



League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County

# The Voter

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

Phone: 505-982-9766 [www.lwvsfc.org](http://www.lwvsfc.org)

Vol. 66, No. 10

December 2017

## ***Leadership Team***

1<sup>st</sup> 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)

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 ...***



If I had to give the Leadership Team a mid-term grade, it would be an Incomplete. I know, I know, that's not what any of us wants to hear, especially since a lot of us have been making an A+ effort. But restructuring our organization is like turning a giant cruise-ship in the middle of a busy harbor: it takes lots of little moves, some of them backward. And, to carry this metaphor even further ... some people choose to lower the lifeboats and head for shore!

Here's the good news and the bad about our first six months as a Leadership Team:

Good News:

- We obtained 501(c)(3) IRS status for the LWVSFC (special thanks to Laurie Glaze).
- We hosted the LWVNM State Convention, planning and overseeing all the logistics, and netting about \$300 in excess revenue over expenses for the State League. (Special thanks to Pat Hawkins, Ann Coulston and Berit Leonard.)
- We revised the budget format, financial reports, and accounting systems to provide more transparency and accountability (special thanks to Berit Leonard and John Hufnagle).
- We defined the new organizational structure and clarified the new roles and responsibilities.
- We divided the traditional responsibilities of the President among the Directors and Committee Chairs.
- We planned a full calendar of programs and events for our members and the public (special thanks to Laura Atkins and Patricia Pedersen).
- We registered 100+ new voters - both adults and young adults. (Special thanks to Ann Coulston, Sharon Starkey and Joanie Sparkman.)
- We geared up for coverage of the 2018 Municipal Election: plans are in place for a LWVSFC Voter Guide and candidate forums (special thanks to Suzanne Ronneau).



- We produced four issues of our exemplary newsletter, *The Voter* (special thanks to Miriam Ries).
- We made progress toward improving our Website (special thanks to Bonnie Iapoce).
- We are successfully managing our membership renewal process, without a Membership Chair, and we have already added 13 new members!
- We increased our Action and Advocacy efforts, with some highly visible and effective results (special thanks to Hannah Burling and the A&A Committee).
- We sorted, reorganized and revitalized our office to encourage more use of it (special thanks to our Office Manager, Patricia Victour); and
- We came to realize that the 2017/18 Leadership Team is a good group to be part of.

Bad News:

- This is hard work, and there aren't enough of us doing it.



So, my conclusion is that our transition is still a “work in progress”... AND... we, the Leadership Team, are committed to completing it. We recently added two ex officio members to expand our reach, and we are looking for a new Secretary and Membership Chair. We’re shooting for an A by the end of the year!

We understand that people don’t just join organizations - they want to become actively involved in causes they believe in. The Leadership Team’s goal is to streamline how we operate, both as a Leadership Team and as an organization, so that everybody’s time, including ours, can be spent on doing what the League does best: making democracy work in Santa Fe.

- Marcy Litzenberg, First Vice President

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 HannahBurling, [hannahburling@gmail.com](mailto:hannahburling@gmail.com)



Your year-end giving makes a difference!

AS YOU PLAN YOUR END-OF-YEAR GIVING....

Please consider making a donation to **us!**

This year your gift will be 100% tax deductible.

Donate **online** at [www.lwvsfc.org](http://www.lwvsfc.org)

Donate by **mail** to:

LWVSFC

1472 St. Francis Drive

Santa Fe, NM 87505

(Make checks to "LWVSFC")

# SANTA FE + NEW MEXICAN

MY VIEW

## Public has a right to know

By Hannah Burling, December 9, 2017

The League of Women Voters believes that methods of financing political campaigns and public offices should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, maximize fiscal accountability and transparency, and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.

On the basis of this position, the League of Women Voters strongly believes that the city should not adopt 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. Many important issues can appear on city ballots, such as charter amendments and tax questions. The public has a right to know who is expending funds for advertising or other types of campaign spending in such issue campaigns.

The adoption of these proposed amendments would leave the public in the dark about who is advocating for or against a particular issue. As we saw in the last special election, the amounts spent on such advocacy can be considerable.

Additionally, the adoption of these amendments might have unintended consequences that would further mislead voters. Groups that, under the current law, register as political committees might instead organize as independent committees in order to avoid having to report the source of their funds. It would not be that difficult to do. Even in candidate elections, if there were issues on the ballot that were identified with particular candidates, an independent committee could be formed whose actual intent would be to influence the candidate election.

The public has a right to know who is trying to influence their elections. The more transparency there is about campaign financing for all types of campaigns, the more informed the electorate. An informed electorate always has been the goal of the League of Women Voters and should be the goal of city government.

*Hannah Burling is chairwoman of the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County Action and Advocacy Committee.*

**Recap—Holiday Luncheon, December 14, 2017**  
**Guest Speaker: Dr. Veronica Garcia**  
**Superintendent, Santa Fe Public Schools**



**About Students:**

- Low expectations for poor children
- Greater parental participation needed
- Access to ECE (early childhood education)
- Pre-K improves learning
- Santa Fe students learn and experience government by attending state legislature sessions and tribal legislatures and governments.

