

# the VOTER

January 2025  
Volume 56, Issue 8



## INSIDE THE NEWSLETTER

Calendar & Events	2	MDWA Award	5
Advocacy Workshop	2	Treasurer's Report	6
Dues System	3	Community Connection	7
Legislative Event	4	MLK Breakfast	7

## President's Communique

It's 2025! Many people often remark how quickly the year has flown by – so true! I think that's why we need to make good use of our time and efforts to “empower voters and strengthen democracy.”

As we look back, 2024 was a great year; our League members worked non-stop on preparing for important elections. In 2025, we'll continue to work on our mission. In this issue of *The Voter*, you'll read about our continuing efforts to work on updating our Library position. And, this year we'll also undergo a change initiated by the national League on how we pay our dues.

This month's newsletter is a somewhat condensed version, but rest assured we'll continue to inform you of important issues and upcoming SNM advocacy regarding health-care, education, water, modernizing the state legislature, and more.

Have a safe and happy new year!

- *Jo Galván Nash, President, LWVSNM*



## Let's Discuss Immigration on Jan. 11

Two experts from the New Mexico Immigrant Law Center will present at the January general membership meeting. They are Alondra Reyes, Policy & Partnerships manager, and Jessica Martinez, director of Policy & Coalition Building. Their presentation is titled “Dignity not Detention.”

This will be a hybrid meeting beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 11. As usual, our membership meetings are at the Doña Ana Community College Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada Ave. A link will be emailed to all members. Snacks and water will be provided.

The organization is planning to propose legislation during the 2025 Legislative session. The state League has supported a “Dignity Not Detention” bill for two years.

As background, NMILC served 5,757 immigrants from 28 of 33 counties in New Mexico during 2023. [View NMILC's Annual Report](#) to learn more about their work.

## LWVSNM Library Position Update

After numerous delays I hope to schedule a Library Committee meeting on Zoom by the end of January. **Please let me know if you are interested in participating.** The master plan for the Las Cruces Public Libraries can be found [here](#). Below is the existing LWVSNM position on Branigan Library along with feedback from our League's visioning lab on June 8, 2024.

### Branigan Memorial Library (1986, 1996 and 2007)

The League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico believes that a public library is a major community resource. Growth in our city and county has outpaced the current library resources. The Branigan Memorial Library continues to lag behind established standards for public libraries. It is essential that the following actions be taken:

- 1) That the main library facility be expanded in order to enlarge the collection and provide adequate space for staff and program.
- 2) That branch libraries be established to improve geographic access to library services. Possible collaboration with other community entities such as schools, recreation centers, or senior centers should be encouraged.
- 3) That the County Government be encouraged to provide more financial support to reflect the widespread use of the library throughout the County.

### Visioning Lab Discussion in Break-Out Groups, June 8, 2024

• Support was expressed for high-speed broadband at all branches, more public computers, classrooms with technology electronic resources; • More branches and a larger main library in Las Cruces; • Partnerships with schools; • More ebooks, audiobooks, multilingual collections, education concerning AI and critical thinking skills, media literacy, classes focused on civics, rural outreach; • Improvements to the website; • Support of the library as an institution that supports intellectual freedom and the public's right to know.

- [Kathy Brook](#), Treasurer

## New Members' Orientation

Please pencil in the revised date for the New Members' Orientation. It will be held on **Saturday, Feb. 22**, from 10:00-11:30 on Zoom. In this interactive session we'll talk about the SNM goals, advocacy, and activities for the year and beyond. If you're a new member wondering how you can get involved, or if you're an established member wanting a refresher about what we do, come join us!

In the coming weeks you'll get an email reminder and the Zoom link. Contact [Membership Director Kate Mangelsdorf](#) for further information.



## Effective Citizen Advocacy at the Legislature

**Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025**

**10 a.m. to Noon**

**Webinar on Zoom - Public is Invited!**

[Register Here](#)

Learn tips from legislators and an experienced lobbyist about how to interact with legislators, speak at hearings and advocate for your cause. Speakers include Doña Ana County Senator Carrie Hamblen and Linda Siegle, a longtime lobbyist, president of a consulting firm focused on lobbying the legislature for nonprofit agencies and strategic planning. A Republican speaker has also been invited.

This is a training on the legislative process. Questions about positions on specific issues will not be permitted.

