



THE VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County

1472 ST. FRANCIS DRIVE, SANTA FE, NM 87505-4038

Phone/FAX: 505-982-9766 Email: league@lwvsfc.org Website: www.lwvsfc.org

UNIT MEETING ON WATER

**Members! Come join the discussion on the
Consensus Questions for the LWV-New Mexico Water Study.**

3 - 5 pm, Wednesday, October 21

El Castillo Community Room, 250 East Alameda*

Please prepare for the unit meeting by reading the background papers and other information available at www.lwvnm.org/water.html. Also refer to your September 2009 *VOTER*, also available at www.lwvsfc.org, for a summary of the consensus questions.

Barbara Calef, President of LWV-Los Alamos, will conduct the session. The following LWVNM Board-approved consensus questions will be discussed at this meeting as well as at unit meetings throughout the state :

- What elements of “public welfare” are most important?
- What should be the role of regional water planning?
- How should land use be tied to water availability?
- Why conserve water?

***Parking:** *No public parking at El Castillo. You can park at a city parking lot across Alameda or park free in the NE corner of the PERA lot off Paseo de Peralta, across from the Gerald Peters Gallery. If you are bringing someone who has disabilities, enter the main drive off Alameda, go up the hill to the circular turn-around, and let your passenger off at the entrance.*

LWVSFC’s Position on Water Resources: We support regional planning for water with the goal being elimination of competition for water and cost-efficiency in the harvesting and delivery of water. We urge the City and County to examine the benefits of turning the two water companies into one regional water company with the possibility of an independent governing Board. In addition, we support:

- Linking development to the available water supply.
- Adoption of a drought management program with a specific program of water conservation to be pursued under all supply conditions.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Energy Saving Options for the Home

General Meeting & Luncheon

11:45 am, Wednesday, November 18

See details on page 3

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Meredith Machen

While the League is known best for Voter Services, such as our candidate forums and the Voters' Guides we publish, most of the work we do is research, planning, networking, decision-making, and advocacy related to issues. Our local and state Leagues' activities must be consistent with the national League (LWVUS) positions. Planning for issues forums, therefore, is considerably more complex than planning for candidate forums.

For instance, even though the LWVNM Board and other state boards proposed that the national League support the "single-payer" health plan, LWVUS decided to support the public option. The national position was reflected in the choice of panelists for the LWVSFC Health Care Reform Forum on August 26. LWVSFC has joined many Leagues and individual members across the nation in advocating that our senators and representatives include a public option provision in the final health care reform bills.

National, state, and local positions will be reflected in upcoming meetings on water, land use, affordable housing, energy policy, immigration, and other issues. If you would like to help with policy research or participate in meetings, please email me at president@lwvsfc.org.

We are frequently asked by groups to be the conveners of events and advocates of causes. Some constituents wonder why we put so much emphasis on

processes and planning, but they ultimately come to realize that these promote accountability. We cannot respond to every request, but we try to get people connected to other groups or individuals who may be able to help.

We are acutely aware of the role the League plays in developing policy, ensuring government accountability and responsiveness, and engaging the public. The League's deliberative processes and advocacy work at the national, state, and local levels are important in promoting democracy.

Because the League is concerned with systems rather than just programs, we seek to understand the powerful structures that underlie complex situations.

Working with elected officials involves persistence, strong listening skills, and a clear message. We need to do our homework in order to have a consistent, effective voice. We need to know policy makers and their positions as well as the reasons behind those positions, and we need to work with key advocates who share our viewpoints and work both in the public eye and behind the scenes.

I encourage you to visit our website www.lwvsfc.org and read the League's national, state, and local positions. I urge you to get involved in studying the bigger pictures, the interrelationships, and avenues for progress. Please be in touch and help us be more effective. Thank you.

CALL FOR ELECTION WORKERS for the Tuesday, November 17, Special Election

The unincorporated areas of Santa Fe County will vote on a .25% increase in gross receipts tax for fire and ambulance services outside of municipalities. The election will be held Tuesday, November 17, 2009, at 26 precincts in the unincorporated areas of the County.

There will be one or more training sessions for workers in October. To sign up as an election worker, please contact Theresa Atencio at 986-6387 or tatencio@santafecounty.org.

