

# The NMAG Quarterly

*A quarterly newsletter for the members of the  
New Mexico Association of Grantmakers*

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[www.nmag.org](http://www.nmag.org)

## President's Report

As always, it has been a busy new year at NMAG. Our report on *Philanthropy in New Mexico: 2008* is at the printer. Look for your copy in the mail within the next few weeks. It will also be on our website, [www.nmag.org](http://www.nmag.org), shortly. Many thanks to Susan Cantor for all her painstaking work on this project which was truly a data nightmare and took some four months longer to complete than we anticipated, but it was worth the effort to be accurate. As I indicated at the annual conference and meeting last year, our preliminary finding that 75 percent of foundation giving to New Mexico nonprofits comes from out-of-state funders was borne out. The report lists the largest funders in New Mexico and summarizes major giving areas.

We have offered two member programs, a January workshop in Albuquerque on "Accountability and Self-Assessment for Foundations" and a March panel discussion in Santa Fe on "Cultural Voices Initiative" at the beautiful Lannan Foundation meeting space; in addition to launching a teleconference series. The first two teleconferences covered "New Directions in Foundation Evaluation" and "Introduction to Conflict of Interest." If you haven't already, please let us know what you thought of these programs. The coming months are pretty well booked and we are looking for increased participation from our members and other funders.

We are particularly excited about our April 22 luncheon event, "Cleaning Up New Mexico's Elections and Campaign Finance Reform" (see a listing of all upcoming programs for details on place, time and cost.) Join us for a presentation by Bob Edgar, the national president of Common Cause, on the importance of enacting campaign finance reforms. Steven Robert Allen from Common Cause New Mexico, Kathy Campbell from the League of Women Voters and Tomas Garduño from the Southwest Organizing Project will also be on hand to answer questions about the local strategies of nonprofit groups for implementing these reforms.

As we all know, New Mexico has been plagued by a string of corruption scandals involving numerous high-ranking state elected officials. Legislative leaders have been slow to respond to this crisis. Why should foundations and individual donors be interested in this topic? Because we can fund the groups doing the advocacy work to bring about much needed change. In the face of stiff official resistance, good government groups in New Mexico are advocating for reforms to dampen the excessive influence wielded by special interests. In particular, these groups are engaged in an ongoing effort to expand public campaign financing to statewide offices such as governor and attorney general. They also seek to have campaign contribution limits enacted in New Mexico. Our state is one of only five in the nation without such limits.

Four of our Affinity Groups are meeting informally and/or are deep into putting together the mini-conferences referred to by our wonderful Board Chair Gay Dillingham in her column. The Education Affinity Group, convened by Susan Herrera of the LANL Foundation met on March 20. The Children and Youth Funders are meeting on March 27, facilitated by Lynn Hathaway of the City of Santa Fe Children and Youth Commission. Leaders of the Environmental Affinity Group are planning a mini-conference on water resiliency issues for New Mexico. And, the Health and Human Services Affinity Group is planning another mini-conference to

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## Message from the Board Chair

Dear New Mexico  
Grantmakers,

What an honor it is to have become a grantmaker in NM and an honor to have been asked to chair NMAG. We are privileged to live in such a spectacular state with so much to behold, nurture and protect. I will tell you a little about myself as I am new to philanthropy and want to give you some insight as to the lens I am looking through.

I believe we all come to philanthropy from

different perspectives giving us the strength of diversity needed to continue building the kind of equitable future we know is possible in this land of enchantment. My husband and I created our foundation, Livingry, in 2001. I come to grantmaking after walking down many others roads from private to public sectors -environmental science, film making/communications, business, and public policy/governmental regulations. My interest I bring to Grantmakers is a desire to weave together or cross-pollinate the often-separate silos of government, business and philanthropy in a creative way for the betterment of all New Mexicans. I have been practicing this for the past number of years (more on that off-line) and joining Grantmakers was a piece of this matrix.

