



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY

1472 Saint Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505-4038

Phone/FAX: 505-982-9766

Email: lwvsfc@gmail.com Website: www.lwvsfc.org

OFFICERS

Meredith Machen

President

Patricia Vincent

First Vice-President

Donna Reynolds

Secretary

Adair Waldenberg

Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Molly Seibel

Membership

Nancy Florsheim

Arrangements

Berit Leonard

Public Relations

Jane Robinson

The Voter

Jody Larson

Action Chair

HELP SET THE LEAGUE'S AGENDA FOR THE YEAR!

10 AM to Noon

Saturday, July 18

Main Branch, Santa Fe Public Library

145 Washington Avenue

We want to know know what programs
you're most interested in.

Please Join Us

For more information, call 577-6337



Mark Your Calendar

JULY

- 15** *Board Meeting*, 4-6 pm, LWVSFC office
- 18** **Help Set LWVSFC's Annual Agenda**
10 am - Noon, Main Branch, Santa Fe
Public Library (see page 1)

AUGUST

- 12** *Board Meeting*, 4-6 pm, LWVSFC office
- 21** **Climate Change New Mexico**, 9 am-4 pm
Albuquerque (see page 3)

SEPTEMBER

- 8** *Action Committee*, Noon, Hidden Chicken restaurant
- 9** *Brown Bag Unit Meeting*, 11:45 am, Unitarian Church
- 9** *LWVSFC Board Meeting*, 4-6 pm, LWVSFC office
- 17** Constitution Day & Citizenship Day
- 30** Panel Discussion On Immigration, 6:30-8 pm
Santa Fe Community College (see page 1)

Attend this important event!

Panel Discussion On Immigration

6:30 to 8 PM, Wednesday, September 30
Jemez Room, Santa Fe Community College
6401 Richards Avenue

The focus is on current policies and possible changes in immigration on the federal, state, and local levels.

City of Santa Fe Mayor, David Coss; representatives from the offices of U.S. Senators Tom Udall and Jeff Bingaman; immigration attorney Jim Vincent; and the director of Northern New Mexico ENLACE (Engaging Latino Communities for Education) Ron Martinez have been invited to be on the panel. For more information, contact Patricia Vincent at 983-2474.

After 38 years as an educator, I can easily relate to the LWV definition of summer. For educators and Leaguers alike, summer is a time for planning, research, connecting, and reflecting. Much happens behind the scenes to prepare for the active season, which parallels the school year.

Here are some highlights:

- The State Convention, held in Albuquerque on May 16-17, was an interesting affair. Jody Larson, Molly Seibel, Adair Waldenberg, and I were the Santa Fe delegates.
- President Kathy Campbell was an excellent group leader, keeping us on track with the League's orderly process of examining issues and ideas.
- Jody Larson made a wonderful presentation about the progress and challenges of the Santa Fe County Transparency Study released to the Board of Commissioners on June 30. The Study Committee partnered with ACLU and spent well over a year researching and observing the County from diverse perspectives. Results will be shared with the other state Leagues and with LWVUS. The process and the conclusions will be the subject of a Unit Meeting in November, and then we will look at how to help other local governments understand what transparency means and how to achieve it.
- LWVUS held an electronic convention on June 13, which

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Meredith Machen

saved LWVUS and members across the country from having to pay transportation, meal, housing, and meeting costs. Local League officers are looking into ways that video-conferencing can be used more in New Mexico.

Over the past few weeks, the main focus areas have been health care reform and climate change. **Our health care forum will be held in late fall or early winter.** By then, Congress should have passed some important bills.

As for climate action, under the leadership of Lora Lucero, LWVNM's Natural Resources advocate, many League members were encouraged to call our three Congressional Representatives to promote their support of the successful American Clean Energy and Security Act bill (H.R. 2454/H.R. 2998). Enactment will establish a cap-and-trade program to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from power plants, manufacturers, refineries and other sources. The bill requires states to meet their electricity demand with 20 percent renewable energy by 2020.

