



# The Voter

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

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

February 2015

Vol. 64, No. 2

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## Message from the President

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. A free, guided tour of sections of the Fred Harvey Collection at the New Mexico History Museum will follow the event. 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, a fascinating read on capitalism and climate change!

Lastly, please remember to consider serving on your League board next year. We need committed and engaged volunteers to make a difference in our community, use their talents to offer a diverse and educational program of events, and continue our dedicated service to voters.

Cheers,

**Join the League or Renew Membership.  
See Page 11.**



## We welcome:

Suzanne Schmidt  
Dan Jones

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## Member Spotlight Karen Heldmeyer

I've been active in politics and public affairs on and off for most of my life. In fact, my husband and I met on the McGovern campaign in 1972. However, our involvement had always been behind the scenes.

When we moved to Santa Fe, I began to see that the voice of the average citizen wasn't often heard at City Hall. With several others, I helped found the Neighborhood Network to correct that. I served as the head of the Network for several years.

I saw that Santa Fe needed good people to run for local office, so I tried to recruit good candidates. After several years of this (and one particularly dispiriting Council meeting), I decided to run for Council myself. With the help of a manual from Emily's List and the volunteer help of a lot of good people, I won election to Council in 2000 and was re-elected in 2004.

During the time I was head of the Neighborhood Network, I was mentored by a number of bright, insightful women, many of them members of the League. Becky Frenkel always encouraged me to join the

League and said, "You don't have to do any League work until you have time to do it."

Of course, that didn't happen during my tenure on council, but I was happy to be kept abreast of issues through the League's work and I continued to be mentored by a number of great League women.



When I re-emerged to semi-public life, I began to participate more in the League and found there were a number of ways, large and small, that someone can get involved in

League activities. I've done everything from helping out at forums to participating in studies, including the local transparency study and the state PRC study.

Currently, I serve as the liaison between the Action & Advocacy Committee and City Hall, and I am just beginning work as a member of the city's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, helping to bring a League initiative into political reality.

*-Karen Heldmeyer*

## 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 28, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the La Fonda Hotel downtown. Our selected honoree is affiliated with the La Fonda Hotel, and our keynote speaker will set the stage for her accomplishments here in New Mexico. The cost for the Women's History Month Breakfast is \$30, 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](mailto:rsvp@lwvsfc.org)**



Our Women's History Month Committee is now recruiting career women to hold mentoring sessions with Santa Fe Public School 7<sup>th</sup> grade female students in March. Each student will be asked to invite a guest to the breakfast event, and a special tour of the La Fonda Hotel will be offered to 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 Woman of History, along with local career women mentors, students, student family guests, and Leaguers at the breakfast on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

*-Donna Reynolds*

## Fundraising Report



The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County thanks the following members for their generous donations to the education fund and general operations of the League that have been received as of January 29, 2015:

The Abeles Foundation  
Margo Cutler  
Jody Larson  
Jack Sullivan

Henry Bahnsen  
William Stark  
Eileen Souder  
Adair Waldenberg

Carol Burlison  
Jane Hanna  
Denman & Associates, Inc.

Karen Heldmeyer and Rebecca Frenkel – In Memory of Mary Honor Rivin

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## **Northwest Quadrant Study - Consensus Meeting Coming!** **Janet Stoker and Judy Williams**

The League will hold a **Consensus Meeting** on the Northwest Quadrant position on **March 11** from 10 to 11 a.m. at the New Mexico Bank & Trust, 1592 St. Michael's Drive. The meeting precedes the board meeting, so feel free to stay for that as well. Please come and help us update our position.

The report below describes the study process and findings, and presents a new draft at the end.

### **Report on the Northwest Quadrant Study                      Janet Stoker**

The League of Women Voters, over the years, has taken positions on the possible development of the City-owned Northwest Quadrant. Most recently, these positions have been summarized as:

The League believes the City has a fiduciary responsibility to act as steward for the land for the benefit of all citizens of Santa Fe. Nevertheless, it should strictly follow its own ordinances in the development of the land. (1983, '86, '96)

In 2009, the Santa Fe City Council adopted a new master plan for the City-owned land in the Northwest Quadrant. The plan, based on an extensive process of public participation, called for the development of a new residential community and included provisions for offering some of that housing to be within an affordable range. Several years ago, the League approved a study of the Northwest Quadrant in view of the adopted Northwest Quadrant Master Plan. Because of the economic downturn, the city took no action to realize the development called for in the plan. Last year, 2014, the plan expired because of that inactivity.