**About Teachers:**

- Starting salaries too low
- Index teacher salaries
- Teacher licensure tied to his/her evaluation score. No other profession has such a licensure requirement.
- Need for higher salaries and higher regard for teaching as a profession.
- Teaching to the test takes the joy out of learning and teaching.
- Corporations not paying their fair share of taxes greatly affects funding for public education in New Mexico.

*-Miriam Ries*

**UPCOMING VOTER REGISTRATION AND EDUCATION EVENTS**

Voter Services is setting up three sites for voter registration and voter education in anticipation of the March 6, 2018, Municipal Election. Based on the most popular days and times of the day, we have set up the following schedule:

**DeVargas Mall**

Fridays, 3-5 p.m.

January 19 and 26, February 2

**Genoveva Chavez Community Center**

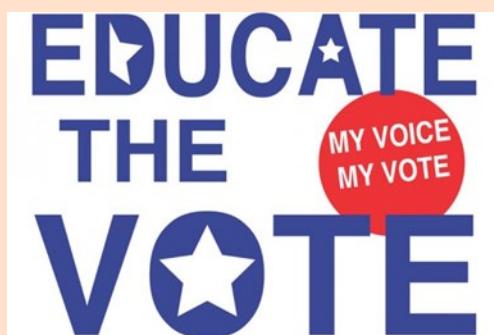
Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m.

January 17, 24, and 31

**Santa Fe Place Mall**

Saturdays, 2-4 p.m.

January 20 and 27, February 3



We need to have at least one voter registrar for each time slot, but we can use other members who might like to help with explaining ranked-choice voting to visitors. If you are interested in helping at any of these times, send an e-mail message to [anncoulston@gmail.com](mailto:anncoulston@gmail.com)



## City Council Moves Forward with Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

On December 20, 2017, the Santa Fe governing body voted to allow ranked choice voting (RCV) by redefining the phrase "majority of votes" as a majority of ballots left at the end of the RCV process. This clears up the ambiguity of "majority" in the charter.

They also decided to have many types of ballots treated as "incorrectly marked in-person ballots" (the charter language). Voters who submit such ballots to a voting machine in person will get an error message, and their ballots will not be counted until they either correct the mistake or decline to do so.

Errors include overvoting, ranking two people the same, not voting at all in one or more races (undervoting), giving every rank to one candidate, and a couple of similar permutations. Councilor Maestas and Mayor Gonzales advocated for this, saying that this would help with the "education" process for RCV.

However, this may also increase the time it takes to vote for some voters, as the process will probably be that anyone with an "incorrectly marked ballot" will have to go to a polling official and get another ballot, whether they want to proceed with what they did or change it. One councilor joked that the "correct-your-ballot line" might be longer than the voting line itself. However, the council did stop short of requiring every voter to rank every candidate, although training will emphasize the importance of this.

Kari Fresquez, the director of elections for the state, said that the voting machines could not be programmed to ignore non-voting in an unopposed race, so in this election, District 3 will be most heavily affected. If this feature remains unchanged for the statewide primary and general elections, it may significantly increase the time it takes to vote in those elections.

Mailed-in absentee ballots cannot be checked for errors, so it is expected that this will result in more spoiled ballots from this group. Council requested additional outreach and training to these voters.

There are still unanswered questions about the use of RCV in the March city election, as Dominion, the software vendor, did not attend the meeting as promised, and Ms. Fresquez could not answer all the councilors' questions.

In particular, the design of the ballot was still being worked on. Governing body members saw designs that they thought were easy to use, but as of December 21, it was not clear if Dominion could provide such designs. It was also not clear what options would be available for the error messages.

The governing body was also presented with proposed educational materials on RCV. The city is spending \$350K from the public financing fund to provide training and outreach to voters. The effort will be headed by Matt Ross, the city's Public Information Officer. There will be website, Facebook, Twitter, etc., and in-person training. The preliminary information is at [www.votedifferentsantafe.com](http://www.votedifferentsantafe.com). The League plans to do voter training as well. ➔

Judge Thomson has ordered the city to institute RCV, so the city needs to go ahead with planning for its rollout in March 2018 (unless the Supreme Court makes a decision that RCV is unconstitutional). The council hopes that, in the next few months, there is more cooperation from the vendor so that the election will run smoothly.

