



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County
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Message from the President



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Vice President--Chris Furlanetto
(Action/Advocacy)
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Jody Larson, Chair
Janet Williams
Lynn Gary

Finance/Budget Committee

(appointed by the board)
Karen Heldmeyer, Chair
Adair Waldenberg
Neva Van Peski

The Voter

Publisher: Miriam Ries

Dear League Members:

Our Women's History Month project is rocking and rolling with nearly 30 career women who have agreed to be mentors to middle school students. It's a big commitment for many of these busy ladies as they need to become a school volunteer which includes a complete background check.

I certainly admire the women who have agreed to participate and share their enthusiasm in giving a positive message of work to the selected students. As a member of the League, I hope you will support the project by attending the breakfast where a "Woman of History" will be honored. We're also still collecting fun or unusual jobs from League member participants for the career bingo activity. Don't miss this fun and rewarding event!

Please check out a number of other local events designed to stimulate minds and generate discussion. With your valuable input, we've made a selection for our upcoming April Nonfiction Book Club, so start reading now! And plan to attend the upcoming "Breakfast with a Leader" to learn more about the Valles Caldera Action group.

Lastly, our League did a stellar job preparing voters for the March 4 Municipal Election. Please see articles on a "first-time voter" and the success of our Voter Services group.

Cheers,

Donna H. Reynolds

Give the gift of
League membership.
See page 11.





Women's History Month Project Update

Honor the achievements of women by signing up now to attend the Women's History Month Breakfast event on March 29, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Hilton Hotel downtown. *Kathryn Flynn, Executive Director of the National New Deal Preservation Association, will be our Speaker*, introducing a New Mexico Woman of History to be honored at the breakfast. Ms. Flynn is a former Deputy Secretary of State who has authored three books including "The New Deal: 75th Anniversary Celebration." Our selected honoree hails from this time period and Ms. Flynn will give us information and perspective on her accomplishments here in New Mexico. The cost for the Women's History Month Breakfast is \$25 with a portion underwriting the overall project and student door prizes. **RSVP today by calling the League office at 982-9766 or email rsvp@lwvsfc.org**

The Women's History Month Committee has recruited over 25 career women who will hold mentoring sessions with Santa Fe Public School 7th grade female students in March. A mentor's guide will be forwarded shortly to ensure that mentors and students have a gratifying experience. Each student will be asked to invite a guest to the breakfast event and the New Mexico History Museum has agreed to offer a museum tour for students and their guests immediately following the breakfast.

Women's History Month is celebrated across the country so please join us to highlight the achievements of a New Mexico Women of History along with local career women mentors, students, student family guests, and Leaguers at the breakfast on March 29th.

What's the Most Unusual Job You've Had? We need to know as we'd like to create a Career Bingo Game featuring past jobs of our very own League members. At the breakfast, League members will sport a member badge and students will query them about their past job. If you plan to attend the Women's History Month Breakfast, send your unusual job along with your name to president@lwvsfc.org and we will make you a part of the game. We need at least 24 League participants to complete the game cards. One lucky student will win a door prize when she achieves a Career Bingo!

-Donna Reynolds



Breakfast with a Leader Tom Ribe, Caldera Action Executive Director

Please join your League friends for an upcoming Breakfast with a Leader event on April 15, 2014 beginning at 8:15 a.m. at the Swiss Bakery & Pastries located at 401 South Guadalupe. Tom Ribe, Caldera Action Executive Director, will be on hand to provide an update on the Valles Caldera National Preserve and efforts to transfer this exceptional preserve to the National Park Service. The Valles Caldera National Preserve in northern New Mexico's Jemez Mountains is a magnificent natural and cultural landscape found in an exceptional geological site that provides world class recreation with a rich Pueblo and Hispanic history. Tom shares that his mother was an active League of Women Voters member, so he will feel right at home with our group!

-Donna Reynolds

Recycle *The Voter* each month.