**Courtesy of LWV-NM**

## Upcoming Calendar Events

### JANUARY 2025

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

Jan. 6, Mon.: **Regular Board Meeting**; 5:30 pm, via Zoom

Jan. 11, Sat: **LWVSNM General Membership Meeting**, 2:00 p.m., DACC Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada Ave., hybrid meeting

Jan. 13, Mon.: **Education Committee**, 5:00 p.m., Zoom [contact Eileen VanWie](#) for Zoom link.

Jan. 13, Mon.: **LWV-NM Meeting**, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom, State Board to determine state legislative priorities.

Jan. 20, Mon.: **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**

Jan. 21, Tues.: **Legislative Session begins** at noon, Santa Fe Capitol Bldg.

Jan. 21, Tues.: **Short SNM Board Meeting**, 5:30 p.m., All members welcome via Zoom; [contact Beth Bardwell](#) for a link.

## LWVUS Study of the Federal Judiciary

At the 2024 LWVUS Convention, the delegates approved a study of the federal judiciary. Resource materials can be found [here](#). (More materials are expected to be added so you may want to check back.) The study is on a fast track with consensus meetings to be held by mid-April and a position announced by June 2025. This process is intended to provide insights into alternative ways that Leagues might reach consensus.

It has been suggested that LWVNM could hold one or more statewide meetings to reach consensus, but local Leagues may also choose to hold meetings. Watch for more information.

## Know Your Local Government

There's an update to the next *Know Your Local Government* project which is held with the City of Las Cruces and the Las Cruces Public Schools. The date has been changed from January 29 to Thursday, February 20. If you'd like to get involved with this project that involves high school students learning about the local government and its services, [contact Eileen VanWie](#).

## Understanding ChapterSpot and Preparing for New Dues System

In December's issue of *The Voter* it was reported that Feb. 1 is the official start of a new dues and membership process under the "ChapterSpot" platform. Nationwide, all leagues will collect dues on a "pay-what-you-can" option (minimum amount will be \$20) per year. Our Board members are continuing their training on how the new system will work.

One thing is for sure, our local Board will continue to accept hard-copy checks for members who want to pay their annual dues that way. Others will use the new ChapterSpot website. You may want 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>.

The national League indicates that many leagues will actually see an increase after dues are split among national, state and local leagues. However, in the case of LWVSNM, it appears that the change may be a greater benefit to the state league and not necessarily to SNM.

To help guide the Board's decision about dues, our Treasurer Kathy Brook created two pie charts to give us an illustration of how the division may impact each level. Again, the local level has not yet been determined.

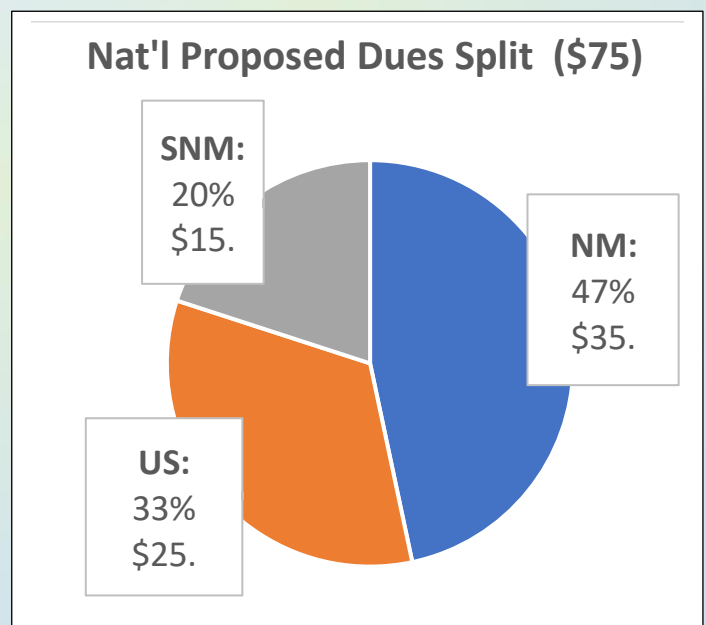
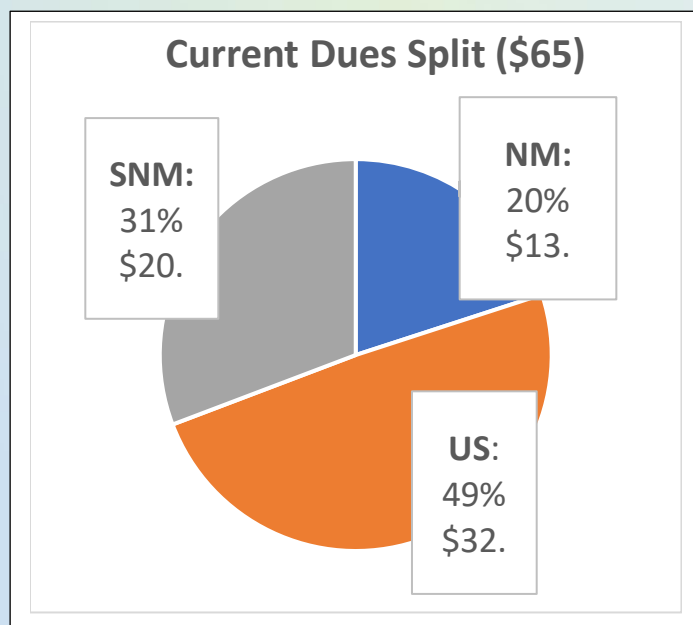
At this time, the national league has recommended that dues be \$75 per member. Plus, there will no longer be a specified level for 2<sup>nd</sup>-household members or students. However, the local league wants to maintain a lower amount for those two groups. The LWVSNM Board will make a determination on the local amounts in a few weeks and will notify everyone.