Please mark your calendar for the full-day forum on Climate Change that LWVNM is co-hosting with the Sierra Club on August 21 in Albuquerque. The

League has partnered with the Sierra Club over the years. We appreciate working with partner organizations that share our vision on issues. We are always open to opportunities to collaborate so that we can produce results.

It's impressive to see the powerful effect our state League is making, thanks to the collective work of committed members of our local Leagues.

If you are unfamiliar with the League process, please know that each League position comes out of careful study and follows rigorous, consistent procedures. The method includes the following steps:

- (1) establishing an evaluation approach that is appropriate and feasible given time and resources,
- (2) obtaining and using the best available evidence to support decision making,
- (3) setting standards that will improve the availability and quality of evidence over time, and
- (4) making recommendations based on obtainable information.

Continued on page 3.

President's Report Continued from page 2.

It is important for members to speak up about which issues we should consider for systematic reviews and to recognize the thoroughness of the process that goes into creating recommendations based on League positions.

Please come to our **Calendar Planning meeting on July 18** to let us know what topics are of greatest importance. In the August Voter, we will send out not only a calendar but also a list of the topics that are being proposed to be studied this year. In subsequent meetings, we will consider the advantages and disadvantages as well as the desired outcomes of each study. One way we will define success is if **YOU** or people like you share your ideas! We encourage community input! Everyday when I listen to the news, I am reminded "Democracy is not a spectator sport" and we are so

fortunate to live in a society that values our input.

There are numerous group listservs and individual e-mailing lists that keep us in contact between conference calls. Please let me know if you would like to be in on any of these calls or e-mails on either the national or state level.

Later this summer, we will be conducting a survey to find out YOUR primary interests and asking if you would like us to forward you important items on areas that the state or the national League is studying. We truly understand that few people want to get e-mails everyday, so we will be very judicious and respectful of your time and energy.

Though there are more new members this year than in recent years, the overall numbers have declined because

many older members are not renewing due to the economy. Efforts will be made to increase membership and to fundraise. Please let us know if you have ideas, especially about reaching young adults and those who represent our diverse community. We are lucky to have a few scholarships available for the economically disadvantaged.

Thank you for being dedicated to improving our country, state, and county. We need your voice!



**NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER
VOTER DUE AUGUST 21**

*Your LWVSFC Dues for
2009-2010
are now due!*

*Please fill out the
renewal form
located on the back page.
We need your continued
support.*

***DON'T DELAY!
DO IT TODAY!***

TAKE THE RAILRUNNER!

***Climate Change New Mexico:
Seizing the Opportunity***

9 AM to 4 PM, August 21

Albuquerque

Cost: \$20 (\$25 at the door). Scholarships available.

Sponsored by LWVNew Mexico and
NM Sierra Club-Rio Grand Chapter. For more
information contact Lora Lucero at 505-247-0844 or
loralucero@aol.com

LWVSFC ELECTS NEW OFFICERS & DIRECTORS AT ANNUAL MEETING



From left: Molly Seibel, membership, Adair Waldenberg, treasurer, Meredith Machen, president, Nancy Florsheim, arrangements, Berit Leonard, public relations, Donna Reynolds, secretary, Patricia Vincent, first vice-president. Not pictured: Jody Larson, action chair, Jane Robinson, Voter, and Off-Board members-Margot Ladwig, arrangements, Dani Frye, and Neva Van Peski, budget committee co-chairs, Ernestine Hagman, education fund, and Rebecca Frenkel, office manager. Photo by Rebecca Frenkel.

Membership by Molly Seibel

*Welcome to these new members.
We look forward to seeing you at
upcoming League events.*

Avelina Bardwell	Nancy Rodriguez
Jeannie Hardie	Elise Schmidt
Kim Johnson	Elaine Sullivan
Roberta Leeds	Anita West
Kay Linde-Grotbeck	Carol Romero Wirth
Elizabeth Pease	Peter Wirth

Upcoming Survey

To gauge which issues are of greatest importance to all our members, we'll be asking for five minutes of your time before the end of the summer to complete a brief survey. Watch for it—and please give us your feedback on the issues most important to you.

