



The Voter

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

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

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Officers

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Miriam Ries (*The Voter*)
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Nominating Committee

Donna Reynolds, Chair
Sharon Chastain
Patricia Pedersen
Marcy Litzenberg
Barbara Conroy

Finance/Budget Committee

(appointed by the board)
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Brenda Beard
Laurie Glaze
Judy Williams
Berit Leonard (ex officio)

Executive Committee

Suzanne Schmidt
Rosemary Greenlee
Berit Leonard
Susan Mertes
Miriam Ries

Leadership, Service, Support? *by Suzanne Schmidt, President*



I heard someone say after this November’s general election, “The League should have done more to encourage voter turnout.” My internal reaction was, “REALLY???” And that particular very common, dismissive response is one I hate only slightly less than the snarky, “Just sayin’.” So, for me to go there in my thinking was testament to my astonished disbelief.

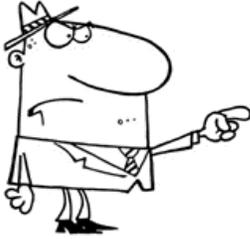
What more could the League have done? Should we have published the Voter Guide multiple times? Should Candidate Forums have been repeated over and over? Should we have knocked on every voter’s door? Should I, representing the LWVSFC, have begged to do more speeches and radio call-in shows addressing the importance of voting and what keeps people from going to the polls??? And what did the critic(s) do to stimulate voter participation?

So the question becomes, addressed to everyone who cares about the integrity of participatory democracy, “What do you offer as a citizen?” And specifically to League members, “What do you bring to the League?”

Some people offer leadership. They step up and seize the reins, helping to make hard decisions, doing research to find solutions, and taking the heat when someone doesn’t like or agree with a course of action. If you are one of those, contact Donna Reynolds, Nominating Committee Chair. She has brought her skills to the task of finding a new leadership team for 2017.

Some people are willing and able to render service. To stuff envelopes. To answer phones. To fill committee slots. To meet. To take notes. To add a bit or piece to the consuming task of addressing the League’s core mission of educating and advocating in order to contribute to responsible, responsive government.

And some people are only in a position to support. Support through financial contributions. Support through maintaining membership. Support by offering words of encouragement to those who take a more active role. And support by expressing pride in the work done by the League.



So, next time I hear someone criticize what the League has or has not done, I'll stifle my impulse to engage in the pseudo-question, "Really???" Instead I'll ask, "What exactly have you done lately to ensure that our American system remains healthy?" It will be interesting to hear the response, as it is much easier to point the index finger at someone else than to look carefully at the three pointing back at you.

-Suzanne Schmidt

Action & Advocacy Report December 2017

Report: County Commission (Chris Furlanetto)

The BCC held the 1st public hearing on the amendments proposed following the six-month review of the SLDC on 11/29; the second public hearing will be on December 13, 2016. Very few speakers commented at the 1st hearing. Once the SLDC updates are approved, staff will take up other incomplete sections, including hard rock mining. A proposed county water rate increase was defeated. Three new commissioners will take office in January 2017 and can take up the water rate increase again.



Report: School Board (Mary Ellen Gonzales)

NMSA (New Mexico School for the Arts) requested that either SFPS include them in their \$100 million bond for \$15 million, or include a separate item on the ballot of \$15 million for NMSA alone. Neither was approved. Vacant public school buildings must be offered first to charter schools before any other disposition can be considered. Tierra Encantada Charter School is doing a very poor job (rated 3 out of a possible 10 by Great Schools). Charter school Academy for Technology and the Classics (ATC) needs science labs. It is the only district charter school. Mary Ellen and Meredith Machen made comments at a recent meeting of the LEFC. Mary Ellen's full report was distributed to the committee via email.

Report: Legislature

No report. Reminder that there will be an Advocacy Training session at the Roundhouse on December 10, 2016.

Report: City Council

Donna Reynolds reported that the St. Michaels overlay district was passed by City Council.

Report: City Finance Committee

No report. John Hufnagle distributed a written report to the membership via email.

Report: A&A Matrix (2014-2015)

All issues were discussed. Chris Furlanetto will produce a revised matrix which reflects deletions, corrections, and modifications for Board approval.

Report: Voter Services

Barbara Conroy reported that there was very little telephone activity in the League office prior to and on the day of the November 8, 2016, general election.

