Greetings from the Leadership Team!
What is it? Who are they? I know from discussions with members over the summer that the concept of having our local league, League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County, governed by a team rather than a president has been difficult to comprehend. In this article, I hope to clarify your concerns and questions.

At our Annual Meeting, held on May 5, 2017, the Nominating Committee recommended that “we” or “the membership” accept a restructure of the LWVSFC to form a management team approach to achieving its mission and goals. By vote of the membership present, the Nominating Committee’s recommendation passed.

The Leadership Team, who are now the Board of Directors, met twice over the summer. On July 6, 2017, we had an all-day retreat to better define the roles and responsibilities of member of the Board of Directors. We are:

1st Vice President Marcy Litzenberg
Secretary Susan Herder
Treasurer Berit Leonard
Director Laura Atkins
Director Ann Coulston
Director Coleen Dearing
Director Miriam Ries
Immediate Past President Suzanne Schmidt

On the Leadership Team, but not on the Board, are
Public Relations/Communications Chair, Donna Reynolds
Facilitator, Laurie Glaze
Consultant, Jody Larson

You no doubt noticed that there are still some titles. These are specified in the bylaws, so will remain until such time as bylaws are re-written and adopted. The Leadership Team will continue to meet monthly on the second Wednesday from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the New Mexico Bank & Trust on St. Michael’s Drive. Board meetings are open, and any interested member may attend.
In addition to the Leadership Team, we have Committee Chairs. Some of these chairpersons are part of the Leadership Team, but not all. So we have Directors (BOD) and Chairs:

Director/Administration - Marcy Litzenberg
Director/Member & Program Services - Laura Atkins
Director/Voter Services Chair - Ann Coulston
PR & Communications Chair - Donna Reynolds
Action & Advocacy Chair - Hannah Burling
Arrangements Chair - Patricia Pedersen
Membership Chair - (open)
Nominating Committee Chair - Donna Reynolds
Finance Committee Chair - Marcy Litzenberg

Leadership Team responsibilities are to:

- Provide leadership including ensuring financial soundness and compliance with bylaws, policies, reporting requirements, etc.
- Identify and approve structure and governance of the organization.
- Set program priorities for the year and monitor progress toward goals. (We have asked each committee chair to set measurable goals for this year.)
- Obtain necessary resources for organizational needs.
- Represent and promote LWVSFC in the community.
- Define LWVSFC’s participation in community collaborations.
- Support membership engagement and promote leadership development.
- Review/update bylaws, policies, legal documents, etc.
Northern New Mexico Press Women presents “Media Literacy in a Fake News World” at 1 p.m., Saturday, September 23, at the Santa Fe Public Library, Southside Branch, 6599 Jaguar Drive, Santa Fe.

Panel moderator Inez Russell Gomez, editorial editor of the Santa Fe New Mexican, will lead the conversation about fake news with Albuquerque Journal North editor Mark Oswald, Taos News editor Staci Matlock, PBS NewsHour correspondent Kathleen McCleery, and author James McGrath Morris.

The event is free and is sponsored by the Santa Fe Public Library, New Mexico Press Women, the Society of Professional Journalists (Rio Grande Chapter), Santa Fe chapter of the League of Women Voters, the Foundation for Open Government, and It’s the People’s Data.

For further information, send an email to nnmpresswomen@gmail.com. To contact the Santa Fe Public Library, Southside Branch, call 505-955-2820.

Social Media Team Member Wanted

The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County’s Communications Committee is seeking help with social media. If you are a savvy social media user, tweeting and posting with ease, we’d love to have you join our committee. The League’s Facebook page can always use some attention, and there may be other opportunities to raise the profile of the League’s work in the community through this medium. Contact Donna Reynolds at donnamr@mac.com with your interest.
We Mourn

Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Susan Popovich on the news of her untimely passing. Susan was serving as chair of the Santa Fe Democratic Party and had been active for many years in the California Teachers Association. She was a teacher, educational consultant, mediator, trainer, and teacher advocate who used her skills to improve the education profession. Susan had recently joined the League during her race for the local party chair position. She was very active in registering voters and engaging Santa Fe County residents in the party process.

- Donna Reynolds

THE COURAGE OF PAINE, THE INTELLIGENCE OF DARWIN

Transitioning to renewable energy, dropping coal and nuclear power, will not be easy. Thomas Paine, in the times of the American Revolution, spoke of the sunshine patriot, who is a patriot only when it doesn't derail his comfortable life style; for himself, seeing the hard times ahead, he said "If there must be a revolution, let it be in my life time, so that our children may have peace."