I was happy the Board chose, with Terry's courageous leadership, to focus on collaborative and strategic grantmaking initiatives at our annual meeting. I know it was not a typical meeting and I applaud our efforts as bumpy as it might have been at times. It is a massive undertaking to get people's/organizations values out publicly in a room so we can see the overlapping perceptions and hopes. In that meeting, "Strategic Grantmaking: Collaborate, Commit, Succeed" I saw NMAG taking its mission very

educate grantmakers and others on Health Reform issues in the State. That conference is not yet scheduled, but we are considering dates in October. The planning group of Dr. Norty Kalishman, McCune Foundation; Dianne Rivera and Dolores Royal of the Con Alma Health Foundation, has been joined by Dr. Charlie **Upcoming NMAG Programs**  
**April 22: "Cleaning Up New Mexico's Elections and Campaign Finance Reform." Speakers:** Bob Edgar, Common Cause; Steven Allen, Common Cause; New Mexico; Kathy Campbell, League of Women Voters New Mexico; Tomas Garduno, Southwest Organizing Project, Hotel Santa Fe, 12:00 - 2:30 pm, Lunch fee: \$35  
 "Mexicans Committee."

**Forum of Regional Association Teleconference Series:** If you wish to participate in one of the following programs you must register directly through the Forum of Regional Associations. Please click on the desired program and follow the instructions.  
 Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET: [Teleconference: Basic Self-Dealing & Intermediate Sanction Rules](#), Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers.  
 Tuesday, April 22, 2008, 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET: [Teleconference: What Preparers Need to Know for the 990-PF](#), Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers.  
 Tuesday, May 13, 2008, 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET: [Teleconference: Private Foundation Compensation](#), Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers.  
 Tuesday, May 20, 2008, 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET: [Perspectives on Off and On-Line Developments in New Mexico: Our Economy, Environment, Health and Future.](#)" Lannan Foundation Conference Center. Time TBA.

NMAG is hard at work developing an on-line searchable Grantmaker Directory, in collaboration with the Center for Nonprofit Excellence in Albuquerque, a project of the United Way of Central New Mexico and the Albuquerque Community Foundation. This resource should be of benefit to both funders and nonprofit organizations in the state. You will all have received the normal mailing from Susan for our hardcopy colleague-to-colleague booklet, which also included information on this new project, partially underwritten by the Con Alma Health Foundation and the Daniels Fund. If you have not yet filled out the forms, please

**Grants Awarded to NMAG**  
 On behalf of the Board, Membership and Staff, thanks to the following 2008 funders for general operating and program support to NMAG:  
 Following my meeting with her, the Lt. Governor appointed me to the New Mexico Children's Cabinet as an Ad Hoc member. The New Mexico Children's Cabinet was placed into statute in 2005 with the responsibility of coordinating and documenting the progress of children and youth in New Mexico in the areas of education, health, safety, support and engagement. The Children's Cabinet is also responsible for producing the Children's Budget and Report Card on a yearly basis. It meets six or more times a year. One of my Ad Hoc member is to consult and recommend strategies, but especially those having to do with increasing public-private partnerships.

**New Members**  
 As part of the transition of NGO New Mexico and transition of some of its functions, NMAG has at least temporarily taken responsibility for following and keeping the nonprofit pleased to announce that the **Lannan Foundation**, with the most assets in New Mexico and grantmaking that is international in scope, has decided to join NMAG in 2008. They have also generously offered their meeting space for some of our get-togethers. Welcome to our first new member of the year.

In addition to my involvement in the earlier cited projects, I have been meeting regularly with our membership and new leadership, as Board Chair, Elizabeth Cankner, and I. Following the recommendations of the Membership Committee and Board, with endorsement by those present at the annual membership meeting, late last year we sent out membership renewal letters explaining the new fee structure. At this writing, 70 percent of you have renewed. If you haven't yet, or didn't receive our reminder the mailing, please contact us.  
 Respectfully submitted,  
 Terry Odendahl  
 March 27, 2008

**Philanthropy Conferences of Interest**

seriously as an organization "dedicated to increasing the effectiveness and impact of organized philanthropy throughout our region by initiating, leading and facilitating collaborations and new approaches to solving community problems"(from NMAG website).