Behavioral Health Care Subcommittee. No report.

Public Input—Hospital. A public session will be held at Genoveva Chavez Center on December 3, 2016. Members of the community are invited to offer their opinions, experiences, and suggestions for how to provide a better level of health care in general and specifically at Santa Fe’s only acute care hospital.

City of Santa Fe Website. At its November meeting, the Board of Directors (three nay votes) approved that the Santa Fe League collaborate with the city’s IT department (Renee Martinez) to improve the content and navigation of the city’s website. Jody Larson reported that Renee Martinez initiated the discussion of League involvement; Jody will confirm the status of the website development with Ms. Martinez.

Santa Fe League Website. Bonnie Iapocce reported on the progress she and Susan Mertes have made to create a new look for the A&A section of the League website and to bring it more in line with the A&A matrix of issues. Be on the lookout for the finished product in the near future.

Independent Ethics Commission. Miriam Ries suggested that inasmuch as the legislature has, over the years, consistently dodged the creation of an independent ethics commission that would oversee the work of the legislative and executive branches of state government, the State League (and other partners) should take the initiative and conduct a study and draft a plan of what an independent ethics commission should look like: membership, powers, reach, transparency. At the local league planning session to be held in January 2017, Miriam will propose that the State League consider and vote on undertaking such a study at its 2017 state convention.

-Miriam Ries

League of Women Voters’ Citizen Advocacy at the Legislature Workshop



Saturday, December 10, 2016 – 10 a.m. to Noon
New Mexico State Capitol, Room 322
Senator Peter Wirth, Representative Jimmie Hall, and
Minda McGonagle

**Silent Auction at the December 14th Holiday Luncheon
Browse. Buy. Donate.**



Please drop off donated items no later than 11:00 a.m.



Highlights Board Meeting November 2016

Actions at the November 2016 LWVSFC Board meeting:

- Barbara Conroy was appointed to the Nominating Committee.
- The December 2016 Board meeting was canceled.
- Sunshine Week will be co-chaired by Miriam Ries and Barbara Conroy.
- Marcy Litzenberg requested comments and suggestions from Board members regarding the Budget Committee's efforts to reformat the budget. She asked for guidance to the committee about reports that should be generated and the amount and purpose of the Reserve Fund.
- The position description for the Action & Advocacy Committee Chair was approved.
- The Board approved a request from the Action & Advocacy Committee that some of its members be authorized to meet with Renee Martinez, Santa Fe City CIO, to discuss issues of navigating the city's website.
- Berit Leonard will manage the silent auction at the Holiday Luncheon on December 14th at the Hilton Hotel.
- Bonnie Iapoce was approved as Director of Digital Experience.
- The Board approved funding for Tom Carson, CPA to present a program on the 501(c)(3) conversion process, and for Chris Carson to provide a program on advocacy in the near future.
- Patricia Hawkins will chair the LWVNM Planning Committee for the LWVSFC, which is hosting the LWVNM Convention set for May 20-22, 2017, in Santa Fe.

Donna Reynolds, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the committee will be meeting to consider League members for on- and off-Board positions for the coming year. She discussed the need to recognize the talents and skill sets of new and existing members, to build on strengths, to mentor, and to be supportive of one other.

The "Wine, Women, and the Vote" event in September met the League's funding goals, and provided positive PR for the League. The event exceeded the expectations of many. The Development Committee for that event met on November 15 to critique the program and make recommendations for future programs.

-Rosemary Greenlee



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 (Voting members are citizens at least 18 years of age; Associate members - all others.)

_____ 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



Calendar 2017

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\(s\)](#)
(Exact dates will be published in January's The Voter)
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
March 11, 11-3: LWVNM Board meeting, Santa Fe
March 16: Sunshine Week Event
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, Rio Chama (Susan Mertes)

LWVSFC Board meetings 2nd Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, 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*



Bumfuzzled by the 2016 general election?



In other words, don't dwell in the past. We can't change it. But we can change the future—and that's pretty exciting.

Don't like something? Write a letter. Make phone calls. Write an editorial. Organize a protest. March. Make yourself heard. Demand action. Don't rest until you make **somebody else** uncomfortable.

Learn from political genius Wayne Gretzky. **Sight the target. Then act.**

-Miriam Ries



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