City Councilor Signe Lindell verified the expiration and offered the opinion that no further City efforts were envisioned related to the plan. With the subsequent expiration of the plan, meetings were conducted with several members of City staff to determine what plans, if any, are contemplated for the land.

We met with John Alejandro, City of Santa Fe Alternative Energy Planner, on November 14, 2014. He said the city is investigating the potential use of the land around the transfer station and old dump sites for a community solar facility. This initiative falls under the aegis of the Mayor's Climate Action Task Force. There are questions related to the legal basis for a community solar facility in state legislation. An RFP was to be issued in December, seeking an attorney to evaluate options and to make a report anticipated to be received by the end of February or early March, 2015.

In the proposed community solar project, individuals would own or lease the solar panels and have access to the power generated by them. Alejandro also said that the land around the transfer station and the old dump sites is settling and installation of a community solar facility will require analysis to determine which areas are potentially suitable for that use.

On December 11, 2014, we met with Matthew O'Reilly, City of Santa Fe Asset Manager. Mr. O'Reilly is the person at the city who would be charged with any potential development of a new plan for the Northwest Quadrant. He confirmed the city has no plan to undertake planning for the area at this time. He said, however, that the Northwest Quadrant has potential for development in the long term and recommended holding the land available for that development while allowing such low-impact uses as a community solar facility or passive, possibly active, recreational trails or other related uses.

## Proposal for consensus:

### Current LWV position on City-owned NWQ

The League believes the City has a fiduciary responsibility to act as steward for the land for the benefit of all citizens of Santa Fe. Nevertheless, it should strictly follow its own ordinances in the development of the land. (1983, '86, '96)

### Should the League support this addition, at the beginning of the position?

In the absence of a current City plan to develop the land, the League supports using the Northwest Quadrant for the benefit of the community by providing trails and other passive recreation opportunities and by providing for such appropriate light-impact uses as solar collection facilities as long as they do not impede potential long term development. *Proposed revision 2015*



#### Pros:

- The Northwest Quadrant should be held so that it will provide, in the long term, a resource that can serve the community's needs. Installing infrastructure for intense development is and will be challenging because of difficult terrain. It is hoped new solutions will become available in the future.
- The area around the present transfer station (and the adjoining previous land fill sites) must be held more or less undeveloped to allow for settling of the ground. Because of that need, intense development is obviated, at least at present. However, the areas are open and receive good sunlight and so would be suitable for solar-collection, especially for a community solar installation.
- There are currently hiking trails in the Northwest Quadrant used by many citizens. Expanding and improving the trails system will be beneficial by providing additional opportunities. Trails improvements could assure that trails are well sited and that erosion is prevented.
- The city has indicated there is no expectation of intensive development in the next decades. The demand is not there, and the costs would be prohibitive.

#### Cons:

- The Northwest Quadrant is best left alone, with only present hiking trails being utilized. Any improvements might have to be undone in the face of a City plan to develop the area.
- Any solar installation would have a limited life span if the City creates a plan for more intense development that calls for utilizing the land around the present transfer station location and adjoining former land fill areas.
- The legal feasibility of a community solar project under current state statutes and regulations is yet to be determined.

## Action & Advocacy Committee January 2015



Please go to <http://www.lwvsfc.org/recent-league-advocacy.html> to read all League communications described below!

**Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners (BCC):** The County is moving forward on the steps needed to complete the Sustainable Land Development Code. Community planning committees have been formed and a consulting company has been hired to assist in drafting the DCI section of the SLDC. In addition, the contract includes work on the density bonus and Transfer of Development Rights sections of the SLDC. The LWVSFC has been invited to attend a meeting in early February of County staff, the consultants and citizens/groups who have been engaged with the SLDC process; Judy Williams will represent the League.

