Johnson who led our organizing team over many weeks to prepare for this big event. It took many hours to plan the festivities and the legislation that we want to discuss with our lawmakers. Thanks also to Nancy Stanton, Rebecca Courtney, Rosemarie Sanchez, and Edwina Jaramillo for handling the raffle, food, and logistics, and to Kathy Brook, Laura Dapkus, and Beth for working on the Legislative priorities.

After the holidays are over, we need your ongoing support to help with revising and updating bylaws, policies and procedures. Currently we have three members who have volunteered for this new committee (Kathy Brook, Eileen VanWie, and Kate Mangelsdorf), but other members are welcome. I'll send an email to all members when we set a date/time for the first meeting. We'll begin by focusing on a change in the bylaws to reflect the upcoming dues system implemented by LWV (see page 3), and a revised policy augmenting procedures for candidate forums. [Please email me](#) if you can help.

Meanwhile the Nominating Committee is still looking for a member to assist short-term with finding next fiscal year's officers and board members. Which brings me to some sad news: Kathe Kanim, Voter Services Director, has stepped down from the Board. She did an amazing job during the General Election by organizing activities including voter registration, get-out-the-vote, Vote411, voter guides, candidate forums, flyers and more. Thank you, Kathe, for all the work that was done! You will certainly be missed on the Board.

I hope everyone has a safe and fulfilling holiday. There will be a condensed version of *The Voter* in January 2025, but our work will continue. Plus, our next general membership meeting will be on Saturday, Jan. 11 at 2:00 p.m. at the DACC Workforce Center; we will focus on immigration. Until then, happy new year!

■ Jo Galván Nash
President, LWVSNM



Make Your Voice Heard Beyond the Ballot Box

With the conclusion of election season, many Leagues, including LWVNM, are turning their attention to state legislative sessions. Please join LWVSNM and co-hosts AAUW and NAACP for our annual legislative conversation on Saturday, Dec. 7, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Doña Community College Workforce Center (2345 Nevada Ave.) where we will find out the priorities of legislators in attendance and share our own concerns. (See Page 2 for more information.)

Also, all League members in New Mexico are welcome to join the state League Action Committee, whose first Zoom meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 9, at 6 p.m. The purposes of the meeting are to decide on top legislative priorities for the 2025 season and to pick a meeting day and time for weekly Action meetings during the session. Remember that advocacy by LWVNM depends on having a state or national League position as a basis for that advocacy.

By participating in the Action meetings, you can stay updated on what is happening in the legislature and, in some cases, be authorized to speak on behalf of the League. To receive Action Alerts and/or join the Action Committee, click [here](#).

LWVNM has responsibility for ensuring that the League speaks with one voice to the legislature concerning state issues. So, only those who are authorized by LWVNM may speak in the name of the League. League members, of course, are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to speak as individuals to their own legislators or in-person or online to legislative committees.

There are a number of important issues that are likely to come before the legislature during the 60-day session that begins January 21, 2025. These include proposals for an independent commission concerning legislative salaries; affordable housing; health care topics ranging from consolidation of health care providers, addressing shortages of health care personnel, and expansion of Medicaid; budget issues such as increases in the royalty rate for oil and gas; education; immigration impacts on NM; and protection of NM waterways.

■ Kathy Brook
Co-president, LWVNM



Please help out ...

- ✓ Volunteer for a short stint on the Nominating Committee. That team will soon be recommending next fiscal year's Officers and Board of Directors. Contact Membership Director Kate Mangelsdorf for more information.
- ✓ Can you help set-up or tear-down the tables, chairs and the decorations at the 2024 annual Legislative Conversation & Social on Dec. 7? If so, please email Beth Bardwell asap.



Membership Handbook

Please watch your emails in the coming days. Your electronic copy of the LWVSNM Membership Handbook and Director is going to be emailed to all members very soon. Thank you, Kate Mangelsdorf!

The League no longer pays to have the handbook printed, but you can download any page of it to your computer. Plus, it will be posted on our website:

<https://www.lwvsnm.org/members/>

As a reminder, the online version will not include your addresses or email addresses — only your names. ***If you do not want your name listed in the online handbook, please notify Jo Nash ASAP.***

See you at the Legislative Event, Dec. 7

AT 11:30 A.M.:

There are a few seats left for the 2024 Legislative Conversation and Social. ***Did you RSVP?*** (lwvsnm@gmail.com) It begins on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 11:30 a.m. Arrive by 11:30 a.m. to sign in, look at all the raffle items and purchase a ticket for \$5 or five tickets for \$20. Raffle items include food, home decor, coffee, breakfast-for-four, pastries, books, and more!

AT NOON:

We'll enjoy a delicious (and complimentary) meal, sponsored by several local businesses. There will also be beverages and desserts!