Our condolences to the friends and family of Lois Hagen, long time League member, journalist, and ballroom dancer. Lois passed away June 23. Lois' smile and sweet disposition will be missed.

2009 WHO'S WHO: Guide to Officials for Santa Fe County

The “2009 Who's Who: Guide to Officials for Santa Fe County” is now available. This comprehensive guide includes the names and how to contact federal, state, county, and city officials as well as state legislators, justices of the state Supreme Court, state judges, and members of state and local commissions and boards.

Thanks to Meredith Machen and Nancy

Florsheim for producing the Guide which was provided to the local media. To request a copy, contact the LWVSFC office at 982-9766 or lwvsfc@gmail.com “Who's Who” is also available online at www.lwvsfc.org

Voter education materials like this one are made possible through tax-deductible contributions to LWVSFC's Education Fund.

FAIR REPRESENTATION

New Position on Apportionment and Redistricting, LWV New Mexico

Congratulations are due to the committed Study Group on Fair Representation for their tremendous work behind the creation of our newest state League position. Extensive research was conducted, and numerous discussions were held on the Consensus Questions and related topics. Under the leadership of Cheryl Haaker, LWVCNM, each local League was asked who should redistrict, what criteria should be used, and how should the public be involved. This

comprehensive study on redistricting was high priority because of the upcoming 2010 Census.

The group prepared a flyer on its recommendations for League Day and then focused its efforts on lobbying and public education. It concluded its study phase May 2009, and the position was formally approved at the state convention.

Apportionment and Redistricting Position (Adopted 2009)

- LWVNM supports a redistricting process and standards that provide people with a meaningful choice in electing their representatives and facilitates holding government accountable.
- The criteria for preparing redistricting maps should require that districts meet all Federal criteria including equal population and the provisions of the Voting Rights Act. In addition, it is important that districts:
 - * be contiguous
 - * be reasonably compact, in terms of travel time from one part of the district to another
 - * avoid crossing geographic barriers to travel, such as mountain ranges
 - * minimize the partition of major jurisdictions (counties, municipalities) to the extent possible
 - * not intentionally favor any political party
- The League supports having an independent commission or other independent group develop redistricting plans meeting these criteria to be considered by the Legislature.
- The public must have access to all information used in the redistricting process on a timely basis, and have the opportunity to comment and be heard on the proposed redistricting processes, criteria, and results.

For this and other League of Women Voters-New Mexico positions please see www.lwvnm.org.

Your Email Address: The Key to Being Informed

In order to communicate effectively, not only with each other, but with those we want to educate and involve in LWVSFC activities, we need to use what technology offers! More and more, Leagues convey important information via electronic means—from “The Voters” to legislative action alerts, from program planning materials to Board reports! It’s quick, inexpensive, timely and transfers info easily to others! In order not to be left out of important information streams, we encourage members to:

1. Share your email address with LWVSFC and keep it current.
2. Be mindful and prudent about how much email you send so as not to wear out your welcome!
3. Share your email address with the national database and keep it current. You can add your

own email address to the national database through the national website or simply send it to membership@santafeco.nm.lwvnet.org, and our membership chair will add it for you. To update the website yourself, log into www.lwv.org and then go to “For Members” and then “Update Your Information.” Once your email address is added, you’ll get local Santa Fe League communications automatically, and you can elect to receive various national emailings, such as “LeaguE-Voice,” a monthly newsletter; weekly updates to League leaders; and national action alerts on important issues.. Note that the LWVUS does not sell or trade member email addresses!

Email is easily deleted if you don’t want to read it. But if you don’t receive it – you miss out on important League materials!

Transparency Report - Hot Off the Presses!

by Jody Larson, Transparency Advisory Committee

Last year, Santa Fe County invited our local League to lead a transparency advisory committee to advise the county on how to improve its transparency. We were especially asked to conduct transparency audits. After an initial interview with County Manager Roman Abeyta, the League formed a committee with members of the League and two other organizations: the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government and the northern chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico.