At the annual meeting the room eventually divided into what emerged as four major groups representing broadly the topics of Environment/Water /Sustainability; Health Policy Reform; Public Education Reform; and Reducing Poverty. To further what we began at the annual meeting, in 2008 NMAG will be holding mini-conferences to further the first broad themes in which the membership was interested.

Sterling Grogan of the Biophilia Foundation; Alice Loy of Social Venture Partners NM; Lisa Oppenheimer of the Oppenheimer Brothers Fund and I are leading the planning on a mini-conference scheduled for July 14 with the working title, "Beyond Short-Term Thinking: Water Resiliency for New Mexico." We surveyed you for the best date in the summer to hold this convening, so please hold the date.

The Biophilia Foundation is hosting us at the Pritzlaff Ranch, one-half hour outside Las Vegas, New Mexico. We plan on building upon another conference (Carpe Diem,

May 4-7, 2008: [Philanthropy's Vision: A Leadership Summit](#), Council on Foundations; Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, in the National Capital Region.

The Center on Wealth and Philanthropy  
October 7-8, 2008: [The Supply and Demand of Philanthropy in the 21st Century: Strategies for Fundraising and Financial Professionals](#)

## Recent News and Research Reports on Philanthropy

### U.S. Foundations Award \$66 Million to LGBTQ Issues in 2006 a 24 Percent Increase from 2005

*Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues releases fifth annual report on U.S. foundation giving to LGBTQ organizations and projects; report includes 67 more foundations than in 2005.*

*Read a recent "Chronicle of Philanthropy" story on Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues.*

*The full report is available at <http://www.lgbtfunders.org>*

**GrantCraft videos capture the insights and dilemmas of grant making from the point of view of the individual grant maker.** Now easier to view and download, each video takes an up-close look at how experienced practitioners coped with some of the most common challenges of grant making.

**The videos are learning tools.** We invite you to use them on your own or to launch discussion among colleagues. Depending on your group and how much time you have, try one of these ideas:

- View a 5-minute scene from [Managing a Funders' Collaborative](#) with colleagues from other foundations to open up a discussion of the nuts and bolts of starting a funders' group
- Show a 3-minute clip from [Building a Network](#) to introduce the idea of adapting a national model to fit state or local needs
- Watch the full 20 minutes of [Starting as a New Grant Maker](#) to jumpstart a conversation with new and experienced staff about how to find people and ideas that make a difference

May 29 and 30 in Albuquerque) and work that is already underway or in planning stages so that we can focus on vision, strategy, politics and funding priorities.

In a parallel manner, under the leadership of Dolores Roybal and Dianne Rivera of the Con Alma Health Foundation, as well as Norty Kalishman of the McCune Foundation, another group is planning a mini-conference on "Health Policy Education" for the fall. Since I'm not directly involved in that effort, please read Terry's column for more information.

I have heard there has been collaborative grantmaking that has come out of NMAG in the past with both positive and negative outcomes. I know the Climate Change Funders, who continue to meet, was born out of NMAG meetings spearheaded by the McCune Foundation. I'm pleased to be an active supporter of those efforts.

I believe we (Board) are committed to finding an initiative/s that have common ground to all members without alienating. It will take communication and participation to find that ground. I look forward to working with Terry as I find her to be an intelligent, thoughtful, brave and strategic leader who can lead us through this complex process to find our common ground as New Mexico grantmakers and citizens.

My personal goal as a good worker bee is to continue finding opportunities to cross-pollinate these silos/flowers to create the healthiest NM garden possible. We are in a critical moment not only in our state's history but also in setting the course for how we will leave our planetary home to future generations.

I will be looking to many of you for your guidance and wisdom. My door and mind are open.

Sincerely,  
Gay Dillingham  
March 25, 2008

We count on you to keep us informed of any news regarding your organization.

*Letters to the Editor are welcome and encouraged.*

Send to  
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