

THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY

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HOLIDAY LUNCHEON & Silent Auction

Mary Wilson, LWVUS President,
is our honored guest. She will discuss the
"Challenges & Opportunities
Facing the League"

11:30 am, Wednesday, December 16
Hilton Santa Fe, 100 Sandoval Street

Silent Auction

Please bring an item for the silent auction.
Since LWVSFC receives no funding from any grants,
donations to help with our operating expenses
are also welcome.

Lunch Reservations

Please make lunch reservations by noon, Friday,
December 11, at 982-9766 or rsvp@lwvsfc.org.
The courtesy of an early response is greatly appreciated.
Lunch is \$18. Let us know if you prefer a vegetarian or non-
vegetarian entree. (Sorry, we cannot seat you for lunch without
a reservation, and we must bill "no shows.")

Invite your friends to this special program!

*Mary Wilson, President of the
League of Women Voters of the United States,
and our honored guest in December!*

We are honored to have Mary G. Wilson, the 17th president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS), and chair of the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) speak to us from a national perspective at our Holiday Luncheon on December 16.

Ms. Wilson is a longtime resident of New Mexico and a member of the League since 1986. During her 20 years of service, she has held leadership positions at the national, state and local levels.

In 2004, she was elected to a two-year term on the LWVUS and LWVEF Boards. During this tenure, she served as LWVUS Board Advocacy Chair, and helped guide the League to its Democracy Agenda, an advocacy and public education effort to strengthen and renew the basic tenets of American democracy.

From 1999-2001, Ms. Wilson was president of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico, and also served in various capacities on the local and state League Boards such as action, voter service, and study committees.

Professionally, Ms. Wilson is an attorney with 30 years of experience in diverse fields of practice including estate planning, litigation, regulatory compliance, commercialization and privatization, corporate and environmental law, and employment law. As in-house counsel for two large private companies (EG&G Mound Applied Technologies, Inc., and Ecology & Environment, Inc.) and two federal agencies (U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission), she has provided legal and policy advice to top level management as well as directed both in-house legal staff and outside counsel.

Ms. Wilson is owner of a small business, Aungier & Wilson, P.C., and an advisor on initiatives to

privatize government services and create commercial opportunities at downsized government facilities. In these capacities, her unique project planning and project implementation expertise is invaluable.

Ms. Wilson is admitted to the Bars of the States of New Mexico and Colorado, the United States District Courts for the Districts of New Mexico and Colorado, and the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. She is a member of the National Association of Women Lawyers and the American Bar Association. She received her J.D. degree from the University of Denver in 1975.

In 1986, Ms. Wilson was recognized with the "Woman of the Year" award from the U.S. Department of Energy, Albuquerque. In 1987, the Albuquerque YWCA honored her with its "Women on the Move" award.

In other arenas, Ms. Wilson is serving as secretary/treasurer of the Albuquerque International Visitors Council since 2004. She was a member of the Board of Directors of Sandiin Child Care Center, Albuquerque, from 1998-2001. In 1991, Ms. Wilson served on the Committee on Judicial Performance Evaluation, established by the New Mexico Supreme Court, to recommend a judicial performance evaluation process for the State.

Ms. Wilson graduated from Valparaiso University in Indiana with a B.A. in 1972. She resides in Albuquerque and Albo, New Mexico, with her partner of 33 years, Jose A. Mora. Hobbies include working with the horses at their ranch and conducting genealogy research.

STAY INFORMED!

Logon to **www.lwvsfc.org** for
the latest information.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: *Meredith Machen*

Advocacy is critically important these days because our weak economy has caused more and more polarization on issues. Whether communicating with our Congressional delegation, state legislators, or local elected officials, we need to strategize in order to be effective when working with policy makers. While the League is totally non-partisan in that it does not endorse candidates, it actively advocates on issues. As we prepare for the 2010 Legislative Session where only budget-related issues will be heard and where legislators will be forced to make deep cuts to address the present and future deficit, we must focus our efforts. As much as we would like to see no cuts to education and social services, we are prepared for the inevitable and must do what we can to minimize cuts to vital services.

