Leadership Team

1st Vice President
Marcy Litzenberg
(Administration)
Secretary—(vacant)
Treasurer—Berit Leonard

Directors
Ann Coulston (Voter Services)
Miriam Ries (The Voter)
Coleen Dearing
Laura Atkins (Member & Program Services)
Donna Reynolds (PR/Communications)
Hannah Burling (Action/Advocacy)
Suzanne Schmidt (Past President)

Off-Board
Membership (vacant)
Patricia Pedersen (Arrangements)
Bonnie Coleman-Iapoce (Digital Technology)
Patricia Victour (Office Manager)
(interim)
Laurie Glaze (Facilitator)
Jody Larson (Consultant)

Nominating Committee
Donna Reynolds, Chair
Barbara Conroy
Jody Larson

Finance/Budget Committee
Marcy Litzenberg, Chair
John Hufnagle
Laurie Glaze
Berit Leonard (ex officio)

Executive Committee
Marcy Litzenberg
Susan Herder
Berit Leonard
Miriam Ries
Ann Coulston

From the Leadership Team ... 

I wake up to thoughts of Shakespeare (The Tempest, Act 1, Scene 2), then turn on the TV news and realize it’s true.

Elected Officials, now hear this. Telling the truth is so much easier than lying with a straight face (and your pants on fire).

This is not “freedom of speech.”

Overturn Citizens United.
Yikes! What’s a person to do?

Moving to Malta wouldn’t change anything. Besides that, the thought of moving our household yet another time is as depressing as the current state of affairs.

Then, a Moment of Clarity! Fix something.

An interior door at our house has never closed properly. (Damn contractor. Still saying that after six years.) So I got a chisel, hammer, and screw driver and went to work to move and re-set the striker plate. Voila. The door now closes and latches properly. I experienced the satisfaction of a task completed and a job done well.

Riding that wave of success, Pat and I drove to an empty parking lot at Santa Fe Mall so she could practice maneuvering and parking my new truck, which handles very differently than her Subaru, before she took the truck out on the road.

As we were driving out of the parking lot, I spotted a homeless woman pushing a shopping cart. Nothing remarkable about that, except that she was wearing only one shoe, and it was rainy and cold. That image made me want to cry.

So I drove back and got out of the truck. I asked the woman if I could buy her a pair of shoes. No, she would not leave her cart. So I asked for her shoe size, went into the mall and bought shoes and socks for her. She was waiting for me outside, took the shoes out of the box, smiled shyly, and thanked me. I can’t fix the whole world, but I can buy shoes.

All this talk about taking action and feeling good about it brings me back to Santa Fe and New Mexico politics. In 2018, we will elect a new mayor, city councilors, county officials, a U.S. Senator, and a U.S. Representative. If we wait until the ballots are printed, it may already be too late to shape the way our city, county, and state are governed.

The real decision making is most often done before the general election, even before a primary election. Party machines, PACs, even Svengalis wield a great deal of power. But so do we, if we use that power. We can write letters to the editors of newspapers in favor of a candidate or proposal. We can host neighborhood get-togethers to introduce candidates to voters. Going door-to-door on behalf of a candidate is harder work, but can pay great dividends.

I have done all of these things. I have made a difference. And I will not give up the fight for honest, fair, transparent government by men and women of good character and caring hearts. This is not too much to expect and demand. Our democracy is ours to lose.

-Miriam Ries
Annual Holiday Luncheon  
Thursday, December 14, 2017  
Santa Fe Hilton Hotel  
11:30—1:00

Enjoy a holiday meal of turkey, all the trimmings, and pumpkin pie for dessert. Vegetarian choices, too.

Special guest speaker: Santa Fe Public Schools  
Superintendent Dr. Veronica C. Garcia

RSVP and pay $25.00 per person either online at the League website or send a check to arrive at the League office no later than December 8, 2017.

Our holiday event would not be complete without a silent auction, ably managed once again by Berit Leonard.

If you wish to donate items for the auction, please bring them with you, to drop off no later than 11:00 a.m. or leave them at the office, marked for the auction. All purchases will benefit our League and its work.