September Board Highlights

At its regular monthly board meeting on September 16, 2009, at the Recursos Building, 826 Camino del Monte Rey, the LWV-SFC Board of Directors did the following:

- Discussed the need for an Education Fund Chair
- Commended Nancy Florsheim and Molly Seibel for their work on behalf of the League
- Confirmed a City Election Candidates' Forum for February 2, 2010
- Noted website updates and changes to enhance the local League's website
- Reviewed a membership brochure for sale that can be customized for LWVSFC
- Encouraged the forwarding of photos of League events for placing on the website;
- Voted the appointment of Molly Seibel as Vice President, Judy Williams as a Director, and Sarah Cady Sartorius as a Discretionary Member to assist with youth outreach
- Discussed the development of an Observer Corps
- Reviewed a newly-developed publicity schedule

The next Board Meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on October 14, 2009, at the Recursos Building. Board meetings are open to all members.

Donna Reynolds, Secretary

November General Meeting & Luncheon

"Energy Saving Options for the Home" is the topic for this November event. Speakers will be Nick Schiavo, City of Santa Fe energy specialist, who will discuss the costs and benefits of various green energy options, and Debbie Shapiro, a local contractor specializing in retrofitting older homes, who will discuss how to make older homes more energy efficient. David Rasch of the City of Santa Fe's Historic Preservation Division will be hand to answer any questions about the city's Historic Preservation Ordinance. The meeting will be held at 11:45 am at the Hilton Hotel, and the cost for lunch is \$15. Please reserve your place by calling or faxing the office at 982-9766 or emailing league@lwvsfc.org. No-shows will be billed.

Time to Renew!

Renew now to make sure your name and contact information are included in the official 2009-2010 League Membership Directory.

Nearly half of our current members have already renewed for the 2009-2010 membership year. If you're not among them, please go today to the "Join Us" page of the website (www.lwvsfc.org), download the renewal form, fill it out, and send it to LWVSFC, 1472 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505-4038.

Don't forget that on the same form you can provide additional support to the League by making

- 1) a tax-deductible donation to the Education Fund to support the League's work in educating the public about issues or
- 2) a non-tax-deductible donation to the General Fund to help defray the cost of our outreach to the local community.

If you have any questions or need us to mail you the renewal form, call Molly Seibel, Chair, Membership Committee, at (505) 995-8622.

Report from the Action & Advocacy Committee

By Jody Larson, Chair

The Action and Advocacy Committee is monitoring the activities of the county regarding the 2010 Census. Santa Fe Public Schools are cooperating very closely with the census effort. Jody and US Census Bureau Partnership Specialist Joseph Maestas, who is also the Mayor of Española, made a presentation to the SFPS board on September 18, and met with the schools' leadership team as well, to plan the incorporation of the curriculum materials. Members also participated in an LWVUS conference call on our Census partnership in September.

Several members have attended the County Assessor's Town Halls on property taxation, which have proved to be very informative. Check out www.santafecounty.org for the schedule, or call Jody at 982-0776.

The committee continues to look for an opportunity to co-sponsor a community event on affordable housing. Committee members have made several suggestions regarding the nature and structure of such an event. The Santa Fe Association of Realtors has received a grant to fund a study of past studies on the subject, and to put on a forum or similar event. The committee is kept apprised of SFAR's developments by Board Secretary Donna Reynolds.

Rebecca Frenkel and other members of her Santa Fe Community College subcommittee met recently with

SFCC administrators and the president and the chairman of the board. Members received hard copies of proposed projects behind the proposed bond issue, including details on the projected costs of the Higher Learning Center, renovation of existing buildings, green projects, infrastructure and renewal projects, and Information Technology upgrades and replacements. SFCC has sent Rebecca and the subcommittee more materials, including the master plan, amortization schedule, final preliminary plan for the HLC to be submitted to the NM Higher Education Dept., and the projected reduction in carbon dioxide emissions for the green projects. After reading and discussing these materials, the subcommittee will report to the Action and Advocacy Committee with a recommendation to the board regarding possible support of the bond issue, in time for the December board meeting.

Our committee usually meets the first Tuesday of the month at Hidden Chicken Café, 730 St. Michael's Drive. However, the October meeting will take place the following Tuesday, October 13, same time, same place. Watch the VOTER or check the website www.lwvsfc.org/ for meeting times and dates, and please come!