AT 12:30 P.M.:

The program features at least nine of our area legislators on their priorities and interests for the 2025 Legislative Session. And our League, along with AAUW and NAACP, will let them know what we plan to advocate for during the upcoming session.

BEFORE 2 P.M.:

You must be present to win a myriad of raffle items before the event ends. Purchase as many tickets as you want.

Upcoming Calendar Events

DECEMBER 2024

Dec. 2, Mon.: **Legislative Conversation Program Subcommittee**; 11:30 am via Zoom

Dec. 2, Mon.: **Regular Board Meeting**; 5:30 pm, via Zoom

Dec. 2, Mon: **DEADLINE** to RSVP to Legislative Conversation and Social on Dec. 7; email lwvsnm@gmail.com

Dec. 3, Tues.: **State Voter Services Committee Debrief**, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

Dec. 7, Sat.: **Legislative Conversation & Social**, begins at 11:30 a.m., DACC Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada Ave.

Dec. 9, Mon.: **Education Committee**, 5pm, Zoom, [contact Eileen VanWie](#) to attend.

Dec. 9, Mon.: **State Action Team Meeting** (legislation), 6 pm, via Zoom; League members welcome; contact [Kathy Brook for an email link](#).

Dec. 16, Mon.: **Short Board Meeting**; 5:30 pm, Zoom

Dec. 25, Wed.: **Christmas**

Dec. 25 - sundown, through sundown Jan. 2, 2025: **Hanukkah**

JANUARY 2025

Jan. 1, Wed.: **New Year's Day**

Big Changes Are Coming for Membership Dues and Renewals

Starting on February 1, 2025, the national League of Women Voters organization, which encompasses all local Leagues, is shifting to a new membership process that will change how you pay dues and renew your membership. These changes will help to modernize the LWV and attract new members. While several questions will certainly come up during the next few months, our Board members are attending training sessions that will help us understand how the new “ChapterSpot” league membership platform will work.

The new membership process will include an online dues-paying method, but we are assured by national that local hard-copy checks can still be given to our local Treasurer. In the meantime, you’re encouraged to read about ChapterSpot on the national website; and [a Q&A is also provided](https://www.lwv.org/league-management/membership/lwv-new-membership-system-faqs#Types). <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/membership/lwv-new-membership-system-faqs#Types>

Rest assured, we will continue to notify members with additional information. So, as we learn the new system, we wanted all members to have this sneak preview:

DUES

- Dues amounts will be “pay what you can afford.” The percentage that local leagues will receive (including SNM) is intended to be greater with a lower percentage sent to national. This is intended to benefit local leagues. The national League has recommended dues be \$75 a year, with a minimum amount of \$20 a year.
- There will no longer be a dues level for students. (Currently their dues are free.) However, a second household member will remain as an option.

Still to be determined:

- The local Board will discuss the actual yearly amount that SNM will recommend for its members; the minimum, however, will be \$20.
- The Board will also have to determine whether the local budget can cover the cost for students (in full or partially), or perhaps they could be asked to pay the minimum of \$20.

- The Board will determine what will be as recommended dues for second household members. (Currently they pay half.)
- Lifetime members (those who have been members for 50+ years), including several from our League, will continue to be exempt from paying dues.

RENEWAL

- Membership renewals will occur throughout the year depending on when you first joined. Since SNM begins the renewal period on May 1 this will continue to be your annual payment schedule. But for new members who join, for example, on Nov. 15, they will be notified through ChapterSpot to renew each Nov. 15.
- You’ll renew your membership on the national League website.
 - *Still to be determined:* For members who prefer to send checks to our treasurer, our Board will discuss how to process the local payment and/or whether a board member can assist those who need online help.

MISC. INFORMATION

- When first renewing online, there will be a standard process of filling out your name, address, etc. However, in order to join on the national ChapterSpot site, you must use your own, personal email account. Plus, LWV has decided that other confidential information that must be captured will include your age. However, that data will not be shared.
 - *Still to be determined:* The local Board will discuss how to assist members who do not have an email account.

Finally, if you have any thoughts that you would like to share with the Board, please email any one of us. Or email lwvsnm@gmail.com. And for questions we cannot answer, we’ll get the answer from national.

- [Kate Mangelsdorf](#), Membership Director, [Kathy Brook](#), Treasurer, and [Jo Galván Nash](#), President

Treasurer's Report for November 2024

By Kathy Brook

Below is an abbreviated treasurer's report for the month of November. Full monthly reports are given to the board each month and are available to other members on request.