Before you push the “delete” button on your computer, consider forwarding your electronic copy of *The Voter* to family or friends who might like to read it. This is one way to get the word out about the good work the League does in our community.

Same thing with the printed copy of *The Voter*. Ask household members to take a look at it. Snail mail your copy to a friend or family member.

We can be our own best advertisement.



Protect La Bajada Mesa

On March 20, the SF County Commission will hold a hearing on the proposed basalt strip mine on the Mesa. There are many unanswered questions about the mine’s impact on the environment and quality of life in SFC. The LWVSFC has written to the BCC to request further study and more information. (You can read the letter at lwvsfc.org).

Plan to attend the March 20 hearing at 4 PM at the Commission’s Chambers, 102 Grant Ave. More information at SaveLaBajada.com.

- Pat Hawkins



Member Spotlight

Lynn Gary

Nominating Committee Voter Registration

I joined the League of Women Voters in February 2013. While I was working at the Secretary of State's Bureau of Elections (1995-1997), League members impressed me with their range of knowledge, their thoroughness, and their commitment to democracy. Subsequently, while I was with the Santa Fe County Clerk's Bureau of Elections (2006-2010), I once again saw League women in action.

At both the state and the county Bureaus of Elections, I saw how important voter education is. Every state has different election laws, and within a state, elections laws can change and shift from year to year. It's important for people to know what they need to do to keep their voting registration up to date, what the process is for absentee balloting, etc.

A few months after I resigned from the county Bureau, while attending a League Forum on the 2013 Community College election, I saw the League membership application on a table. "Yes!" I exclaimed. This would be a way for me to help with voter education. So I signed up that night.

A couple of months later, Marcy Litzenberg put out a call for volunteers to help with registering seniors at Capital High School during a large senior assembly. "Yes!" I said again. Direct action and contact with prospective voters. Marcy asked if I'd help her the next week at the Academy of

Technology and the Arts, in their history classes. We had a marvelous time. In the classrooms we had much better communication with the seniors about voting rights and how to register. And the percentage of seniors registering was much better.

Late last summer I met with Marcy and offered to take on the high school senior project. We agreed that the classroom contact was important. So began my work that resulted in teams of League women and men, as well as volunteers from the other organization I work for the NAACP, going into 5 area high schools, working with 6 teachers, and 16 classes. This was indeed an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

There are two other schools we did not get to during the autumn registration: Santa Fe High and Pojoaque High. I hope to get to those seniors by sometime in April. Stay tuned for that.

I'm from Louisiana originally, growing up in New Iberia and Baton Rouge. I spent 3 years in St. Joseph Convent in New Orleans and received BA and MA in English literature from Univ. of Southwestern Louisiana (Lafayette). I spent 8 years in Binghamton, NY, after a short-lived pursuit of a PH.D. at State U of New York. In 1976, I took the opportunity to do some U.S. travel and intended to return to New York. Well, a magical event changed THAT plan.

(continued on page 5)



This just in: Evidence of effectiveness of the LWVSFC's voter registration program in local schools

Student Eva Allison went to vote for the first time on February 17, and it was a very good experience.

"When I went up to the table to sign in, the woman wrote up my information, then looked up at me and had to ask if I was really 18. The woman who then scanned my card was very excited for me and congratulated me on my first time voting."

- Meredith C. Tilp, AP Government and
NM History teacher, Capital High School



Eva Allison
Capital High School student

Member Spotlight *(continued from page 4)*

I'd originally left Louisiana for New York wanting a crisp, northern, four-season climate. I'd had all those youthful years in Louisiana – hot and wet, or cold and wet. Binghamton had four seasons, but was NOT crisp. Snow fell from October to May. When I arrived in Taos in late November 1976, I was able to meet Lady Dorothy Brett – who came to New Mexico with D.H. Lawrence. I'd done my thesis on Lawrence, and knew his connection with Taos, and that the Brett was still there.