HELP WANTED: OBSERVERS

The Action and Advocacy Committee needs you!

If you regularly (or even sporadically) attend any meetings of the Board of County Commissioners, the City Council, the Santa Fe Public Schools, or the Santa Fe Community College, or any of their committees or other entities, please let us know.

We need to be kept apprised of the activities of local public bodies through League members, not just through the media. It is not necessary to attend meetings in person if they are broadcast or streamed on the Web: you can watch and listen from the comfort of your own home. Attending in person is

better, as it reminds the public officials that the League is observing, but we will be happy to receive reports from you in any case. The reports themselves can be quite brief.

An active Observer Corps is key to the success of local action and advocacy efforts. Please help support us by contributing a few hours a month in this cause. Call Jody Larson at 982-0776 or email her at www.action@lwvsfc.org. Thank you!

The 2010 Census: A Complete Count Helps Our Community

Our Constitution mandates a complete count of our population every ten years, and such censuses have been done since 1790. Census workers expect to contact some 134 million housing units, either by mail or in person, in 2010. Census data determine the distribution of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and redistricting needs. They are also used to formulate federal legislation and determine the funding levels of numerous programs.

In fact, about \$400 billion (yes, billion!) will be distributed across the US every year based on the results of the next census! If you divide the number of projected US residents (over 300 million) into that amount of money, you get about \$1300 per individual. This means that filling out a census form is the equivalent of contributing \$1300 to your community every year for ten years. If it is true that Congressional budget "earmarks" are to be discontinued or greatly reduced, the formula funding becomes even more important, and possibly greater in amount. Remember, too, that our fair state receives more than the average amount of federal funding, so even more depends on an accurate count in New Mexico.

Census data are also used by local governments for planning community improvements, such as roads, schools, hospitals, and services. The League is working with many entities at the national, state, and local levels to ensure an accurate count. LWVSFC has signed on as a partner to the national initiative, and Action and Advocacy Committee Chair, Jody Larson, is a member of the Santa Fe County Complete Count Committee. Please help us mobilize the community to cooperate by providing information to census personnel when surveyed. Please tell your friends, relatives, and neighbors how important it is to participate. We will provide opportunities for specific activities in future *VOTER* articles and e-mails. Meanwhile, check out the census website: www.census.gov/2010census. The sections on Census in the Schools are particularly engaging.

Census Day is April 1, 2010. On April 7, we will have a general meeting on what the census means in terms of fair representation, reapportionment, and redistricting, that takes place in 2011.

This is an important venture for our country. We welcome your support.

2009 LWVSFC CALENDAR (Check www.lwvsfc.org for updates)

OCTOBER

- 13 Action Committee, Noon**
Hidden Chicken Cafe, 730 St. Michael's Dr.
- 14 Board Meeting, 4 - 6 pm**
Recursos Bldg., 826 Camino del Monte Rey
- 21 Unit Meeting, 3 - 5 pm**
Water Study: Consensus Questions
El Castillo Community Room, 250 E. Alameda

NOVEMBER

- 3 Action Committee, Noon**
Hidden Chicken Cafe, 730 St. Michael's Dr.

- 11 Board Meeting, 4 - 6 pm**
Recursos Bldg., 826 Camino del Monte Rey
- 18 General Meeting/Luncheon, 11:45 am**
Energy Saving Options for the Home
Hilton Santa Fe, 100 Sandoval St.

DECEMBER

- 1 Action Committee, Noon**
Hidden Chicken Cafe, 730 St. Michael's Dr.
- 9 Board Meeting, 4 - 6 pm**
Recursos Bldg., 826 Camino del Monte Rey
- 16 Holiday Luncheon, 11:45 am**
Hilton Santa Fe, 100 Sandoval St.
Mary Wilson, LWVUS President, is invited

Marian Graves: Lifetime League Member

This is the first in a series about our Lifetime League Members - those who have belonged to the League for fifty or more years.

Fifty-one years ago, as a full-time mother with a one-year-old daughter, Marian joined the League of Women Voters in Los Angeles. She knew little about the League, but a friend who chaired Unit Meetings in her home asked her to join. A bonus was meeting and getting to know two of her neighbors. Later, she was surprised to learn her mother had belonged to the League in the 1930's.

