



The Voter

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Officers

President

Suzanne Schmidt

1st Vice President

Patricia Hawkins
(Communications)

2nd Vice President

Marcy Litzenberg (Finance)

Secretary—Rosemary Greenlee

Treasurer—Berit Leonard

Past President

Judy Williams

Directors

Janet Lincoln (Membership)

Ann Coulston (Arrangements)

Marcia Harner (Digital Tech.)

Susan Mertes (A&A)

Laurie Glaze (Director,
Program/Calendar; Liaison to
Development Committee)

Miriam Ries (*The Voter*)

Nominating Committee

Donna Reynolds, Chair

Sharon Chastain

Patricia Pedersen

Finance/Budget Committee

(appointed by the board)

Marcy Litzenberg, Chair

Flavel Chastain

Brenda Beard

Berit Leonard (ex officio)

The League's Gift to Its Members *by Suzanne Schmidt, President*

Those of us who entered the workforce as teachers remember being instructed to “tell them what you are going to tell them, tell them, then tell them what you just told them.” Point to be made was that repetition anchors learning.

So I had to giggle a bit internally when I got a repeated lesson from several of our wonderful new members. I remembered a song from my past whose words intoned, “Teach the children well.” I thought to myself, “Well, they certainly taught me well!” For they all used *exactly* the same word in reflecting on their recent choice to join the League. The conversations went something like this... “I really appreciate that the League has brought a new *meaning* to my life.”

I got the lesson! And, the spirals of my thinking then ranged far and wide. For I realized that there are many different kinds of meaning in the League experience.

There is historical meaning. The impact on our country of the League's birth, as women and men who were Suffragists transitioned into activists on a different plane and created an organization that would provide civic education and involvement to the newly enfranchised. The power that was brought to bear as results came from combining energies to create a strength not possible in individual effort. The incredible accomplishment and emotional fulfillment that came to League members from helping individuals secure the right to vote.

There is also broad meaning in today's world. There is the reality of the power exerted when community advocacy changes the way governments and decision-makers operate. The League's exercise of its collective ability impacts governments at the local, state, and national level, allowing individuals to accomplish their goals as a part of a broader mission. The League takes on complicated, thorny issues and determines to identify solutions rather than bemoan unappealing realities.

And then there is the more personal meaning. In some cases the League allows for the development of friendships. Individuals experience the feeling of accomplishment that comes from contributing to an undertaking they think is important. Those who are goal-oriented gain closure when an important task is completed. Even if League connections are minimal, they add to the expansion of a person's community support group. And there is the satisfaction that comes from the creation of collegial relationships with people who are radically different from you in both style and focus. Not to mention the sense of pride that accompanies being associated with an organization that is respected and admired.

As a mental health professional, I am hyper aware that individual health is rooted in a person's ongoing acquisition and development of a meaningful life. Sift through the research on stress management, brain health, physical well-being, and you'll find two common threads. Lives with meaning enable people to recover more quickly from the effects of unavoidable challenges. And, a well-functioning support system protects a person both physically and emotionally from common, unrelenting stressors.

So, I would encourage you to consider that the League's gift to you, its member, is the injection of meaning into your life. As such, please consider continuing to support the League in the way that works best for you... ***just for the health of it.***

When "Thank You" Seems Inadequate
by Suzanne Schmidt, President

How on earth do you say "thank you" to someone who has given what our immediate Past President, Judy Williams, has contributed. Perhaps it is best said with the adjectives that our 4th grade teachers taught us were the most powerful communicators. To that end, I offer the following:

Alert
Ardent
Astute
Committed
Eager
Insightful
Prepared
Tireless
Willing
Witty

Since Judy was unable to attend our Annual Meeting due to a family emergency, she did not get to receive our accolades in person. So, I send them on your behalf in this note. And, a gift is on its way that will be a tangible reminder to Judy of our gratitude. (Hint: Expect to see her a lot at the Violet Crown!)