Lifetime members (those who have been members for 50+ years), including several from our League, will continue to be exempt from paying dues.

Members will continue to receive updates about ChapterSpot. Most of our members will be asked to renew on May 1 which is the first day of SNM's fiscal year.

▪ *Jo Galván Nash, President*

*The pie charts show the current and proposed distributions of dues among the three levels of Leagues. The dollar amounts shown are based on our current \$65 per primary member and the LWVUS recommended \$75 per member.*



## Legislative Conversation: Great Food, Company and Mutual Areas of Interest

I always associate the League's annual get together with good food and conversations. The anticipation that goes into throwing a large gathering dissipates as almost 100 friends and acquaintances start arriving, sharing hugs, and filling up tables. As we serve ourselves plates of steamy enchiladas, we settle into a conversation amongst our members, allies and state leaders about our shared values and how we can best support our communities in the year ahead.



Joining us were six state leaders — one was newly elected and the rest returning with eight or more sessions under their belt. Sharing their legislative and funding priorities heading into the regular 60-day legislative session were Senators Bill Soules and Jeff Steinborn, and Representatives Angelica Rubio, Joanne Ferrary, Sarah Silva, and Doreen Gallegos.

Sixty-day sessions can be demanding with likely over 1,000 pieces of legislation introduced and culled down over committee hearings and floor sessions to 100-200 bills that are signed into law by the Governor. Current state revenues remain robust, in no small part due to record levels of oil and gas production. As Senator Soules reminded us, New Mexico can no longer consider ourselves a poor state and Representative Rubio pointed out that budget appropriations are a moral document that outline our priorities and commitments.



Priorities were far-ranging and included strengthening our education system, alleviating poverty, addressing the housing crisis, supporting immigrant workers and families, paying our unpaid state legislators a fair and reasonable salary for their public service, and conservation of our Land of Enchantment.



Organizations like the League can influence legislative decision-making. The State League Action Committee meets regularly online to identify and follow League legislative priorities that align with our positions. Members who register as lobbyists for the League can testify, in-person or virtually, in support of the State League's legislative priorities at legislative committee hearings. We strongly encourage members who want to participate in the State League Action Committee, to subscribe and follow League priorities at <https://mailman.swcp.com/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/action>.

A special thanks to our co-hosts this year, the LC branch of AAUW and the DAC-NAACP whose participation enhances the breadth and depth of conversation. A special shout-out to the generous businesses and individuals who donated food, gifts and gift certificates that in turn raised \$750 in raffle proceeds benefiting the League.



Our favorite signature memento, new this year, were the hand-designed and painted "Democracy Rocks" by local artist and League member Rebecca Courtney; fitting mementos for an organization that empowers voters and strengthens democracy.