For Charles Darwin, our survival is a question of our ability to adapt, to abandon an established way of life according to the needs of an evolving environment. He pointed to those in the natural world who simulated the patterns of their neighbors who were survivors, and in this imitation, they too survived. We have neighbors, many, who have successfully transitioned to renewable energy ~ much of Scandinavia, the entire European Union, entirely renewable by 2050.

That the fossil fuel industry sustains the New Mexican economy is a myth; its failure is reflected in our illiteracy, in our poverty, and in the despair of our youth.

These same youth point to the sun and the wind; they say they are ready. They will learn the skills to foster a source of energy that does not harm. It is grossly unfair to keep on generating spent fuel rods and pass on the nuclear waste to future generations.

We need the courage today of Thomas Paine and the intelligence of Darwin: fossils are failures. The secret to our survival is in our willingness to change ~ now ~ and spare those who will walk on this Earth from the hardship we know lies ahead.

- Maj-Britt Eagle
Santa Fe School Board, Mary Ellen Gonzales:

As of August 1, there were 36.4 positions unfilled and 11 contracts out. The school board wishes to have permanent people in each classroom.

The Jump Start program at SFHS was successful. PAARC scores have come out. Many schools in the district did well, and there will be a study session on this later. The board is planning how to replace Linda Trujillo.

The board has promised to put meeting packets up on the website. Currently, only the agenda appears on the website. Mary Ellen will ask first as an individual and, if that goes nowhere, the A&A Committee of the Santa Fe League may want to send a formal request letter.

According to the Open Meeting Act, there may not be discussion of any item not on the agenda. According to the Attorney General, anything may be discussed, but action may only be taken on agenda items. Mary Ellen will ask the School Board for an opinion from FOG or the Attorney General’s office.

Early College Opportunities (ECO): the new administrator has an administrative license and has done this work before. The goal is that students graduate from high school with an associate’s degree.

City Council, Mary Schruben:

The first public meeting of the Public Banking Task Force will be on Tuesday, August 15, at 3 pm. League members are encouraged to attend. There will be a packet on the website.

A speaker from Rice University will be in the City Council chambers on August 16, at 3 pm. He is proposing that his students measure the carbon footprint of Santa Fe.

There was some heated discussion as to who will actually write the plan, Sustainable Santa Fe Carbon Neutral 2040.

The Matrix:

Judy Williams will follow at the state level.
All the high priority items were covered and edited.
Laurie Glaze was suggested for the Health Policy and Planning Committee.

Civility at Public Governmental Meetings:
Discussion was tabled until the September meeting.

We need members to monitor the City Finance Committee on first and third Mondays and the Public Works Committee on second and fourth Mondays.

- Hannah Burling
Welcome to the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County! As a new member, the League offers a few tips to help you get involved and learn more about one of the oldest local organizations devoted to educating voters and promoting good government practices. Take the plunge and enjoy your membership by:

- Attending an upcoming League Libations event held monthly at the Hilton (usually the fourth Thursday). It’s a casual, social event where you can learn more about members and their interests.
- Visiting the League’s website at [www.lwvsfc.org](http://www.lwvsfc.org) to learn more about upcoming events, elections and local positions on issues adopted after research and study.
- Volunteering to help register voters at local events or at area high schools when opportunities arise. It’s another great way to meet folks and enlarge the franchise!
- Signing up for a General Meeting normally held at the Hilton. Enjoy a great lunch and interesting topics with other League members.
- Getting active on an issue. Check in with the Action & Advocacy Committee, where members discuss local issues. They meet monthly at Rio Chama restaurant. If it’s an issue with state implications, your best bet is to contact the state League. Learn more at [www.lwvnm.org](http://www.lwvnm.org)
- Using your honed skills to support the League through volunteer service at the Leadership level. *The Voter* offers information from time to time seeking volunteers with special skills and other leadership opportunities.

Of course, the League always appreciates members who simply want to support the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County through their membership dues and generous donations advancing its mission.

- Donna Reynolds

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**VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE RESULTS**

Between July 25th and August 22nd, we held Voter Registration Drives, mainly on the south side of the city. In two-hour shifts, we were present at the Southside Farmers Market from 3-5 p.m. for four weeks; the Genoveva Chavez Community Center, 4 - 6 p.m., for three weeks; and the Southside Public Library from 10:30 - 12:30 for five weeks. We wanted to make it possible for all Santa Fe County residents to vote in the Santa Fe County special election on September 19, 2017. Over the total time of 24 hours, we registered or corrected registrations for 15 voters. Members participating included: Chris Furlanetto, Mary Ellen Gonzales, Patricia Hawkins, Donna Kusewitt, Virginia McCallum, Susan Nickelson, Patricia Pedersen, Suzanne Ronneau, Joanie Sparkman, and Sharon Starkey.