Kudos to Voter Registrars

I am happy to report that we registered 113 new voters on October 30, 2017, at Santa Fe High School—a very good day. I don’t think I have ever registered that many in one day. The county clerk’s office said they have never received that many registrations from any one group or individual in a single day! So maybe we set a record???

It was a great day at the school. Wonderful students and staff. I want to thank and recognize the following volunteers. They enjoyed themselves and worked hard—Laura Atkins, Natalie Agraz, Pat Hawkins, Steven Hamp, Dick Markwood, Martha Romero, Jody Larson, Nikki Harnish, Lynn Gary, Pat Pedersen, Gail Flanagan (not a LWV member but a registrar and friend of Nikki’s—great help).

-SHaron Starkey
Re-cap Lunch with Two Leaders
November 15, 2017
Local Government Tax Options

Adam Johnson and Katherine Miller tackled the enormously complicated subject of local government tax options. Some take-aways from the discussion:

- 85% of the City of Santa Fe’s budget comes from the regressive GRT (gross receipts taxes). Who knew? No wonder the GRT rate is so high.
- Any GRT relief which might come from increased property taxes (another regressive tax), would depend on amending the state constitution to raise/adjust millage.

City and county government financial operations work to do the best job possible with what they have. Goals include economic development, safety, diversity, and a clean, attractive, and sustainable environment.

We complain about taxes, but they make possible many things we would miss if they were gone, such as police, fire protection, clean water, clean air, education, and much more.

Many thanks to Neva Van Peski for arranging for Mr. Johnson and Ms. Miller to speak to us and for preparing the comprehensive report on local taxes which appeared in October’s The Voter.

-Miriam Ries

April Nonfiction Book Club Selection “Against the Grain”

The League will hold its next Nonfiction Book Club meeting on Thursday, April 19, 2018, at Collected Works Bookstore & Coffeehouse, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The next book selected to read is “Against the Grain: A Deep History of the Earliest States” by James C. Scott.

From a review in Yale University Press, “Why did humans abandon hunting and gathering for sedentary communities dependent on livestock and cereal grains, and governed by precursors of today’s states? Scott explores why we avoided sedentism and plow agriculture, the advantages of mobile subsistence, the unforeseeable disease epidemics arising from crowding plants, animals, and grain, and why all early states are based on millets and cereal grains and unfree labor.”

James C. Scott is Sterling Professor of Political Science and co-director of the Agrarian Studies Program at Yale University.

Get reading, and we will see you in April!

-Donna Reynolds
Chris Furlanetto, Karen Heldmeyer, Carol Johnson, and Jody Larson met to determine whether it is appropriate for the League to advocate against the Flying J proposal and if so how. Their draft letter opposing the Flying J will be reviewed by the Board of Directors at this month’s meeting.

There had been a request by Stan Rosen to revisit the 2009 LWVSFC Report on Transparency in County Government. There has been no request by the County Manager as there was originally. The committee determined that this would be a waste of League resources.

Karen Heldmeyer and Jody Larson have drafted a letter to the City Council opposing the proposed amendments to Section 9-2.6 of the city’s Campaign Code, which would eliminate the requirement that some expenditures for independently sponsored campaign communications in issues campaigns be reported to the City Clerk and that those reports should be made available to the public. This will be presented to the Board for approval.

Mary Ellen Gonzales reported that both boards have elections coming up, SFCC for a bond issue and a mill levy election for the SFPS Board. They are both hoping that the LWVSFC will help with voter information. Mary Ellen Gonzales will make a rough draft by the end of December for Voter Services.

We still need monitors for the

- **City Finance Committee** (1st & 3rd Mondays) and the
- **Public Works Department** (2nd & 4th Mondays).

*It is not necessary to go to the meetings!* If you would like to be involved, even for one meeting a month, please contact Hannah Burling, [hannahburling@gmail.com](mailto:hannahburling@gmail.com)
ECO (Early College Opportunities) School Visit

League members toured and met students at the Early College Opportunities (ECO) High School on November 10. Principal Will Wade met us and introduced us to several students so we could have one-on-one conversations.