■ *Beth Bardwell, Vice President*

# Please Help – Nominate Someone for Making Democracy Work Award

During the month of January, LWVSNM will be soliciting nominations for the 2025 Making Democracy Work Award. This is our annual award of \$250 to someone in southern New Mexico who has been involved in civic engagement, strengthens democracy, and support the tenets of JEDI (justice, equity, diversity and inclusion). This year, we are asking for our members' support to find potential awardees and/or to nominate someone who fulfills the criteria. A selection

of a resident (or a small group of residents) from Doña Ana, Otero, Sierra, Luna or Grant counties will be selected by Feb. 14. (Sorry, LWVSNM members are not eligible to *receive* the award.)

Send this information to your friends, families, and neighbors as we search for a healthy pool of nominations. The nomination form is the last page of this newsletter. The deadline to nominate someone is January 31, 2025.

## Making Democracy Work Award Criteria

**Description:** This award recognizes sustained contributions of an individual or a small collective group of individuals to (1) making democracy work by mobilizing civic engagement and (2) promoting justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in Southern New Mexico. Civic engagement includes civics education and participation in government (such as by public officials or citizens involved in public projects/activities). The award is \$250. A small group of nominees would divide the award equally.

**Recognition:** The recipient(s) will be honored at a meeting of the LWVSNM. In addition, she/he/they will be recognized in an LWVSNM news release, monthly newsletter and website, in social media, and through other LWV events and communications. The winner will be notified within one month after the deadline for submission of applications. The award will be given by February 14, the anniversary of the national League of Women Voters organization.

**Solicitation of applications/nominations:** The availability of the award will be publicized through [www.lwvsnm.org](http://www.lwvsnm.org), social media, and announcements to the area media, public schools in Doña Ana County and beyond (as feasible), and to community-based organizations. To nominate someone, or to win the award, residents must live in one of the following Southern New Mexico counties: Doña Ana, Otero, Sierra, Luna or Grant. Current League members are not eligible to receive the award. Recipients of the award are not eligible to receive the award again for a minimum of three years. The LWVSNM Board shall determine the nomination deadline on an annual basis.

**Selection process:** All applications submitted by the deadline are read and scored by the members of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico. Board members who have submitted nominations do not participate in the selection process.

Applications are evaluated on the following criteria:

- the general quality and completeness of the description of the contributions to making democracy work – weight of 40%
- the impact of the project (how it mobilizes people to strengthen democracy, who is served by the project, how many are served, what are the expected and actual outcomes) – weight of 30%
- the ways in which the project promotes justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. – weight of 30%

In the event of a tie, the projects with the highest scores will be reviewed again, including a discussion among board members prior to the vote. The Board reserves the right not to select any nomination.

Approved 2021 • Revised 11.26.22 • 01.08.24 • 12.13.24

### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Find eligible nominees
- Fill out the nomination form (last page)
- By Jan. 31, email or mail to: [lwvsnm@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsnm@gmail.com); LWVSNM, PO Box 15142, Las Cruces, NM 88004

# Treasurer's Report for December 2024

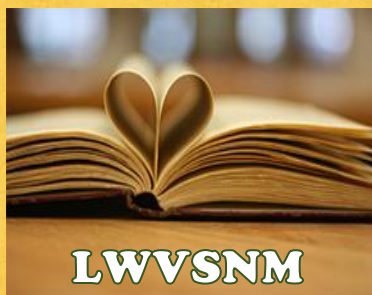
By Kathy Brook

Below is an abbreviated treasurer's report for the Voter. The full report will be given to the board each month and is available to other members on request.

<b>Beginning bank balance</b>	<b>\$16,409.38</b>
<b>New Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,112.50</b>
Dues	\$ 162.50
Donations, general fund	\$ 200.00
Raffle, legislative conversation and social	\$ 750.00
<b>New Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 6,538.64</b>
Camino Real Media, Spanish Voter Guide	\$ 3,613.12
LWVUS Per Member Payment	\$ 2,848.00
Walmart, supplies (name badges)	\$ 11.63
Staples, outside printing, legislative conv and social	\$ 65.89
<b>Closing bank balance, December 24, 2024</b>	<b>\$10,983.24</b>

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

Notes: Check to LWVNM for per member payment (\$1,157) is outstanding.  
There is a balance of \$93.04 on the \$200 e-card donated by Target.