It is important for League members to express their opinions on issues they care about because so many people can't, won't, or don't. Legislators want and need to hear from their constituents. The more citizens who contact their elected officials, the more likely their messages will be heard. Effective advocacy requires careful analysis, strong listening skills, persistence, targeted messages, anecdotes, and compelling data. Our representatives rely on us to inform them.

We need to communicate with our state legislators not only when they are in session but throughout the year. In fact, some experts say that advocacy done before a session is far more effective than during the session because legislators have the time to ponder different points of view. They lack quality time when they are in session. With a thirty-day budget session, which we have in even years, it is especially important to contact legislators well BEFORE the third Monday in January. NOW is the time to let them know your values. If they hear from a number of constituents, they will remember them as they draft and examine bills. If you write emails, you'll have a track record. Phone calls, letters, and personal visits are also helpful. Need contact information? Please consult our Who's Who 2009 on our website www.lwvsc.org.

Once the Legislature is in session, policy makers will be focused as much on revenue enhancements as on

deficit reductions. To learn more about policy makers and positions, it is good to keep track of what they say in the media and on their websites. You can also attend meetings and hearings and listen to them streaming on www.nmlegis.state.nm.us. Sometimes you may want to request a policy maker's statement of position. Once you have a statement, it will be easier to support or refute points. When desirable legislation is introduced, it is helpful to thank the legislator and explain why you think the law is necessary. Our unpaid, citizen legislators work hard, so we need to let them know when we value their efforts.

Legislative staff can give you updates on where committee members stand on bills, assist you in getting your message heard, and arrange meetings with legislators and committees. If you express appreciation for their role, they are generally quite helpful in finding ways you can communicate with legislators.

If you vehemently disagree with a legislator's stated position on an issue, it is best to demonstrate your respect and understanding of his/her point of view. Communicating your perspective respectfully will increase the likelihood that it will be heard.

The LWVNM Action Committee will follow bills that relate to League priorities. As a member, you can sign on to the Action Committee listserv to learn more about the names and numbers of appropriate bills, their sponsors, and reasons for support and opposition. You may want to follow these bills and others on your own, and you may want to speak out on your own behalf. To sign onto the discussion, go to subscribe-LWVNMAction@yahoo.com.

I encourage you to attend the morning session on January 26, League Day at the Legislature, and learn from savvy advocates who understand the legislative system and can explain the details of policy proposals that concern us. Knowing how to deliver information to legislators, especially when they are facing time constraints and hearing diverse opinions, is an art. Let's work together to increase the chances of passing the bills we support. Thank you.

November Board Highlights

Donna Reynolds, Secretary

At its regular monthly Board meeting on November 11, 2009, at the Recursos Building, 826 Camino del Monte Rey, the LWV-SFC Board of Directors:

- Discussed electronic and traditional communications strategies
- Agreed to purchase blank cards and envelopes to create LWVSFC note cards
- Discussed the launching of CapWiz for League activities in New Mexico and thanked Molly Seibel for her assistance with the project
- Reminded members of the upcoming public hearings on the County's Sustainable Land Use Plan
- Discussed LWVNM's endorsement of Think NM campaign finance reform
- Reviewed a letter to LWVUS recommending national advocacy priorities
- Discussed the Program Planning process and Action/Advocacy functions
- Offered feedback on the Water Consensus process
- Considered adding a New Member Orientation to the Annual Calendar

The next Board Meeting is 4 pm, December 9, 2009, at the Recursos Building.

All members are welcome at Board meetings.

LWVSFC 2009-2010 CALENDAR For updates, go to www.lwvsfc.org.

DECEMBER 2009

- 1 Action Committee, Noon, Tuesday**
Hidden Chicken Cafe, 730 St. Michael's Dr.
- 9 Board Meeting, 4 - 6 pm, Wednesday**
Recursos Bldg., 826 Camino del Monte Rey
- 16 Holiday Luncheon & Silent Auction, 11:30 am, Wednesday**
Challenges & Opportunities Facing the League, Hilton Santa Fe, 100 Sandoval St.