The ECO school is located adjacent to Santa Fe High School, but is an “alternative high school” with its own campus. Its mission is “to equip students to transition successfully into post-secondary education and advanced career training or employment.” The school uses a standards-based curriculum, but, unlike the traditional high school, employs learning while doing. The school works to engage students who didn’t feel they fit into the traditional high school, want to learn trades, or just wanted a smaller and more personalized experience. They don’t have to “sit down, sit straight, and be quiet.”

The ECO school is connected to Santa Fe Community College through agreements, allowing students to take courses at the college and teachers from SFCC to teach at the ECO school. Some of the students are dual credit students, earning credits at the college as well as the high school.

We met a student who is already close to getting an AA degree, one who is pursuing phlebotomy training, and others. The students feel they have created a community, and most seem to feel comfortable and empowered. The school has received gifts—a Jeep they can “muscle up,” materials to build tiny houses (they have sold the first one), and have some old “junkers” to fix up. They learn math and other things by building and repairing. The greenhouse garden provides opportunities for biology and environmental education. This includes aquaponics, hydroponics, solar power, and plant and soil care.

The school benefits from volunteers, who teach shop, art, and other classes. A volunteer has set up an unorthodox library, meant to encourage students to explore literature, film, and other materials. Students chose the colors for the walls, and now select books. The initial collection was based on donated books, and the library still welcomes donated books. Students may take any book they want, and don’t have to return it if they want to keep it.

Last year, voters approved a bond that includes funding for a “new” ECO school, to replace the current configuration of temporary buildings. Apparently, however, the staff still has to justify the need! The League supports career and technical education as an important component of an educational system that meets the needs and interests of all students.

- Judy Williams
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 membership: $54
_____ 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 16-25 years and currently enrolled in accredited institution.)

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

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 ___

Volunteering - Our success is based on the active assistance of member volunteers. We welcome and encourage your help!

Areas needing assistance:
Voter registration  •  High School voter registration  •  Candidate forums/meetings  •  Info tables staffing
(If you are not a trained Voter Registrar, walk-in training is available at County Clerk’s office downtown on weekdays.)

Membership  •  Fundraising  •  Communications/PR  •  Website/Social Media  •  Staff League office
Action & Advocacy  •  Board member  •  and much more!

(Your New Member Packet will contain a “Ways to Participate” list of committees, chairs and their contact information.)

Be proactive! Make contact! Get active!

1472 St. Francis Drive  505-982-9766  www.lwvsfc.org
Santa Fe, NM 87505-4038  July 2017
Calendar 2017-2018

January 2018
Jan. 10, 11:30-1:30: Legislative Preview (Hilton)
Jan. 16, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting

February 2018
Feb. 1, LWVNMI League Day at the Legislature
Feb. 6, 8, 13 or 15, 6-8, Mayoral and/or Councilor Candidate Forums
Feb. 7, 11:30-1:30: General Meeting (Hilton)
Feb. 20, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
Feb. 21, 10-12: St. Vincent Regional Medical Center Tour and Health Care Forum
Feb. 22, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

March 2018 – Women’s History Month
Mar. 15, 11:30-1: Sunshine Week Event (Hilton)
Good Government Presentation-Sandra Fish
Mar. 17, 11-3: LWVNMI Board meeting, Santa Fe
Mar. 20, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
Mar. 28, 10-12: New Mexico History Museum Tour
Mar. 29, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

April 2018
Apr. 17, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
Apr. 19, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club, Collected Works, 202 Galisteo Street
Apr. 25, 10-2: Habitat For Humanity-League Build
Apr. 26, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

May 2018
May 2, 11:00-1:30: Annual Meeting (Hilton)
Nuclear Waste Disposal
May 15, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
May 19, LWVNMI Council, Albuquerque
May 26, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

*LWVNMI and other organization functions in italics

Regular meetings:
Action-Advocacy 1st Thursday of each month
LWVSFC Board meetings 3rd Tuesday of each month, 10-12, NM Bank & Trust
Unit Meetings are only for League members
League Libations 4th Thursday of each month @ the Hilton Hotel Ortiz Café & Bar, except for December.