



The Voter

1472 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505-4038

Phone: 505-982-9766 www.lwvsfc.org

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Message from the President “Warranted Pride”

When I was a child and adolescent, the community in which I lived saw pride as something that “came before a fall.” We were taught that being conceited, stuck up, braggadocious, holier than thou (for those with a Christian background), essentially prideful was deplorable. That message imprinted strongly in my consciousness.



Despite the early cultural training, I am now actively embracing pride as I reflect on the June convention in Washington, D.C., of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. For it was an event that inspired pride. Pride in the League’s history. Pride in the League’s accomplishments. Pride in the League’s mission. And pride in the community standing that characterizes today’s League(s).

As members and volunteers, we can all be proud that this large group of delegates from across the country worked together to move the League forward into new arenas. The LWVUS Board recommended and the Convention approved language that would make the League’s policy of non-partisanship less confusing to the non-League public. The Convention approved a by-laws change that lowered the age for the League’s voting members to 16 and changed the definition of a member from a citizen to a person.

Pride comes from a recognition that the Convention was addressed by multiple experts with national credentials, and they all lauded and applauded the work of the League. These people who are paid “big bucks” for their professional services were actually delighted to be included on the convention’s program.

It is a source of pride that diverse populations were in attendance at the convention. Men, women, teenagers from all faith communities, ethnic backgrounds, and socio-economic situations filled the massive hall with ideas and energy.

There is pride to be found in the fact that business was conducted without rancor, even when points of disagreement surfaced. As our world becomes more consumed by hateful speech, anonymous attacks via social media, and polarization of thought and action, the League stands/stood as a beacon of civility.

I could go on, but that would likely tax your ability to stay engaged in the conversation. So, I will close with a forthright statement that I believe in this instance, an immodest response was warranted. I will relish the swelling sense of pride rather than feel guilty about it.

-Suzanne Schmidt

By-Laws Change Mandated at National Convention



In a ruling by the Chair of the LWVUS Convention, President Elisabeth McNamara, amendments passed to change LWVUS By-Laws automatically change local League by-laws. As President McNamara explained, local Leagues are mandated to have the first 3 sections of their by-laws match those of the LWVUS. Therefore, no action by local Leagues is required to make the sets of by-laws consistent with one another.

-Suzanne Schmidt



VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE FOR SANTA FE COUNTY

Certainly you would all have to agree that “getting out the vote” and providing an opportunity for citizens to vote is one of our major activities - after all we are the League of Women VOTERS. We can create an awareness around the activity of voting by providing opportunities for potential voters here in Santa Fe County to become registered before the registration deadline, October 11th, to vote in the General Election, November 8, 2016.

In 2008, 6 million Americans didn't vote because they missed the registration deadline or didn't know how to register. In 2016, we want to make sure no one is left out. We have a heightened awareness in a General Election year with candidates for President of the United States leading the ballot. Let's capitalize on this opportunity to swell the roles of voters in Santa Fe County.

We have started a voter registration drive at the Southside Farmers Market held every Tuesday afternoon from 3 - 6 p.m. We are there from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Our presence is welcomed by the shoppers and those who are already registered voters are reminded of their responsibility to vote in the General Election.

We want to take advantage of having the presidential race at the top of the ticket to inform voters of other offices on the ballot, of the voters' guide to be published in The New Mexican, and of information on our website.

We are planning increased activity on **National Voter Registration Day**, which is set for the fourth Tuesday of September by resolution of the National Association of Secretaries of State. This year it is **September 27th**. Change the Conversation: National Voter Registration Day will be an opportunity to put our differences aside and celebrate the rights that unite us as Americans.

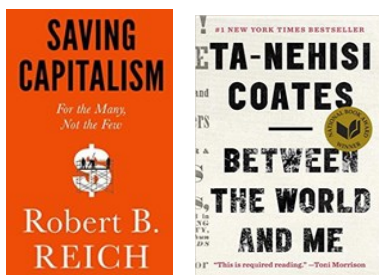
The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County has 139 members. We know of 28 who are 3rd party registrars. There may be others we have not identified, and I'm fairly certain we have additional members who would like to become voter registrars.

Whom might we target? Santa Fe is an area where people are frequently moving from other parts of the country and/or changing locations/addresses within the county. Both of these events trigger a need to register or update voter registration.