When I left her little adobe that afternoon, there was a rainbow around the nearly setting sun, and a few flakes in the air. "I know what snow means," I thought, after all those lake-effect, snow-belt years up north. "I'm heading to California tomorrow!" But, the next day revealed two feet of brilliant snow on the ground and piercingly beautiful blue skies. I found it magical - here was my crisp, northern climate this was what I was looking for! I've been in New Mexico ever since – a little over 37 years. What a marvelous place to call home.

Since my arrival I've worked in myriad areas: radio announcer, gallery work, office manager for RC Gorman's ceramic studio, marketing director for Historic Taos Inn, where I co-founded the Taos Spring Arts Celebration, executive director of Volunteer Involvement Service, 3 state offices, and the SF County Elections office.

I've always been aware of politics. I took part in civil rights marches in Louisiana in the sixties and Stop WIPP efforts in Taos in the seventies. And I'm delighted that the League offers me a direct way to be involved in our democracy.

-Lynn Gary

Minutes
LWVSFC Action & Advocacy Committee
Monthly Meeting
Noon, February 6, 2014



Sustainable Land Use Code - Chris stated that the adopted version of the code is now posted on the County website. She will continue to ask Penny Ellis-Green for the proposed timetable for the next steps in the process and will continue to monitor progress.

Indigent Care Fund/Centennial Care – Judy Williams stated that there are currently 3 bills related to indigent medical care funding in the legislature. Senator Nancy Rodriguez is sponsoring the one backed by the Association of Counties; it gives back only half of the 2nd 1/8 of the GRT so maintains some funding for county community health services. It has passed out of committee and will be heard. Two other bills, one sponsored by Sen. John Arthur Smith and one sponsored by Rep. Jim Trujillo, have been filed, but at this time Judy was not aware of specific provisions of each one. Judy noted that none of these bills are on the LWVNM Action priority list.

County Ethics Board – Adair Waldenberg, as Chair, presented the Ethics Board’s quarterly report at its January meeting. She reported that presentation of the revised – and strengthened – ethics policy to the BCC has been delayed. She noted that there will be two hearings on the proposal but she does not expect any action until March. Adair also said that no cases have come before the Ethics Board yet.

ECRB (formerly listed as City Campaign Contribution Proposals) – Karen Heldmeyer reviewed the most recent case decided by the board: Jeff Green’s complaint against Joe Maestas. She indicated there may be more cases brought after the municipal election.

Old Business

Water Policy Advisory Committee – Chris reported that no meetings are scheduled. The schedule will be monitored; when the committee becomes active, we’ll determine what resources the committee can assign.

SFPS – Jody Larson and Nikki Harnish summarized the discussion at the 2/3 Board meeting about the proposed Education Technology Note (ETN). The SFPS attorney has determined that, based on a 1997 constitutional amendment, the issue cannot be put before voters as a mill levy. If it is presented to the voters, it would need to be structured as a General Obligation bond. A decision on how to proceed will be made at the 2/18 SFPS board meeting. Jody referenced a survey done by the administration; results are not yet posted on the SFPS website. The PowerPoint presentation on the ETN is online, however, in the board packet (at the very end of the electronic version).

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Minutes, Action and Advocacy *(continued from page 6)*

The survey showed broad support for the ETN. Committee members asked Jody and Nikki a number of questions about the specifics of the proposal, but few details are known at this point. They did say that the proposal does not require Apple products, contrary to a recent *New Mexican* article.

After the meeting, Nikki provided these links for further information:

http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/briefs/local-news-in-brief-feb/article_d1dd6243-ce08-575f-87f1-6450c2d77436.html

On the sfps site re ETN. <http://www.sfps.info/index.aspx?nid=1954>

Disclosure of Political Donations – In Neva Van Peski’s absence, Karen Heldmeyer reported that Neva still plans to gather more information over the next several months, possibly leading up to a new state study.