*-Karen Heldmeyer*



## Highlights

October 17, 2017



- Hannah Burling, Chair of A&A Committee, agreed to join the Board.
- We still need a member to take over the Membership Committee. To date 30 members have renewed.
- A tour of the ECO (Early College Opportunities) school is scheduled for November 10.
- Our next General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15th. The A&A committee has contacted speakers for this meeting on municipal tax options.
- Marcy Litzenberg notified the Board of the resignation of Susan Herder as Secretary and Office Manager. Patricia Victour will expand her time in the office so phone and mail will be handled. Volunteers will take minutes at board meetings until a secretary is identified.
- We received a letter from the IRS notifying us that our 501(c)(3) request was granted. The membership has been notified. A celebration of achieving our 501(c)(3) status will take place at the October 20th General Membership Meeting (cake and sparkling wine).
- Since renewing our D&O insurance, State League President Judy Williams expressed her interest in learning about the options for purchasing an umbrella policy covering multiple local Leagues. The State League might be open to this concept if it makes sense and is affordable. No specific plans yet.
- Action & Advocacy Report: Hannah Burling submitted the annual work plan for this committee in the form of a matrix, with priority scores for each item. She made a plea for additional members to step forward to add to the Resources column. She also made a plea for members to cover the City Finance Committee and the Public Works Committee.
- Voter Services Report: A voter registration drive at Santa Fe Prep reached 46 students. Santa Fe High School registration is scheduled for October 30. Ann Coulston is working on setting up adult voter registration for Spanish-speaking Santa Feans.
- Municipal elections are on March 6th. We plan to hold Candidate Forums in the first two weeks of February. Questions to pose to candidates for Mayor and City Council were discussed and will be finalized for vote at the next meeting.
- It does not seem feasible that we can hold an additional Mayor Forum at our General Membership Meeting on February 7th, as planned. However, there was enthusiasm for asking Mayor Gonzales to join us and reflect on his four years in office.

*-Ann Coulston (Minutes)  
-Miriam Ries (Highlights)*

## Highlights

November 21, 2017, Meeting



- Agreed that we purge office files with the proviso that we archive copies of The Voter and maintain past membership lists. Purged documents to be shredded.
- Membership renewal process is in full swing, and 86 renewal reminders were mailed.
- The interim Office Manager, Patricia Victour, and Website Manager, Bonnie Iapoce, to be members of the Board of Directors ex officio.
- Approved, with one abstention, that we appoint the membership chairman to the Board of Directors.
- The Holiday Luncheon is scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup>, with a silent auction. Dr. Veronica Garcia, Superintendent of Santa Fe Public Schools, will be the speaker.
- The Nuclear Study event idea has been put on hold for now.
- The Reproductive rights event (LWVNM grant) presents an opportunity for a public forum for the local league. Suzanne Schmidt suggested that we contact the New Mexico Coalition for Choice, to which the LWVNM and Planned Parenthood belong, for planning an event.
- Sunshine Week (March 2018) needs planning. Sandra Fish had been suggested as a speaker.
- Civility in Public Government. Encourage A&A to write a commentary on civility for the *New Mexican*.
- Flying J. Approved the Flying J plan of action.
- Proposed Amendment of City Campaign Code. Approved a plan for writing a commentary opposing the amendment which would eliminate public information about campaign funds from any source.
- The Board agrees with the idea that our transparency position does not need to be updated as recommended by a former member, Stan Rosen.
- The Santa Fe High School voter registration drive added 113 voters to the rolls.
- Voter Information, chaired by Suzanne Ronneau, is gearing up for a Voter Guide in the *New Mexican* in early February, followed by Candidate Forums for City Council candidates one night and Mayor candidates another night, prior to the Municipal election in March 2018.
- Voter Services moved by email (November 15, 2017) asking for acceptance of Voter Guide questions. Motion passed.
- The Board of Directors moved unanimously to direct Laura Atkins, as liaison to the state League, to bring the issue of establishing a State League Insurance Policy for liability, Directors and Officers protection, and theft protection that would not only cover the State League, but also all of the local leagues in the state. Local leagues would contribute financially to the cost of the insurance. Motion passed.

-Ann Coulston (Minutes)  
-Miriam Ries (Highlights)



**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!**



**LEAGUE  
LIBATIONS  
WILL RESUME  
IN JANUARY  
2018, SAME  
TIME, SAME  
PLACE.**

**THURSDAY  
JANUARY 25  
5:30–7:00  
SF HILTON  
BAR/  
LOUNGE**



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

## Calendar

### January 2018

- Jan. 10, 11:30-1:30: Legislative Preview (Hilton)  
*Jan. 20, 11-2:30: LWVNM Board meeting, Socorro*  
Jan. 23, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting  
Jan. 25, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel  
Jan. 30, 9-11: Unit Meeting - Program Planning  
Jan. 31, 5:30-7:30: *LWVNM Legislative Reception, Garrett's Desert Inn*

### February 2018

- Feb. 1, LWVNM 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)  
Mayoral Forum  
Feb. 20, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting  
Feb. 21, 10-12: St. Vincent Regional Medical Center Tour and Health Care Forum  
*February TBD - League Day at the Legislature*  
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: LWVNM 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, LWVNM Council, Albuquerque*  
May 26, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

\*LWVNM and other organization functions in italics



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