## LWVSNM BOOK CLUB

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

If you want to participate, contact Erika at [grafwebster@icloud.com](mailto:grafwebster@icloud.com)

**Reading Books is Good  
for You!**  
— Rachel Maddow

### January 2, 2025

**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.

### February 6, 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 • December 21, 2024 • Submitted by Jennifer Kreie

This meeting covered some of the plans for the upcoming MLK Breakfast on the January 20<sup>th</sup> (see flyer below). Attendees also heard from Yoli Diaz who has advocated for people denied treatment at the Memorial Medical Center. Yoli spoke at length about the origin of this problem, her formal complaints filed with government agencies at the federal, state and local level, the need for the public to participate in efforts to renegotiate the County and City's contract with Memorial Medical Center.

### Join LWV Members at MLK Event

LWVSNM traditionally sponsors a table at the NAACP event in honor of Dr. King. If you would like to buy a ticket, please notify [LWV/NAACP member Jennifer Kreie](#) who is coordinating the League table.

## MLK 2025 Weekend Theme: "Mission Impossible" TWO EXCITING EVENTS:

**MLK Rally and March**  
2 PM, January 19, 2025  
Downtown Plaza

**MLK Day Breakfast**  
8 AM, January 20, 2025  
Las Cruces Convention Center  
Tickets: \$50 per person



Tables of 8 - \$400

Mail payment to:  
Dona Ana County NAACP  
PO Box 1796  
Las Cruces, NM 88004  
For more information:  
[info@naacpdac.org](mailto:info@naacpdac.org)

**NAACP**  
Dona Ana County Branch



**Keynote Speaker: Patrick Stewart**  
**NMSU Foundation**  
**Vice President of Philanthropy**  
**and Alumni Relations**



### UPCOMING GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

#### LC City Council:

Jan. 6; Jan. 13 (work session); Jan. 21; Jan. 27 (work session); all at 1:00 p.m., City Hall

County Commission: Jan. 14; Jan. 28; both at 9:00 a.m.; DAC Govt. Center.

LCPS School Board: Jan. 21, 6 p.m., Dr. Trujillo Admin. Bldg. Board Rm.; Jan. 31, Board Retreat, Time TBD.

#### NMSU Board of Regents:

Regents Room of the ESC Building at NMSU.

[Check here](#) to see schedule.

### GOOD READS & LINKS

Here are interesting articles regarding topics that are related to our League Positions and/or reflect issues associated with our advocacy. 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](mailto:jogalvan.nash@gmail.com)) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month for inclusion in the next issue of *The Voter*.

**1** Courtesy of the NM Legislative Council Services, you can find the contact information for all of New Mexico's lawmakers. [Click here](#). You can call, write or email them. The 2025 session begins at noon on January 21, 2025.

**2** One of SNM's areas of interest for legislative advocacy is chronic absenteeism in NM public schools. [See the data collected by NMSU's Center for Community Analysis](#) or read about the issue [here](#).



**LWVSNM Making Democracy Work Award 2025  
NOMINATION FORM**

*(Download or print this form, fill out, and email or mail the form with attached narrative to addresses at bottom)*

***Nomination Deadline: January 31, 2025***

**Name of Nominee(s)\*** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Project/Activity** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address(es) of Nominee(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Address of Nominee(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone of Nominee(s)** \_\_\_\_\_  **Cell**  **Home**  
\_\_\_\_\_  **Cell**  **Home**

**AWARD CRITERIA:**

*The LWV Making Democracy Work Award recognizes community residents of civic projects that have contributed to strengthening our democracy. The League looks for projects/activities and honorees that mobilize civic engagement and promote justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in Southern New Mexico. \*Nominees and nominators must reside within one of these Southern NM counties: Doña Ana, Otero, Sierra, Luna, or Grant. LWV members may nominate but are not eligible to receive the award.*

**Attach to this form a brief narrative (no longer than one page in length) describing how the nominee(s) and the project/activity exemplify the award criteria.**

**Name of Person Making Nomination\*** (can be self-nomination) \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address(es)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_  **Cell**  **Home**

**Relationship to Nominee(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
*Please email the completed form and narrative to: [lwvsnm@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsnm@gmail.com) or by mail to P.O. Box 15142, Las Cruces, NM 88004. **Nominations must be received by January 31, 2025.***