Please forgive the appearance and tardiness of this issue of *The Voter*. No careful layout, graphics, or cartoons in this issue. I sustained a shoulder injury, had surgery, and am enduring physical therapy (until September). The next issue will look better. -Miriam Ries



A Note of Special Thanks

The League wishes to express its deepest gratitude to the following members as they retire from current positions on the 2015-2016 leadership team:

Nancy Chambers, Secretary
Karen Heldmeyer, Budget Committee
Neva Van Peski, Budget Committee
Adair Waldenburg, Budget Committee
Julia Nathanson, Nominating Committee
Donna Reynolds, Past President/Program Chair/Chair, Women's History
Month Project

We thank each of you for jobs well done. Your contribution of time and energy has made the League stronger and added immensely to its stability and continuity.

Nonfiction Book Club Selection – Two Books Selected

The League will hold its next Nonfiction Book Club meeting on July 21, 2016, at Collected Works Bookstore & Coffeeshop beginning at 10:30 a.m. Based on input from our members, please read the following selections for the July book club:

Concrete Economics: The Hamilton Approach to Economic Growth and Policy by Stephen S. Cohen and J. Bradford De Long

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

Book club members were divided on a single selection, noting that both books are quick reads and timely. So get reading, and we will see you in July for a lively discussion.

Highlights, Board Meeting, May 11, 2016

The Board appointed the following individuals as Directors:

Susan Mertes—Liaison to the Action and Advocacy Committee
Laurie Glaze—Director of Program and Calendar; Liaison to the Development Committee
Marsha Harner—Director of Digital Experience (to include Webmaster + any social media presence undertaken in the future)

The Board appointed the following individuals to the Finance/Budget Committee:

Marcy Litzenberg, Chair
Flavel Chastain
Brenda Beard
Berit Leonard (ex officio)

Donna Reynolds to Co-Chair and mentor Program/Calendar

-Miriam Ries

Fundraising Report

The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County thanks the following **members and supporters** for their generous donations to the education fund and general operations of the League, received as of June 1, 2016:

Su Anne Armstrong
Joyce Blalock
Shannon & Chris Bulman
Ann Coulston
Chris Furlanetto
June Jameson
Leslie Lakind, DDS
Meredith Machen
Lucille Osaki
Senator Nancy Rodriguez
Betsy Shillinglaw
Judy Williams & Elliot Stern
Neva Van Peski, in Memory of Louise White
Pat & Dick Hawkins, in Memory of Rosemary V. McMahon & Jane Daddow Hawkins
Ann Anthony
Tina Egge
Karin Roth
Lynn Gary in Honor of Suzanne Schmidt

Women's History Month Wrap-Up

This year's event attracted more than 130 participants honoring New Mexican storyteller and Tewa language protector, Esther Martinez, as our 2016 Woman of History. Her family used the event as a way to celebrate her life introducing Esther to the audience, singing and drumming a lovely song in her honor, and her sister offered a story about being different – a rare and unexpected treat!

Bea Duran, our keynote speaker, talked about growing up as an Indian girl in a local Pueblo, finding her unique voice and purpose in life.

Each of the students received a stuffed backpack donated by CHRISTUS St. Vincent filled with goodies provided by local merchants.

Special thanks to our Women's History Month Committee members, Ann Coulston, Pat Hawkins, Carol Johnson, Melanie LaBorwit, Berit Leonard, Donna Reynolds, Adair Waldenberg, and Karla Wheeler.

The League has met its three-year commitment to the collaborative program with our partner, Santa Fe Public Schools, and will evaluate next steps.

-Donna Reynolds

Recap—Annual Meeting
Santa Fe Hilton Hotel
May 5, 2016

Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order

Approve 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report April 30, 2016 – Berit Leonard

Budget Committee Report and Adoption of 2016-2018 Budget – Karen Heldmeyer

Proposed 2016-17 Programs

Local League positions

National positions

Adoption of 2016-17 Program

Education Fund Report April 30, 2016 – Donna Reynolds

2016-17 Election of Officers and Directors – Julia Nathanson

President's Comments: State of the League – Judy Williams

Announcements – June 9, 2016 Calendar Planning Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Lunch and Speaker

Liddy Martinez, Executive Director, Regional Development Corporation

Minutes

League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County Annual Meeting

May 5, 2016

Hilton Hotel Santa Fe, 100 Sandoval St.