New Business

La Bajada Basalt Mine Proposal – The committee discussed the proposal as reported in the *New Mexican*. Karen Heldmeyer reported that she learned from County Commissioner Chavez that the agreement to supply water was made without the knowledge of the BCC. Karen also noted that, based on the experience of extracting basalt from the county landfill site, the market for the product is currently weak. The proposal will be on the agenda of the CDRC at its meeting at 4pm 2/20 (County Commission Chambers); Chris will email action committee members early that week to confirm that at least one League representative will attend. (This issue was tabled and is now scheduled for March 20.)

City Proposals on Hospital Studies – Judy Williams mentioned that two proposals to create committees to study Christus St. Vincent and related health-care issues in Santa Fe will come up for discussion at the 2/12 City Council meeting. She noted that no sponsor of the proposals has discussed their scope or structure with county health officials. At Commissioner Stefanics request, the Health Policy and Planning Commission (which Judy chairs) sent a recommendation to the BCC that any study should be postponed because of the many changes now being implemented, *e.g.*, Centennial Care and the ACA. The HPPC also recommended that county health department staff be included.

-Chris Furlanetto



Nonfiction Book Club Selection – The Price of Inequality

The League will hold its second Nonfiction Book Club meeting on April 17th at Collected Works beginning at 10:30 a.m. Based on input from our members, please read the following selection for the book club, “The Price of Inequality: How Today’s Divided Society Endangers Our Future” by Joseph E. Stiglitz. The book is a forceful argument against America’s vicious circle of growing inequality by the Nobel Prize–winning economist. See you in April and be ready to discuss!

-Donna Reynolds



VOTER SERVICES SHINES DURING 2014 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Every two years the city of Santa Fe elects City Councilors, and every four years the Mayor's job is up for grabs. The ballot for the 2014 Municipal Election on March 4th included eleven candidates for four City Council positions, three Mayoral candidates, and a long list of proposed Charter Amendments. Confusing for the voters, but fertile ground for the LWVSFC.

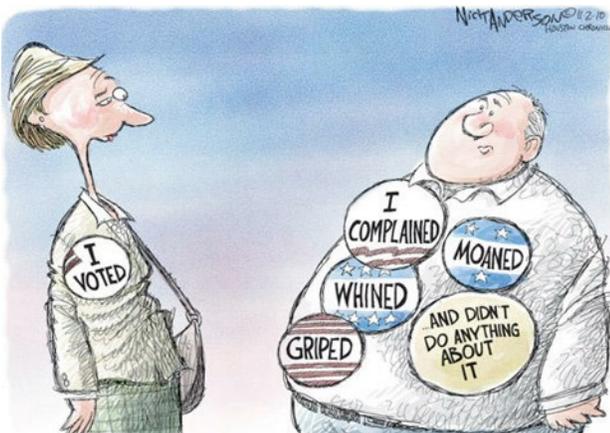
Once again, our Voters' Guide, published in the New Mexican on Thursday, February 6, and our three Candidate Forums, held on February 10, 11 and 19, provided much-needed information about who the candidates were, what their positions were on local issues, and what they proposed to do if elected. With 30,000 Voters' Guide in distribution and standing-room only attendance at our candidate forums, it's safe to say the League, once again, stepped up to the plate.

This year, perhaps more than in the past, the community was hungry for information to help them decide which candidates to vote for. The barrage of campaign activities and lobbying began very early this time around...well before the holidays. Accusations and insinuations flew. So-called "special interest groups" held forums and endorsed candidates; PACs got involved, with or without permission; and campaign finances became an issue, even for the candidates who chose to be publicly funded.

The League's reputation for providing non-partisan, unbiased information about political issues serves us well in situations like this. People look to us to provide a venue where the candidates and issues can be examined based on facts, not "spin." The New Mexican trusts us enough to print our Voters' Guide as a public service. The Santa Fe Public Library has enough confidence in us to co-sponsor our candidate forums. The AAUW provides volunteers to staff the forums and funds for advertising them. The support we get from those organizations saves us thousands of dollars, while also allowing us to reach a broader audience than we otherwise could.