### **City Government:**

#### Redistricting

The city held a drawing for members (and alternates) of the Independent Citizens' Redistricting Commission on January 29. League member Karen Heldmeyer will serve on this commission in the statistician position. League members Jody Larson, Neva Van Peski and Suzanne Ronneau are alternate members for their respective districts.

*The League's opinion piece urging city residents to apply for positions on the commission was published January 10.*

#### ECRB

The Election and Campaign Review Board (ECRB) has released a schedule for its meetings through June. Topics to be discussed include Campaign Code, Public Campaign Finance Code, Election Code, and Code of Ethics.

The next meeting is February 9; all candidates from the 2014 municipal election have been invited to attend and share their experiences. Following the 2/9 meeting, regular meetings will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month (2/18, 3/18, 4/15, 5/20, and 6/17). All meetings are at 3pm in City Council Chambers. They are open to the press and public input is welcome.

*The League wrote to the ECRB January 20 to communicate League positions on campaign finance.*

### **Other**

*The League wrote to Mayor Gonzales and City Council on January 13 to review Resolution 2011-56 which adopted the LWVSFC's position on transparency.*

At its January 28 meeting, Council approved a contract with a local firm to investigate the business, financial and economic feasibility of a public bank in Santa Fe. Council also approved a resolution calling for a joint City/County discussion about a publicly-owned electric utility.

### *County Water Utility:*

County Water Utilities Director Claudia Borchert has invited the League to speak at the BCC meeting in favor of short- and long-term water planning. The topic is currently scheduled for the February 24 BCC meeting where Ms. Borchert will present her department's plans.

### *Campaign Finance Disclosures:*

For the February 3 SFCC and SFPS elections, the A&A committee, with assistance from SFCC and SFPS staff members, obtained and posted (on our website) voluntary campaign finance disclosures from the candidates. State law requires only after-the-fact disclosures. Many thanks to Jody Larson for spearheading this effort!

*-Chris Furlanetto*

*If you are interested in attending our meetings or in joining our email list (to get meeting announcements and minutes) please contact Chris Furlanetto at [action@lwvsfc.org](mailto:action@lwvsfc.org). This month's meeting is at noon on February 5, 2015, at Rio Chama Steakhouse.*

## Nonfiction Book Club

*“This Changes Everything:  
Capitalism vs. the Climate”*

*by Naomi Kline*



The League will hold its next Nonfiction Book Club meeting on Thursday – April 30, 2015 at Collected Works Bookstore, Santa Fe, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

At the January Book Club meeting, members chose the April 2015 selection, “This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate” by Naomi Kline.

From Amazon, “The most important book yet from the author of the international bestseller *The Shock Doctrine*, a brilliant explanation of why the climate crisis challenges us to abandon the core “free market” ideology of our time, restructure the global economy, and remake our political systems.” Get reading, and we’ll see you in April 2015!

*-Donna Reynolds*



## Highlights January 14, 2015, Board Meeting

- President Reynolds reported that we will have a new tenant sharing the office.
- \$393 was made at the silent auction at the annual Holiday Luncheon.
- Several members of the League have applied to serve on the city’s redistricting committee.
- The New Mexican will print the Voters Guide for the SF School District and Community College elections of February 3 as part of the paper. 250 of the Voters Guides will be distributed to the voting sites and all three Santa Fe libraries.

- The forum for the Community College Board will be held on January 27 at the Santa Fe Community College.
- The forum for the School Board will be held on January 28 at the Santa Fe School Board Administration Building.
- The online Who's Who will be updated following the election of February 3.
- Lynn Gary stated she is looking for a volunteer to take over the High School Voter Registration project.

-Patricia Pedersen



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**League of Women Voters of New Mexico  
Call to Convention**

May 15-17, 2015

**Crowne Plaza Albuquerque**

A special rate of \$79 is available

Book by April 17, 2015

1-877-227-6963

*(mention LWV Of Central New Mexico for the Special Rate)*

Registration Fee: \$65.00 by April 20th, after \$70.00

See Registration Form on next page.