Vice President Pat Hawkins, filling in for outgoing President Judy Williams, called the annual meeting to order at 11:12 a.m. A quorum was present.

After welcoming everyone, Pat appointed Meredith Machen parliamentarian.

Marcy Litzenberg and Joyce Blalock volunteered to read and edit the minutes of the meeting.

A motion to approve the 2015 Annual Meeting minutes was made by Marcy Litzenberg and seconded by Joyce Blalock. The minutes were approved unanimously by the membership.

Treasurer's Report

Berit Leonard presented the annual treasurer's report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2016. She explained that the LWVSFC is approximately \$2,000 in the black thanks to a memorial donation of about \$7,000 from the estate of Mary Honor Rivin.

The reserves of \$27,000 from CDs that came due at LANB were moved to a Money Market account with Synchrony Bank, currently paying 0.60% interest. There remains approximately \$10,000 in checking and savings accounts at LANB.

Member contributions have been a major source of income for the LWVSFC, and Berit thanked everyone but explained that all expenses were not covered. This is why the League during the next year will be expanding efforts to find broader income sources.

She explained that the local League only retains part of the membership fee for general fund expenses. \$31 of each membership fee goes to the National League as a Per Member Payment (PMP), but we can use the Education Fund to pay half of it. In addition, \$13 of each membership goes to the State League.

The Santa Fe New Mexican did not charge for printing the Municipal Election Voters Guide that they published, but we did spend \$1,158.13 for ads in the Voters Guide, per our agreement with them.

The Women's History Month Project is now in its third year. The project was partially self-supporting, and there will be further reimbursements from the Education Fund to help in its support. In addition, the LWVSFC is expecting reimbursement from the Education Fund for \$1,000 in office expenses.

The monthly VOTER is being sent electronically to save on printing and postage, with only a minimal number of copies printed.

In order to increase the League's visibility and attract a wider audience, we paid \$449.50 to advertise one of the forums. And we spent \$2,269.80 on a fund-raising event, whose income went into the Education Fund.

Berit concluded by thanking everyone who pay their membership dues, make contributions, and submit reimbursement requests in a timely manner.

Budget Report: 2016-2017

Karen Heldmeyer presented the budget report. The budget committee consisted of Adair Waldenberg, Karen Heldmeyer, and Neva Van Peski and Berit Leonard (ex officio). Karen reported that the committee met with the Board once and a committee of the Board once during the budget development process.

The budget report shows the budget for the current fiscal year and the proposed budget for the

next two years, each slightly different to reflect the costs associated with an election vs. a non-election year.

In order to project the budgets for the next two years, some assumptions had to be made – the number of members, expected per-member payments to the State and National Leagues, and the expected success and associated expenses of fund-raising efforts. The following paragraphs deal with the assumptions made in constructing the 2016-17 and 2017-18 budgets.

The number of current members is based on the information provided by the Membership Chair and is held constant in the next two years. We have assumed that there will be a \$1 increase in National per-member-payment and an additional \$1 increase in 2017-18. We have assumed no increase in State per-member payments.

The biggest change in this budget from those in the past is the expected income from fund-raising efforts and the expenses associated with those efforts. These are amounts requested by the Board, based on the ambitious goals of the new Development Committee. These items and a comparison with the amounts budgeted in 2015-2016 are as follows:

Income from special fund-raising events, **\$9,000** (\$0 budgeted in 2015-16)
Advertising expense, **\$1,000** (\$600 budgeted in 2015-16)
Membership Committee expense, **\$1,000** (\$525 budgeted in 2015-16)
Fund-raising expense **\$6,000** (\$400 budgeted in 2015-16)

Note that all these amounts are items in the League's general fund. League rules and federal tax law require us to separate the budget of the Ed Fund a (501(c)(3), from that of the general fund, a 501(c)(4). Although the budget shows some of the movement between the general fund and the Ed Fund, it does not show income that goes directly to the Ed Fund, which can be considerable.