The cost of Voter Services for the 2014 Municipal Election? About \$1,000. The value of providing authoritative, unbiased information to educate Santa Fe's voters? Priceless.

-Marcy Litzenberg, Voter Services Chair





Board Meeting Highlights Meeting of February 12, 2014

President Reynolds reported that there are now 23 mentors for the Women's History Project; we are partnering with the NM History Museum.

President Reynolds obtained a new desk for the office, which allows the space to be used for meetings and other activities.

Chris Furlanetto reported on the forum planned for February 17, in which the League is partnering with the Neighborhood Forum on city charter amendments.

Judy Williams prepared a draft letter to be sent regarding opposition to the La Bajada mine. The Board agreed to send the letter, with President Reynolds signature, to the Santa Fe County Commission.

Judy Williams reported that no new studies were proposed at the planning meeting. The three current studies will be continued.

The LWVSFC will concur with two LWVUS studies which include opposition to human trafficking and the Campaign Finance Reform study.

Janet Lincoln reported that 34 members did not renew.

Marcy Litzenberg reported that the two forums done on February 10 and 11 were well attended and well run. The Voter's Guide was available at the forums.

Judy Williams reported that there will be a tour and lunch at Santa Fe Community College on April 8.

President Reynolds will represent us at the LWVUS conference in June in Dallas.

- Pat Pedersen

League of Women Voters of
Santa Fe County
2013-2014 Calendar

2014

Mar. 29: Breakfast - Women's History
Month Event

Apr. 8: 11:30-1:30 - Santa Fe Community
College Visit and Lunch

Apr. 15: 8-10 - Breakfast with a Leader: Valles
Caldera Action President

May 7: 11-2 - Annual Meeting and Luncheon

May 17: LWVNM Council, Santa Fe

Check www.lwvsfc.org for locations and updates.

Regular meetings:

Action-Advocacy Regularly meets 1st Thursday of
each month at the Rio Chama Steakhouse,
414 Old Santa Fe Trail.

New members are always welcome!

LWVSFC board 2nd Wednesday of each month

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY
MEMBER INFORMATION FORM FOR USE ONLY BY THE LWVSFC**

Date _____ Name (please print) _____

Address _____ Phone: _____

Email _____ Alternate phone _____

Membership is paid annually. Our membership year is September 1 – August 31 and includes membership in the New Mexico league (LWVNM) and the national league (LWVUS).

___ Individual Membership \$52 ___ Family Membership \$78 ___ Student Membership \$30

___ Contribution to general fund (by separate check, payable to LWVSFC)

___ Tax-deductible contribution (Please make check payable to LWVSFC Education Fund)

I would like to receive the VOTER (League newsletter) by: ___ Email ___ Regular Mail

___ Check here if you do NOT want your contact information listed in the League annual directory.

When did you first join the League of Women Voters? 70s 80s 90s 2000s

Where? _____

Employment Status: Full Time Part Time Retired Current or former _____

What issues are of most interest to you? *Circle the most of interest.* City Issues County Issues

Federal Issues International Issues Women's Rights Gun Control Civil Liberties Education

Healthcare Ethics in Government Election Reform Immigration International Relations

Natural Resources Environment Transparency in Gov't. Climate Change Elections

Involvement in the LWVSFC Very Active Somewhat Active Mostly Dues Paying Support

As a grassroots organization, we depend on the volunteer efforts of our members. Please indicate how you might help with the League's work.

___ Membership ___ Newsletter writing, editing, mailing ___ Public Relations

___ Voters Guide ___ Voter Registration ___ Forums (Candidate & Issues)

___ Website ___ Arrangements of events ___ Fund Raising

___ Help in Office 2-4Xs/month ___ Serve on Board ___ Serve on Study Committee

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE LWVSFC, 1472 ST. FRANCIS DR., SANTA FE NM 87501

June 4, 2013



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