Beginning bank balance	19,652.42
New Income	\$444.53
Donations, general fund	\$0
Donations, restricted	\$450
PayPal Fees	(\$5.47)
New Expenses	\$3,687.57
Osteen Media Group (Las Cruces Bulletin) Voter Guide	3,542.83
Website updates	\$100.29
Check printing	44.45
Closing bank balance, November 22, 2024	\$16,409.38

Restricted Funds (included in the bank balance)	\$3,820.67
Diversity	\$2,665.00
Otero/LWVSNM	\$736.00
Voter Guides	\$44.67
Youth Engagement	\$375.00

Notes:

- ◆ Checks to LWVNM for dues (\$1,157) and to Camino Real Media for the Spanish voter guide (\$3,613.12) are outstanding.
- ◆ The Voter Guide fund increased by \$350 in November as a result of two donations and was depleted to \$44.67 by payment for the English Voter Guide.
- ◆ The balance in the \$200 e-card donated by Target is \$93.04 after an expense of \$106.96 for printer ink.

The State League's Search for a Treasurer

LWV-NM is looking for a League member who can fill the place of its longtime Treasurer for both the League of Women Voters of New Mexico and the League of Women Voters of New Mexico Education Fund. Kim Sorensen, a longtime member of the Southern New Mexico league, will be leaving her state position effective December 31, 2024. The state league needs someone as soon as possible to take over until the state convention April 26 - 27, 2025.

The job description for this position is posted on the LWVNM.org website and can be read [HERE](#). Interested? Please contact the state board at leaders@lwwnm.org





LWVSNM BOOK CLUB

The book club meetings are on the 1st Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m.

If you want to participate, contact Erika at grafwebster@icloud.com

Reading Books is Good for You!

— Rachel Maddow

December 5, 2024

On Call: A Doctor's Journey in Public Service by Anthony Fauci M.D. (Author)

The memoir by the doctor who became a beacon of hope for millions through the COVID pandemic, and whose six-decade career in high-level public service put him in the room with seven presidents. Anthony Fauci is arguably the most famous – and most revered – doctor in the world today. His role guiding America sanely and calmly through Covid (and through the torrents of Trump) earned him the trust of millions during one of the most terrifying periods in modern American history, but this was only the most recent of the global epidemics in which Dr. Fauci played a major role. His crucial role in researching HIV and bringing AIDS into sympathetic public view and his leadership in navigating the Ebola, SARS, West Nile, and anthrax crises, make him truly an American hero.

January 2, 2025

Age of Revolutions: Progress and Backlash from 1600 to the Present by Fareed Zakaria

Populist rage, ideological fracture, economic and technological shocks, war, and an international system studded with catastrophic risk—the early decades of the twenty-first century may be the most revolutionary period in modern history. But it is not the first. Humans have lived, and thrived, through more than one great realignment. The mother of all revolutions, the Industrial Revolution, catapulted Great Britain and the US to global dominance and created the modern world. Now we are entering a world in which the US is no longer the dominant power. As we find ourselves at this nexus we can easily imagine a dark future.

Community Connection

NAACP DAC Chapter Meeting • November 16, 2024 • Submitted by Jennifer Kreie

The meeting was attended by several NAACP members, including the new president of the NMSU chapter of the NAACP and the director of Black Programs at NMSU. There was no guest speaker. The attendees talked about the election results nationally and locally. Dr. Bobbie Green, the chapter president, talked about the upcoming events in January to honor Martin Luther King's birthday.

GOOD READS

Interesting articles regarding topics that are included in our League Positions and/or reflect issues associated with our advocacy.

These two articles are brought to our attention by Vice President Beth Bardwell. If you ever read something of interest that members may want to know about, send the URL (website address) to Jo Nash (jogalvan.nash@gmail.com) by the 25th of each month for inclusion in the next issue of *The Voter*.

POSITION: Immigration

Los Alamos Daily Post • Nov. 23, 2024 • Carol A. Clark

<https://ladailypost.com/somos-un-pueblo-unido-immigrants-rights-groups-unveil-policy-agenda-to-defend-protect-families-workers-in-new-mexico/>

POSITION: Healthcare

Rio Grande Sun (Española) • Nov. 21, 2024 • Katie Gutierrez of Think New Mexico

https://www.riograndesun.com/opinion/guest-opinion-a-permanent-fund-for-health-care-can-help-solve-the-health-care-worker/article_80b7cf24-a826-11ef-8595-83188b126fc8.html

UPCOMING GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

LC City Council:

Dec. 2; Dec. 9 (work session); Dec. 16; Dec. 17 (special work session); Dec. 23 (work session) all at 1:00 p.m., City Hall

County Commission: Dec. 10 at 9:00 a.m.; DAC Govt. Center.

LCPS School Board: Dec. 17, 6 p.m., Dr. Trujillo Admin. Bldg. Board Rm.

NMSU Board of Regents:

Dec. 12, Thurs., 2 pm, Regents Room of the ESC Building at NMSU. [Check here](#) to join webcast.