The board has assured the Budget Committee that every proposed fund-raising event will have a specific chair and a separate budget of expenses and income, so that membership can see the effects of the fund-raising efforts. With a sizable reserve fund, the Board believes that the League has the resources to cover a shortfall if income and expenditures differ from projected amounts.

The budget committee made three suggestions:

- Better coordination between the general fund and the Education fund

- The Board should form an investment committee to oversee funds and assess risks if tenant leaves or doesn't pay rent.

- The committee was not charged with making suggestions for a reserve fund, but it strongly suggests the next Board make a policy on the appropriate amount of assets in reserve.

A question from a member was raised on the fund-raising program of spending \$6,000 to make \$9,000. Is this standard for not-for-profits? As a new fund-raising effort the ratio of spending to earning is not especially out of the ordinary, but the Board will have to reassess after a year. The question as to why the League is raising money will have to go to the new Board for discussion.

Suzanne Schmidt told the members to keep looking at future issues of the VOTER to learn about the first fund-raiser on September 23rd called Beer, Brats, Broads, and Bands at the National Park Service.

Janet Lincoln moved to approve the Proposed Budget Reports. Suzanne Schmidt seconded and the approval was unanimous by the members.

Program Report

Jody Larson reported that the 2015/16 program was based on input from members at a meeting in December 2015 and a Board review and action in early 2016.

Suzanne Schmidt moved that the League approve a 2nd year of the Economic Development study. Marcy seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

Four other local issues – exploring cooperation between City and County, updating the medically indigent fund regarding new federal changes, studying the regional water authority, and studying consolidated medical services impact – have no specific leader so they will go back to the Board for future discussion. A **Directions to the Board** form was distributed for members to select topics that they feel the Board should explore in the coming year.

A report on the National Positions was submitted by Donna Reynolds.

A written report on the **State of the League** was submitted by Judy Williams, outgoing President.

Nominating Committee

Joyce Blalock reported for the Nominating Committee in place of Julia Nathanson, Chair. The Nominating Committee consisted of Julia Nathanson, Barbara Conroy, Ann Coulston and Janet Lincoln.

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of officers and directors for 2016-2017. All have agreed to serve.

The nominee slate includes: President – Suzanne Schmidt

Past Pres. – Judy Williams

1st VP – Pat Hawkins

2nd VP – Marcy Litzenberg

Secretary – Rosemary Greenlee

Treasurer – Berit Leonard

Directors: Arrangements – Ann Coulston

Membership – Janet Lincoln

VOTER – Miriam Ries

Voter Services – Suzanne Ronneau

Nominating Committee – Chair, Donna Reynolds

Member – Sharon Chastain

Member – Patricia Pedersen

A motion to elect the Nominating Committee's proposed slate of officers and directors by acclamation was made by Adair Waldenberg, and seconded by Jody Larson. It was approved unanimously by the membership.

Julia Nathanson was thanked for her service on the Committee.

Announcements

Karen announced that Adair Waldenberg received the annual Rotary Club Service award.

Janet thanked those who volunteered to drive others to the meeting.

New members were recognized.

Meredith Machen announced that the State League Council will meet in Los Alamos on Saturday, May 21st at 11:00 am. It includes a talk on immigration reform. All are invited.

Marcy announced that Suzanne Ronneau will be the new Voter Services Chair. The Primary Election Voters Guide will be coming out May 22nd in the New Mexican.

Thanks went out to Nikki Harnish for her tabling efforts, and the coordinators of the new high school registration program, Sharon Starkey, Joanie Sparkman and Virginia McCallum, and the coordinator of the senior registration program, Barbara Conroy.

The motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Adair Waldenberg at 12:05 and seconded by Janet Lincoln. It was approved by the members unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Chambers, Secretary



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