## 2015 LWVNM Convention Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Check One Only:**

Delegate \_\_\_\_\_ State Board \_\_\_\_\_ MAL Rep. \_\_\_\_\_ Observer \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee:**

Only Observers will pay the registration fee; delegates from local Leagues, the State Board, and the MAL representative will have their registrations paid by their Board.

Early registration (if postmarked by April 20, 2015) \$65.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
(opening luncheon is included)  
After April 20, 2015 @ \$70.00

Saturday Banquet @ \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest Meals:** \_\_\_\_\_ Number guests Opening lunch @ \$25.00 ea. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Number guests Banquet @ \$35.00 ea. \_\_\_\_\_

**Post-convention meeting of new LWVNM Board:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Board Member box lunch @ \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration form and check payable to LWVCNM to:

*League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico  
2315 San Pedro NE, Ste. F-6  
Albuquerque, NM 87110.*

Questions? Call the office 505-884-8441 or Andrea Targhetta 505-280-8892.





Check the website for updates and information: [www.lwvsfc.org](http://www.lwvsfc.org)

## 2015

February 9 and 10: League Day at the Legislature

February 11, 11-1: LWVSFC board meeting

March 4, 10 to 12: Campaign Finance Reform member briefing (Van Peski and Heldmeyer)

March 11, 10-11: Consensus meeting on Northwest Quadrant proposed new position

March 11, 11-1: LWVSFC board meeting

March 15-21: Sunshine Week

March 21, 11-3: LWVNM board meeting

March 21, noon: Legislature ends

March 28, 8:30-11: Breakfast - Women's History Month (La Fonda Hotel)

April 1, New Mexico History Museum tour

April 8, 11-1: LWVSFC board meeting

April 23, 10:30: Nonfiction Book Club

May 6, 11:30-2: Lunch - Annual meeting (Hilton)

May 13, 11-1: LWVSFC board

May 16-17: LWVNM Convention

Check [www.lwvsfc.org](http://www.lwvsfc.org) for locations and updates.

### Regular meetings:

**Action-Advocacy** Regularly meets 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at the Rio Chama Steakhouse, 414 Old Santa Fe Trail. New members are always welcome!

**LWVSFC board** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month



### March 15-21, 2015

See the March issue of The Voter for an announcement of Sunshine Week activities.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY  
NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: *(please print)* \_\_\_\_\_

Address: *(please include zip)* \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DO NOT include my contact information in the annual Membership Handbook directory listing.

Membership is paid annually between September 1–August 31 and includes state (LWVNM) and national (LWVUS) dues.

Make membership check payable to LWVSFC for:

\_\_\_\_ Individual and Associate membership: \$54 (Associate members are non-U.S. citizens, who cannot vote on League matters.)

\_\_\_\_ Family membership: \$80 *(Individual plus one family member)*

\_\_\_\_ Student membership: \$30 *(For students 25 years or younger and currently enrolled in accredited institution.)*

\_\_\_\_ Unrestricted general fund contribution *(not tax deductible)*: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Education Fund *(tax deductible)*: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *(Make separate check payable to LWVSFC Education Fund.)*

Want THE VOTER newsletter delivery via email? It’s faster and saves the League money. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Snail mail

The Action & Advocacy Committee is open to any member and currently focused on the following issues. Circle those of interest to you, and a League member will contact you for further information and discussion.

Issues *(check as many as apply or fill in blank)*:

Healthcare  Local govt.  Ethics/Transparency  Natural Resources  Education  Other

\_\_\_\_\_

LWVSFC success is based on the assistance of member volunteers. We welcome and encourage your help.

Volunteer Interests *(circle as many as apply or fill in blank)*:

Work on Issues:

Monitor public meetings  Lobby government officials  Study groups  Other

\_\_\_\_\_

Voter Services:

Candidate forums/meetings  Voter publications  Information tables  Voter registration  Other

\_\_\_\_\_

Organizational Support:

Help at events  Fundraising  Membership  Publication content  Website  Staff League office

Other \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE LWVSFC, 1472 ST. FRANCIS DR., SANTA FE NM 8750



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