"In those days, we read pamphlets put out by the National League and then discussed them at the Unit Meetings," Marian said. "Today, it's different. Issues often now come from local Leagues.

"Over the years, I was always a member but not always active. I taught, and the requirements of doing that and family just didn't leave time.

"When I retired to Santa Fe and become active in the League, I worked hard on a lot of local issues but the most important was education," she said. "We started an Education Committee, attended School Board meetings, and tried to communicate what was going on in this area. Education is so important.

"The best thing League does is during elections, with the forums and Voter Information materials. People forget that the League sponsored the first presidential debates, an event now taken for granted.

In 1995, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the League's founding, Marian portrayed Elizabeth Cady Stanton and, along with other members representing League founders, gave a short speech in Santa Fe's Capitol rotunda. When I asked if a lot of people gathered to listen, she laughed. "I was petrified and don't remember anything. We wore old dresses, and I think I was chosen because I could fit into one of them."

"This may sound very strange, but I think the most important part of belonging to the League is friendship--finding a community of people who have similar ideas and want to do similar things."

Other LWV/SFC Lifetime Members are: Virginia Blakeslee, Carolyn Haas, Marianne Hale, Leah Kellogg, Glorya Olds, and Evelyn Petshek.

PLEASE PUT THESE IMPORTANT DATES ON YOUR 2010 CALENDAR!

*Let's have every member turn out for our forum to hear the candidates
on the issues and VOTE in the municipal election.*

CANDIDATES FORUM FOR MAYOR OF SANTA FE

Tuesday evening, February 2, 2010

Time and place to be announced

MUNICIPAL ELECTION DAY

7 am - 7 pm, Tuesday, March 2, 2010

HELP WANTED

Your League needs YOU!

To have a strong and viable organization, we need your help with League activities. Even a few hours will move us forward. The positions that need help are listed below--you probably can think of more. Please also see the article on page 4 about "Observers Needed."

To lend a hand, contact Meredith Machen at 988-4523 or email her at president@lwvsfc.org.

Chair - Voter Services

The chair coordinates the *Voter's Guides* which are inserted in the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, distributed at places throughout the city, and made available at voting locations. The next *Voter's Guide* will cover the election of Santa Fe mayor and city councilors which will be held on March 2, 2010. It will feature candidate backgrounds and positions on major issues facing the city.

Chair - Education Fund Drive

The chair oversees fundraising for the Education Fund. This fund is used to publish educational materials such as the Voter Guides.

Photographers

Volunteers attend local League functions and photograph the event. Photos are principally used in *THE VOTER* and on the LWVSFC website.

Writers

Volunteers attend local League events and write articles for *THE VOTER* and the LWVSFC website.

***NOVEMBER VOTER news due by
7 pm, Wednesday, October 21.***

Email your news to Meredith Machen at president@lwvsfc.org.

BOARD BIOGRAPHY: Jane Robinson, Communications

Because I wanted to be more a part of the Santa Fe community, I joined the League a little over a year ago. I had always heard about the League and was curious if becoming a member would satisfy my desire to be involved. Jane Gaziano, who was membership chair at the time, immediately put me to work on public relations and before long, Jody Larson, past-president, asked me to be *THE VOTER* editor. I enjoy doing both and, yes, League membership is a great way to give back to the community.

Before Jerry and I retired and moved to Santa Fe in 2004, I was responsible for communications and marketing for a three-county metro-Denver health department. Prior to that, I did communications and marketing for Denver's Regional Transportation District, was director of communications for the National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped, and worked for the Evergreen, Colorado, newspaper. In the early years, I taught at elementary schools in Indianapolis, Denver, and at one of our country's first alternative schools in the New Orleans French Quarter in 1974. When our three children were young and I was at home, I volunteered as a way to be there for them and still do community work, something I've enjoyed ever since.

I have undergraduate degrees in English and Education from DePauw University in Indiana and a master's in English literature from the University of Colorado.



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

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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.

THANK THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES for their support of LWVSFC in 2009!

**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**

VISIT OUR DAZZLING WEBSITE:

www.lwvsfc.org

Log on and find up-to-the-minute information on League activities, courtesy of our newsy, new website. There's "Hot Topics" about upcoming events, as well as other items of interest. Also, check out "LWV in the News" which features media coverage of our activities. **Log on to www.lwvsfc.org today!**