We spent last summer doing research on transparency in general and such projects in particular, and decided the audits should cover the county's compliance with the two bedrock statutes of transparency for local governments in New Mexico: the Inspection of Public Records Act and the Open Meetings Act. In addition, we wanted to gather input from the public about their experiences in dealing with county government, so we designed and distributed a survey. We also interviewed many county supervisors whose jobs involve responsibilities for public records and open meetings, to determine their understanding of transparency.

We recruited auditors from all three organizations and provided them with reporting forms, and then analyzed the data and information from the audits, surveys, and

interviews, to come up with findings and recommendations. To read our report, please go to our website: www.lwvsfc.org. If you do not have access to the Internet, call me at 982-0776 and I will get a copy of the report to you. Be sure to check out the Acknowledgements page, which gives credit to our intrepid auditors. Many, many thanks to all who made this project work, especially the members of the committee: Becky Frenkel, Dani Frye, Karen Heldmeyer, Stan Rosen, and Neva Van Peski, together with Frank Susman of ACLU and Bill Winter of NMFOG.

On June 30, we presented the report to the Board of County Commissioners at a regular meeting. All of the commissioners asked questions and all directed comments to the County Manager, asking for follow up to implement our recommendations. A few changes were already in progress before the meeting. The commissioners were very pleased that the recommendations were all actionable and mostly very inexpensive to implement.

We will follow up on this work with a unit meeting in the fall, at which time we will present consensus questions based on our research for a transparency position that will cover all local governments entities, including the city and county as well as the Santa Fe Public School board and the Community College board. Stay tuned!

FACTS ON HEALTH CARE COSTS

- ▶ Total health spending in the U.S. reached \$2.1 trillion in 2007 – or \$7,026 per capita.
- ▶ By 2016, total health spending is projected to rise to \$4.2 trillion.
- ▶ Total health spending remained relatively constant at about 16 percent of gross domestic product from 2003 – 2006, but is projected to increase to 19.5 percent by 2017. Yearly prescription drug spending growth accelerated in 2006 to 8.5 percent from a low of 5.8 percent in 2005, in part because of full implementation of Medicare Part D.

- ▶ Of every dollar spent on health services in the U.S. in 2006, 46 cents came directly from government sources.

- ▶ Costs for program administration and the net cost of private health insurance were about 7 percent of total health spending in the U.S. in 2006 and grew 8.8 percent, a marked increase over the 3.6 percent rise in 2005.

This list from An Alliance for Health Reform Toolkit produced with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The entire toolkit can be found at http://www.allhealth.org/Publications/Cost_of_health_care/health_care_costs_toolkit.asp#keyfacts.

LWVSFC Board Minutes

May 27, 2009, 1435 St. Francis Drive, Suite 209

Board Members Present: Nancy Florshiem, Jody Larson, Berit Leonard, Meredith Machen, Donna Reynolds, Jane Robinson, Molly Seibel, Patricia Vincent, and Adair Waldenberg
Guest: Jane Gaziano

Meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m. by President Meredith Machen with a quorum verified. The agenda was accepted by the Board. The April 8, 2009 minutes were accepted by the Board.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Board and Financial Policies: Members reviewed the 2009-2010 Board and Financial Policies. Donna Reynolds moved, Jody Larson seconded and members passed unanimously to approve the 2009-2010 Board Policies. Jody Larson moved, Jane Robinson seconded and members passed unanimously the Financial Policies.

Bylaw Changes: President Machen noted that she has made the changes to the Bylaws that were approved at the Annual Meeting. She discussed the possibility of changing the membership calendar year and members agreed this could be part of the Bylaws Committee work for the upcoming year. President Machen also asked Molly Seibel to investigate Associate Members by clarifying this type of membership and how these members are tracked by LWV.