Help us determine where and how to best reach potential voters in Santa Fe County. Being present at the Farmers Market is one venue, having voter registration tables at the libraries is another. I would very much like to hear your ideas of where and when we should be present to capture the most people. Keep in mind, we can only be successful with this activity if you step forward to participate.

Contact me at: league@lwvsfc.org. Let me know if you have been trained by the County Clerk to register voters and send me your ideas about where and when you would like to see us in action.

-Ann Coulston
Adult Voter Registration Chair
(for Voter Services)



October Nonfiction Book Club Selections

The League will hold its next Nonfiction Book Club meeting on Thursday, October 20, 2016, at Collected Works Bookstore & Coffeehouse beginning at 10:30 a.m. At the July Book Club meeting, members chose two books to ready for the October meeting: **Saving Capitalism: For the Many Not the Few** by Robert B. Reich and **Between the World and Me** by Ta-Nehisi Coates. A review by Publishers Weekly of Robert Reich's book states, "*in readily understandable language, Reich explores private property, bankruptcy, inflated Wall Street salaries, different definitions of freedom, the 'rise of the working poor,' and the decline of institutions such as unions that were once able to challenge economic elites.*" A review by The New York Observer on the Ta-Nehisi Coates selection notes, *hailed by Toni Morrison as "required reading," a bold and personal literary exploration of America's racial history by 'the single best writer on the subject of race in the United States.'* Two great selections, so get reading, and we will see you in October!

-Donna Reynolds



LWVSFC General Policies (Adopted 07/13/16)

Purpose and Policy (Bylaws, Article II, Sections 1 and 2)

The purpose of the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County (LWVSFC) shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government. The LWVSFC may take action on selected local government measures and policies in the public interest in conformity with the League of Women Voters of the United States. It shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

Membership

1. Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League of Women Voters shall be eligible for membership.
2. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County shall be voting members of the local, state and national Leagues (LWVSFC, LWVNM and LWVUS). All others who join the League shall be associate members.
3. The LWVSFC membership year is September 1 through August 31. New members joining April through August will have their membership recognized through the following calendar year, thus receiving a 13-17 month membership. Members who fail to pay their dues within two months after they become payable shall be dropped from the membership rolls.
4. The Membership Directory is solely for the use of LWVSFC members. It should be used for League business only.
5. The League does not discriminate and works to diversify its membership.

Nonpartisan and Political Activity Policy

1. The LWVSFC Board is responsible for maintaining the organization's nonpartisanship.
2. The President, the Voter Service Director, the chair of the candidate forums, the chair of voter registration and the editor of the Voters Guide may not take an active, visible role in a campaign for a political candidate.
3. All other members, including Board members, may engage in the following activities: signing nominating petitions, serving as election officials, serving as clerical volunteers for candidates for office.
4. LWVSFC members participating in League-sponsored activities and meetings must not reveal their personal partisanship. Members in leadership roles are responsible for ensuring the nonpartisanship of the event.

5. No petitions and/or campaign materials are allowed at LWVSFC-sponsored meetings and activities unless they are approved in advance by the president and/or the Board.
6. LWVSFC members may serve on governmental commissions and/or advisory committees at their own discretion. If the appointment is League-related, the appointee should be fully aware of all League positions that relate to the commission's or committee's responsibilities.
7. Board members who wish to engage in political activities beyond those listed above should first subject those activities to their own scrutiny, and, in case of question, should discuss them with the president and/or the Board.
8. Any Board member who plans to run for elected office should pro forma submit his/her resignation to the Board. The Board should consider the visibility of the Board position in deciding whether or not to accept the resignation.
9. Any candidate for elective office who continues his/her Board membership must not use his/her Board position in campaign appearances or literature.
10. LWVSFC members who are candidates for public office should not participate in the planning of Voter Service activities.
11. There should be no special notice to the membership of the candidacy of a LWVSFC member, either in the VOTER or by Constant Contact.

Communications Policy

1. The LWVSFC speaks with one voice and supports current positions in effect at the national, state, and local levels of the League even though individuals or Board members may have different views. The president of the LWVSFC is the sole spokesperson for the LWVSFC unless she or he delegates that responsibility.
2. All requests for statements or spokespersons should be referred to the LWVSFC president and/or Board with no prior commitment for fulfilling the requests.
3. Before speaking on behalf of the LWVSFC, members must request the approval of the president and/or Board, who will review the content of the proposed presentation to ensure that League principles and positions are not compromised.
4. Once the League (local, state, or national) takes a position on an issue, members may not identify themselves as LWSFC members in publicly expressing an opinion that is in opposition to the League position.
5. In advocating for or against non-League issues, members must not appear to be representing the LWVSFC; they must identify their interest as personal.
6. The Board has approved the following statements for use by members who wish to make a statement on behalf of the LWVSFC in public gatherings. No prior approval is needed:

"Keep our democracy fit...exercise your right to vote."