JANUARY 2010

- 5 Action Committee, Noon, Tuesday**
Hidden Chicken Cafe, 730 St. Michael's Dr.
- 13 Board Meeting, 4 pm, Wednesday**
Recursos Bldg., 826 Camino del Monte Rey
- 22 LWVSFC Voters' Guide for 2010 Municipal Election published in the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, Friday**
- 26 LWV-NM League Day at the Legislature, 8:30 am - 5 pm, Tuesday**
Morgan Hall, New Mexico State Land Office, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail
- 28 Forum for Candidates for Santa Fe City Council, 6:30 - 8 pm, Thursday**
Unitarian-Universalist Church, 107 W. Barcelona Road

FEBRUARY 2010

- 2 Action Committee, Noon, Tuesday**
Hidden Chicken Cafe, 730 St. Michael's Dr.
- 2 Forum for Candidates for Mayor of Santa Fe, 6:30 - 8 pm, Tuesday**
Santa Fe Preparatory School Auditorium, 1101 Camino de Cruz Blanca
- 3 Municipal Election: Early and Absentee Voting begins, 7 am - 7 pm, Wednesday**
- 6 Program Planning, 9 am - Noon, TBA**
- 9 Election Day: SFCC Higher Learning Center Bond Issue, 7am - 7pm, Tuesday**
- 10 Board Meeting, 4 pm, Wednesday**
Recursos Bldg., 826 Camino del Monte Rey

MARCH 2010

- 2 Municipal Election, 7 am - 7 pm, Tuesday**
- 10 General Meeting/Luncheon, 11:45 am, Wed., *Santa Fe County Transparency Study: County's Responses & Improvements*, Hilton, 100 Sandoval Street**
- 24 Board Meeting, 4 pm, Wednesday**
Recursos Bldg., 826 Camino del Monte Rey
- 25 Unit Meeting: Questions for Consensus on LWVSFC Transparency in Government Study, 11:45 am, Thursday**
SFCCounty Conference Room, 2052 Galisteo

Santa Fe Community College wants a HIGHER LEARNING CENTER

by *Rebecca Frenkel*

Some Background: In 1978, the New Mexico State Legislature passed the Learning Center Act (Chapter 21, Article 16A NMSA 1978). Excerpts from this Act:

21-16A-2. Findings and purpose

A. The legislature finds that there are significant populations in New Mexico whose post-secondary education and workforce development needs are unserved or underserved and new and more effective means of delivering educational services must be explored.

B. The purpose of the Learning Center Act [21-16A-1 NMSA 1978] is to:

(1) provide quality educational services to residents of the state based upon need and without regard to place of residence by enabling communities to establish learning centers to make necessary and appropriate educational programs available;

(2) avoid construction of new campuses and buildings; and

(3) encourage the use of technology by promoting innovation, collaboration and cooperation among existing institutions, public schools, government agencies, communities and the private sector through sharing of resources for educational purposes.

21-16A-4

A. A learning center district may be established in a school district or community college district upon adoption of a resolution by the local school board or community college board calling for establishment of a district and a showing of need for such a district.

What is a Higher Learning Center?

When the College of Santa Fe closed and the City of Santa Fe assumed possession of the facility and land, Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) expressed an interest in planning for a downtown campus on this site. SFCC has now developed a plan that has been submitted to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for approval.

This article is a brief description of what SFCC is planning. A future article will discuss the financing of the Higher Learning Center (HLC).

So what is a Higher Learning Center?

A Higher Learning Center is a post-secondary education facility where classes are offered by several colleges and universities under one roof or in a cluster of buildings. Regionally accredited institutions contract with the Learning Center to deliver programs typically leading to associate, bachelor and master degrees in a number of diverse areas.

Since it is not awarding bachelor degrees, what is the role of SFCC in the HLC?

Santa Fe Community College envisions itself to have two roles:

- 1) to provide lower division classes at the same affordable tuition rates it charges at its campus on south Richards Avenue, and
- 2) to be the "landlord" and operator of the HLC. As the operator of the HLC, SFCC will be the organizing entity and the coordinator of the HLC governance structure. The five-member publicly elected SFCC Governing Board serves as the Learning Center District Board. The Board will appoint an Advisory Committee consisting of business representatives and citizens from the area to advise and assist the Board in determining the most appropriate educational and training programs and services to be offered by the HLC.