2009-2010 Calendar: President Machen introduced a draft copy of the 2009-2010 Calendar. There was some discussion regarding the setting of meetings for the Transparency Study, Health Care, DREAM Act and Immigration. Members agreed to host a Calendar and Topic Planning meeting on July 18, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at a possible new location-826 Camino del Monte Rey. This new space has seating for 45, is free, and will allow food items. President Machen noted that the local League will be hosting the LWVNM Council next spring. Several members discussed a possible location and the need to add the event as a rider to the League's insurance.

VOTER: Members agreed to set a deadline for the July-August VOTER for June 29, 2009. Send articles and content to Jane R. and President Machen.

Strategic Planning: Members agreed to host a Strategic Planning meeting on August 5, 2009 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1435 St. Francis Drive, Suite 209 or 826 Camino del Monte Rey.

Voter Services Chair: Patricia Vincent agreed to serve as Voter Services Chair.

Public Relations Publicity, Marketing: President Machen urged Berit Leonard and Jane R. to promote member activities. Jane R. and Berit will meet with local media over the summer to establish relationships.

Treasurer Items: Adair Waldenburg provided an update on the Fundraising Campaign noting that LWVSFC now has a good copy of the editorial supporting the League. She has entered the budget into Quickbooks and will be providing month-by-month budget figures. Adair stated her recommendation that reserves, if utilized, should only be for non-reoccurring expenses. There was some discussion regarding the need for a new tenant and whether or not the League should retain an office.

Member Services and Administration: Molly shared that she has reviewed her job description, determined the data capabilities of LWV's membership roster, and will be working to develop some customized communications with members. She is reviewing a number of membership surveys on file. It was suggested that two surveys could be developed for new and renewing members. She is also working on New Member Orientation.

Other Business: President Machen shared that she has created highlights from the Directions to the Board forms collected at the Annual Meeting. She also asked each of the Officers and Directors to review their respective job descriptions for updating in the future.

Members commended both President Machen and Molly for the delicious treats provided for the Board Orientation.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Reynolds, Secretary

Note: League members are welcome at all meetings, including the monthly Board of Director meetings.

Contributors to The League of Women Voters 2009

Thanks to the generosity of our members and supporters in the community who have donated this year to the Santa Fe County League of Women Voters. Investments in the League of Women Voters have been generous and constant since our founding in 1951.

Thank you.

MEMBERS

Janice Baker
Margaret Baker
Marilyn Bane
Ann Bixby
Joyce Blalock
Norma Brown
Carol Burleson
Elaine Carson
Nina Dougherty
Pat & Gary Ferguson
Patricia Ferguson
Nancy & Tom Florsheim
Rebecca Frenkel
Vickie Gabin
Jane Gaziano
Marian Graves
Shirley Gutermuth
Ernestine Hagman
Marianne Hale
Jane Hanna
Donna Herbst
Kathleen Holian
June Jameson
Jody Larson
Berit Leonard
Marcy Litzenberg
Helen Long
Meredith Machen
Jean Malcolm
Julia Nathanson
Andrew Nowak
Ruth Nutt
Evelyn Petshek
Rebecca Procter
Donna Quastoff
Genie Ramsey
Donna Reynolds

Jane Robinson
Stan Rosen
Lois Simms
Eileen Souder
Liz Stefanics
Patricia Vincent
Adair Waldenberg
Eula West

Greta Schneider
Sandy Sandlin
Joan Shankin
Lysbeth Stone
Luciano Varela
Marg Veneklasen

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Bank & Trust of New Mexico
Big Jo True Value Hardware
Chapman Homes & Realty
First National Bank
Friends From Santa Fe Greenhouse
Jack Sullivan Design
Leslie LaKind, DDS
Los Alamos National Bank
The Beat Goes On
Walker Real Estate

IN MEMORY OF EDITH PIERPONT

Norma Brown
Rebecca Frenkel
June Jameson
Lynn Jones
Susan Moore
Evelyn Petschek
Nancy Plettenberg
Mary Honor Riven
Katherine Streeper
Evelyn Weinstein

*If your name was
inadvertently omitted,
know that your support
is greatly appreciated.*

NON MEMBER

INDIVIDUALS

Barbara Belding
Bruce Besser
Jane & Sanford Brickner
Pamela Homer
Ruth Kovnat
Margaret Kratka
Louise Leopod
Nathalie P. Love
Susan McGreevy
Leslie Nathanson

AT-RISK AMERICANS: THE UNINSURED AND UNDERINSURED

By Janis McMillen (LWVUS Board member and LWVKS) is chair of the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force.