"The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County urges you to remember that your vote truly counts. A trip to the polls is an investment in our democracy."

7. All materials distributed under the League name (e.g., press releases, official letters, grant applications, public statements) must have the president's and/or the Board's approval. Routine correspondence such as emails or letters regarding logistics, requests for information, or thank-you notes does not require approval.
8. The president and/or the Board can approve standard language to be used in recurring correspondence, such as membership solicitations, Voters Guide copy, Press Releases, the VOTER, etc.
9. Authors of official correspondence/documents must submit copies to the Director of Digital Experience for archiving and possible inclusion on the LWVSFC website, in social media communications, etc.
10. Electronic League documents should be backed-up using a cloud-based storage provider. Access to these stored documents should be assigned to appropriate League Board members and officers to ensure availability.
11. All League communications and publications will bear the League name, mailing address, phone and website.

Collaborations, Partnerships, Co-sponsorships, Etc.

1. Collaborating to effect change is part of the League's vision of what makes democracy work. In that spirit, the LWVSFC shall seek to participate in community collaborations that are consistent with League principles, positions, and policies. The collaboration may be short or long-term and shall be limited to issue-related advocacy, education of the public, candidate forums, and/or facilitation. Community forums and candidate forums must be conducted according to League rules.
2. Collaborations shall be approved by the Board and a LWVSFC member must be approved by the Board as a designated representative. The representative may serve in a leadership position in the collaborative but may publicly speak only to League approved positions on any issue(s) within the collaborative. The representative must be available to participate in required work of the collaborative, actively engage LWVSFC membership in collaboration related activities, and report regularly to the Board on collaboration activity.

League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County
1472 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505
www.lwvsfc.org
505-982-9766



Welcome New Members:

Bonnie Coleman-Iapoce
Karla Harby
Helen Molanphy



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

Calendar 2016-2017

September

September 14, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
[September XX or XX, General Election Candidate Forum\(s\)](#)
September 22, 5:30 District Attorneys Candidates Forum, Downtown Library, 145 Washington
September 23, 5-7 PM: Suffrage Picnic-Old Santa Fe Trails Building, 1100 Old Santa Fe Trail
September 24, 11-2:30 LWVNM Board meeting, Santa Fe
September 27, Nat'l Voter Registration Day

October

October 5, 10-Noon: [Unit Meeting](#) – LWVNM Charter School Regulation Consensus Meeting, Santa Fe County Health and Human Services Conference Room, 2052 S Galisteo Street
October 8, 1:30 p.m., Eldorado Entertainment Space: Iron-Jawed Angels (film, U.S. suffrage movement)
October 14, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting (this is Friday)
October 18, 11:30-1: General Meeting—"Keep It in the Ground", Rebecca Sobel, WILD EARTH GUARDIANS, Hilton
October 20, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club, Collected Works Bookstore, 202 Galisteo

November

November 8, Election Day
November 9, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
November 12, 11-3: LWVNM Board meeting, Socorro
November 17, 11-1: Meow Wolf Tour

December

December 10, Time TBD: LWVNM Citizen Advocate Workshop, Santa Fe, NM Roundhouse
December TBD: LWVSFC Board meeting
December 14, 11:30-1:30: General Meeting Holiday Lunch – Author Lois Rudnick, Hilton

January

January 11, 11:30-1:30: General Meeting
Legislative Preview, Hilton
January 17, noon: New Mexico Legislature convenes
January 18, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
January 21, 11-2:30: LWVNM Board meeting, Santa Fe
[January XX or XX, SFPS School Board and SFCC Board Candidate Forum\(s\)](#)
January 31, 10-12: [Unit Meeting](#)-Program Planning

February

February 7, SFPS School & SFCC Boards Election Day
February 8, 5:30-7:30: Legislative Reception, Garrett's Desert Inn
February 8, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
February 9, League Day at the Legislature

March – Women's History Month

March 8, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
[TBD: Sunshine Week Event](#)
March 11, 11-3: LWVNM Board meeting, Santa Fe
March 18, noon: New Mexico Legislature ends
[TBD: Women's History Month Event](#)
March 29, 10-12 PM: New Mexico History Museum Tour