Continued on page 6

What is a Higher Learning Center? continued from page 5

Where will the HLC be located?

The plans are to have a location more central than the Richards Avenue campus, and SFCC would like to work with the State to develop a HLC on the former College of Santa Fe campus.

How many students are expected to be served by the HLC?

The enrollment projections from the fall of 2011 to the fall 2020 for the 50,000 square foot building are expected to be a total of 153 full time equivalent (FTE) students in 2011, 365 in 2015 and leveling off at around 500 FTE by 2020. Based on poll results, the college proposes the HLC offering: Associate of Arts degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, General Studies; Bachelor degrees in Business Administration, Teacher Education, Environmental Science, Social Work; and Master degrees in Business Administration, Education, Public Administration, and Social Work. SFCC will be the provider of the A.A. degrees and the HLC will contract with other colleges and universities for the bachelor degrees completion and master degrees programs.

The current plan does not include classes at the HLC for those students who are interested in continuing education classes; these will continue to be offered at the Richards Avenue facility.

Who currently supports the HLC plan?

SFCC has received letters of support and interest from the City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, Laureate Education, Inc., the New Mexico General Services Department, New Mexico Highlands University, New Mexico State University, Northern New Mexico College, Santa Fe Public Schools, and the University of New Mexico, among others.

The material for this report has been taken from responses by Dr. Sheila Ortego, President of SFCC, questions posed by the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County, and from the Plan that was submitted to the New Mexico State Higher Education Department.

In 1996, League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County made a study of a proposed bond issue by SFCC. The League's position that resulted from the study is available in the LWVSFC Handbook and on www.lwvsfc.org.

Santa Fe County Sustainable Land Development Plan Public Hearings rescheduled for December 17 as recommendations from the public are incorporated

Public input received at the Santa Fe County Development Review Committee (CDRC) public hearing on November 12 has resulted in several changes to the Sustainable Land Development Plan (SLDP) process. There were five key themes that emerged from the public during that meeting plus other, specific comments and recommendations:

- (1) residents of communities that have developed community plans would prefer that their plans not be altered
- (2) the draft Plan is too long
- (3) the public needs more time to absorb the draft Plan
- (4) there should be opportunities for more citizen input
- (5) the draft Plan is not sustainable enough; it should require more sustainable protections

The County Planning Team has reviewed the suggestions and is working to incorporate recommended changes. Integrating the new input and suggested changes will change the draft Plan and the Public Hearing schedule. The revised SLDP will be released for additional public review on December 7. The next public hearing on the SLDP will be at 6 pm, Thursday, December 17, in the County Commission Chambers, 102 Grant Avenue.

The public hearing on the SLDP scheduled for December 3 has now been postponed. Additional public hearings will be scheduled for early 2010. For more information on the SLDP and how to participate in the planning process, please contact Robert Griego, at 986-6215 or rgriego@santafecounty.org

LWVSFC 2010 Program Proposals

To prepare for the LWVSFC program planning meeting on February 6, 2010, we are soliciting study proposals and suggestions of local issues you think the League should address during 2010. We'd also like to know if you'd be willing to volunteer to help review and assess various aspects of local issues in light of existing local, state, or national League positions. *Please limit your response to each question to a sentence.*

Thank You! Judy Williams, Program Director

Proposed Study

Topic?

Why is it important?

What is the expected impact?

Who will chair the study?

Time period?

Resources needed?

Anticipated cost?

Other local issues LWVSFC should address during 2010:

Can you volunteer to work on a study or help review and assess local issues in light of existing local, state, or national League positions?

YES NO

Name: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email completed form to program@lwvsfc.org or mail to:

LWVSFC Attn: Program

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.

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

League Days at the Legislature January 26 and 28, 2010

On January 26, we will have a morning information session at the Land Office then go to the State Capitol for "League Day at the Legislature." Our information table is near the West entrance. On January 28, we will participate in the Better Choices New Mexico Campaign at the Legislature. Coalition members advocate for education, health care, and social services as top priorities for funding.

We hope you will help on one or both of these days.

*To volunteer, please call 982-9766 or email
Meredith Machen at president@lwvsfc.org.*

*Thanks to these
FRIENDS OF THE LEAGUE
for their support in 2009!*

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