Data from multiple sources agree that in 2007, 47 million Americans (15.6 percent of the total U.S. population) lacked any kind of health insurance coverage. When these numbers are adjusted for age (excluding those 65 years and older), the uninsured percentage of the population rises to 17.9 percent. Moreover, it is estimated that 25 million adults under age 65 were underinsured during 2007, despite having insurance all year. In total, 42 percent of all adults (86.7 million) were either uninsured or underinsured during 2007.

Putting a face on persons who were uninsured or underinsured during 2007 and 2008¹

•**Age:** One of three people under age 65 were uninsured for some or all of 2007 and 2008; of the total uninsured population, 60.1 million were adults (between 19 and 64 years of age)

•**Duration:** Among the underinsured/uninsured, 74.5 percent were uninsured for nine or more months and one-quarter were uninsured the entire 24 months

•**Employment status:** 80 percent of individuals who were uninsured were in working families and only 16 percent were not in the labor force (due to disabilities, chronic illness, or serving as family caregivers)

•**Income:** Nearly 60 percent were in families with incomes below the federal poverty level (FPL: \$21,200/year for a family of four); 52 percent with incomes between 100 to 200 percent of FPL went without health insurance in 2007/2008

•**Racial and Ethnic origin:** 55 percent of Hispanics/Latinos, 40.3 percent of African Americans and 34 percent of other racial or ethnic minorities had no health insurance in

2007/2008, compared to 25.8 percent of whites. While racial and ethnic minorities are more likely to be uninsured, whites accounted for 49.8 percent of the uninsured

•**Age breakdown:** The likelihood of being uninsured declines with age; 49.5 percent of those 19 – 24 years old, 36.3 percent of those 25 – 44 years old, 32.5 percent of those 45 – 54 years old and 21.2 percent of those 55 – 64 years old were uninsured over this two-year time period. The 55- to 64-year-old age group consumes more health care on average than younger adults.

For all ethnic and racial groups, lower-income families and individuals were more likely to be uninsured than lower-income whites. This disparity continues even as incomes rise in all groups.

There is a marked increase in the number of adults having difficulty paying medical bills – the most visible consequence of the weakening in insurance coverage. In 2007, 41 percent of adults (72 million people) reported problems paying medical bills, faced bill collectors or were in debt for medical care, up from 34 percent or 58 million in 2005. The majority had insurance at the time these bills were incurred² – well in advance of the economic downturn.

¹All statistics above and below are from <http://www.familiesusa.org/resources/publications/reports/americans-at-risk-findings.html>

²The statistics in this paragraph are from <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Publications/Testimonies/2009/Feb/Testimony-Insurance-Design-Matters-Underinsured-Trends-Health-and-Financial-Risks.aspx>

Produced by the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force, 2009



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF SANTA FE
COUNTY**
1472 Saint Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505-4038

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Santa Fe NM
Permit No. 136

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

PLEASE JOIN US

Return this form with your September 2009-August 2010 membership dues* to: LWVSFC, 1472 Saint Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505-4038

- Individual Membership: \$45
- Additional Household Member: \$30
- Student: \$20
- Associate (non-US citizen OR under age 18): \$20

Name:

Additional Household Member:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Home Phone:

Work:

Email:

Know a prospective member? We'll send them information about the League.

Name:

Phone:

Address:

*Scholarships for membership are available. Dues are not tax deductible.

Questions? Call Molly Scibel at 995-8622.

OUR MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.