April

[April 4 or 5, 9-11: Unit Meeting – LWVSFC Economic Development Study Consensus meeting \(Jody Larson\)](#)
April 12, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
April 20, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club, Collected Works, 202 Galisteo

May

[May 5, 11:00-1:30: Annual Meeting, Hilton](#)
May 11, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
May 20-21, LWVNM Convention – Santa Fe, Hilton

Regular meetings:

Action-Advocacy 1st Thursday of each month, Tiny's Restaurant (Susan Mertes)
LWVSFC Board meetings 2nd Wednesday of each month @ NM Bank & Trust, St Michael's Drive

[Unit Meetings](#) are only for League members

Check www.lwvsfc.org for locations and updates.

**LWVNM and other organization functions in italics*

LWVSFC Voter Registration Protocol

- Voter Registrars are the public face of the League for many people in the community. Cordial interactions with potential voters are critical for the LWVSFC's maintenance of good will. It may be difficult to be friendly without hinting at partisanship – indeed, this may be the greatest challenge for a Registrar. Above all, any negative reactions to comments, remarks, or other interactions with a member of the public must be avoided.
- All Voter Registration team members should be members of the League of Women Voters. If for any reason a non-member is helping with registration, the team leader must assure that the person understands and agrees to follow League protocols and to exemplify League nonpartisanship.
- The Voter Registrar will ask two questions prior to initiating completion of the form with a potential voter: whether the person is a U.S. citizen, and if he or she has/knows/or can immediately access his/her Social Security number.
- If the prospective voter does not have all information needed to complete the form, he/she should be referred to the County Clerk's office/website or the New Mexico Secretary of State's website. Incomplete voter registration forms will NOT be sent home with the person who wishes to register, but will remain in the hands of the LWVSFC Voter Registrar for disposal.
- If there is a mistake made on a form by the person wishing to register, that person shall initial any changes made while in the presence of the Voter Registrar. Registrars shall not make any changes outside the presence of the person wishing to register.
- Any spoiled forms will be retained by the Registrar, and a new form will be used to complete the registration process. The prospective voter will fill out the Voter Registration Form, with the Voter Registrar serving as a resource for clarification of what is required on the form, unless the prospective voter requests the Registrar fill in the form for him/her. [Some individuals may have disabilities or difficulty writing]. Registrars should ensure the writing is legible, and may offer to fill in a new form if it is not legible.
- Each Third Party Registrar will review the prospective voter's form and ensure that it is complete and legible *while the registrant is present*.
- A printed list of current candidates with their party affiliation may be provided; however, any discussion of candidates or parties may be construed as partisan behavior, and is therefore strongly discouraged. It is the Registrar's personal responsibility to assure that completed forms are turned in to the Clerk's office within 48 hours (excluding weekends or holidays). A team member may turn in all the forms signed during a registration event, but all Registrars must remain mindful of this legal requirement.



This LWVSFC Registration protocol approved by the Executive Committee of the Board, LWVSFC, July 2016.

LWVSFC Members Hear Specifics of Verde Plan



Beth Beloff

You have perhaps read in the *Santa Fe New Mexican* about Mayor Javier Gonzales's Verde Plan. You may even have attended a City Council meeting where the plan and its financial implications were discussed. On August 11th members of the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County got the information from "the horse's mouth", as the old saying goes.

Mayor Gonzales and Sustainable Santa Fe Commission Chair Beth Beloff explored the challenges for Santa Fe that prompted the Mayor to commit to this particular investigation of solutions which he calls the Verde Plan. The Verde Plan is designed to address the intersection of poverty and sustainability in Santa Fe. As Mayor Gonzales noted in his remarks, the most impoverished in our community also suffer the most from the negative effects of environmental stress.



League member Maj-Britt Eagle introduces Mayor Gonzales



Former Mayor David Coss, Mayor Jarier Gonzales, Santa Fe County League President Suzanne Schmidt

Ms. Beloff energized her audience with a description of the vision that motivates the Sustainable Santa Fe Commission and its mission to bring possible solutions to present to the Mayor. The Commission, whose meetings are open to the public, is a group of volunteers devoted to compiling recommendations for making Santa Fe a greener city, a city that is easily traversed via public transportation, and a city that is welcoming to both visitor and resident alike.

Both Mayor Gonzales and Ms. Beloff willingly answered numerous questions from an engaged audience. As League member and organizer of the event Maj-Britt Eagle outlined in her introduction of the Mayor, we all know there is a problem, a threat to our planet from global climate change. Now the issue is to identify solutions and move forward to implement them as a community.



Mayor Gonzales takes questions from the audience

The League would like to acknowledge the Mayor for bringing this issue to the forefront and for his willingness to engage with the League in an examination of the specifics of his plan. To Ms. Beloff and her team, who share our commitment to volunteerism, we applaud your dedication of time and energy.



Audience members

*Text—Suzanne Schmidt
Photos—Nancy Baker*

Voter Services

LWVSFC Voter Services will be very busy this election year. We want and need a lot of help from our members. Here are some activities you might consider:

Become a **Voter Registrar** and help with our registration activities. You can suggest events/venues, go and register voters, even hold your own registration drive among your neighbors and friends. Contact Ann Coulston (anncoulston@gmail.com) for adult voter registration or Virginia McCallum (vleemcc@gmail.com) if you're interested in registering high school students.

Our Website – LWVSFC.org – Please take a look at the website. We need many critical eyes to tell us if content is hard to find, missing, not well presented, a dead link, etc. Your criticisms and observations are vital to making and keeping our website usable and a valuable resource.

Help put together the **Voter Guide** – We contact candidates, send them questions, and follow up to get their responses to keep a publication schedule. Sometimes we *beg* them to get their responses in. We prepare a lot of copy that is general information for voters. We need keen eyes to proof read, suggest edits, suggest content we haven't thought of. If you'd like to help, contact Suzanne Ronneau (sronneau@bellsouth.net).

Help with **Candidate Forums** – We have a forum scheduled for the District Attorneys on September 22 at 5:30, and hope to schedule a couple more forums. We need people to help with contacting candidates to arrange their attendance (especially if you know them), set-up and take-down (i.e. arranging chairs, spreading table cloths), collect questions from the audience, screen questions, and be there to greet candidates and audience members. If you'd like to help, contact Suzanne Ronneau (sronneau@bellsouth.net).

Other assignments include being present on election day as a poll watcher to make sure no voter is intimidated or treated unfairly, and to observe ballot counting at the end of the day. Contact Suzanne Ronneau if you'd like to help with this kind of effort.

–Suzanne Ronneau



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA FE COUNTY

NEW MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL FORM

(Please complete fully even if renewing.)

Date: _____ Name: (please print) _____

Address: (please include zip) _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ **DO NOT** include my contact information in the annual Membership Handbook Directory listing.

Membership checks made payable to LWVSFC: (Please mail form with check to Attn: Membership Chair at address at bottom.)

_____ Individual and Associate membership: \$54 (Associate members - non-U.S. citizen, and cannot vote on League matters.)

_____ Family membership: \$80 (Individual plus one family member) Family member name: _____

• For separate listing of Family member in Handbook directory, please list phone and email:

Family member phone: _____ Family member email: _____

_____ Student membership: \$30 (For students 18-25 years and currently enrolled in accredited institution.)

(Membership is paid annually for the term September 1 through the following August 31. It includes state (LWVNM) and national (LWVUS) dues. If you are joining between April and August of any year, your membership will extend through the following year to September 1.)

• **Donation check payable to LWVSFC** - (Please note "General Fund" on your check.)

_____ Unrestricted general fund contribution (**not tax deductible**): \$ _____ Check # _____

• **Donation check payable to LWVSFC** - (Please note "Education Fund" on your check.)

_____ Education Fund (**tax deductible**): \$ _____ Check # _____

• Can you attend mid-day meetings, luncheons and other activities during the week? Yes ____ No ____

Volunteer Interests - LWVSFC success is based on the assistance of member volunteers. We welcome and encourage your help!
(Circle all that apply):

Voter Services:

• Voter registration • H.S. voter registration • Info tables

(Are you a trained Voter Registrar? Yes ____ No ____) (If No, walk-in training is available at County Clerk office downtown.)

• Monitor public meetings • Candidate forums/meetings • Lobby government officials (w/LWVNM)

Organizational Support:

Help at events • Development/fundraising • Membership • VOTER content • Website • Staff League office • Board member

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE LWVSFC, 1472 ST. FRANCIS DR., SANTA FE NM 87505

505-982-9766



www.lwvsfc.org

18-April-2016



League of Women Voters of
Santa Fe County
1472 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505-4038
www.lwvsfc.org
email: league@lwvsfc.org