- Ann Coulston, Chair, Voter Services
October Nonfiction Book Club
Selections Focus on (In)Equality

The League will hold its next Nonfiction Book Club meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2017, at Collected Works Bookstore & Coffeehouse beginning at 10:30 a.m. Two books have been selected. The first is “The Crisis of the Middle Class Constitution” by Ganesh Sitaraman. According to a review in The Atlantic “the Vanderbilt legal scholar Ganesh Sitaraman argues that the Constitution doesn’t merely require a particular political system but also a particular economic one, one characterized by a strong middle class and relatively mild inequality.” The second selection may complement the first selection: “The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger” by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett. An Amazon review shares, “the remarkable data assembled in The Spirit Level exposes stark differences, not only among the nations of the first world but even within America’s fifty states. Almost every modern social problem—poor health, violence, lack of community life, teen pregnancy, mental illness—is more likely to occur in a less-equal society. Please feel free to read one or both of these selections and join us in October. Get reading!

- Donna Reynolds

League Libations

Thursday
Sept. 28, 2017
5:30—7:00
Downtown Hilton
Ortiz Café/Bar

Social Time with the LWVSFC

Join us at the Downtown Hilton Ortiz Cafe/Bar! This is a monthly gathering that encourages members and interested parties to attend and mingle in a social setting. Members are encouraged to bring guests, especially those who might be prospective members. Membership Committee members will be there to greet you each month for a “Sure Happy It’s Thursday” meet up.

Repeats monthly, every 4th Thursday.
Voter ID laws aren’t really intended to discourage fraud.
They’re intended to discourage voting.

Welcome New Members!

Linda Rosencranz
Jackie Ralston

Editor’s Note: To respect members’ privacy, personal information is not published in The Voter. However, we encourage you to keep your 2017-2018 Member Handbook up to date by requesting an addendum sheet, which lists phone numbers and mailing and e-mail addresses of new members. Contact Miriam Ries at mries415@yahoo.com for a copy.
Randall Davey House Tour - Other Opportunities to Visit His Home

About ten local members attended the Randall Davey home tour in late July. It’s a fascinating tour, highlighting the work and life of the artist. There is a peaceful and wilderness feel about the land—just minutes from the Plaza.

If you couldn’t make the tour, please be aware that members of the public can tour the home. You can enjoy Santa Fe’s only nature center offering an unexpected artistic past with a visit to the Randall Davey home.

Every Friday afternoon at 2:00 p.m., take a trip back in time and join a docent-led tour of the historic Davey House and Studio, preserved in its original state from the mid 1900’s. Keep an eye out for original furnishings, mural paintings, and the prohibition-era hidden bar! The fee for the tour is $5.

- Donna Reynolds
Several members and guests gathered at Bodega Prime for breakfast on August 22, 2017, to discuss issues of gun safety, including gun violence. Michael Greene, retired educator, and Karen Watkins, native of New Mexico and retired librarian, led the discussion. Both Michael and Karen are active in the Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America here in New Mexico. This is a national organization with chapters in each state, which began following the Sandy Hook massacre. Their work is backed by Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund which, among other activities, conducts national and state research on gun violence issues. EverytownResearch.org provides information that can be used to work with communities and legislative bodies to combat gun violence in our community. New Mexicans Against Gun Violence is a local group that the State League worked with during the last legislative session to pass the Domestic Violence bill that had a gun prohibition section. The bill was vetoed by the Governor.

The facts we were reminded of include:

- More than 93 Americans die from guns every day (versus 27 from DWI).
- 33,000 Americans die every year from guns (3x the population of Espanola.)
- In an average month, in the U.S., 50 women are shot to death by intimate partners.

There is legislative activity on the Federal and State levels nationwide. But it is an uphill battle, mainly because people do not want restrictions on gun ownership and use. New Mexicans are no exception.

Background checks on gun sales have saved lives, but 40 % of guns are sold via some types of internet sales or during gun shows, where background checks are not required. Nineteen states have expanded background checks, including two of our neighbors, Colorado and Nevada. There may be a gun safety bill introduced in the 2018 Legislative session, despite the 30-day session. Participate in the State League Advocacy training and Legislative days coming up on December 9th, January 31st, and February 1st. Check the League calendar for times and locations.

- Ann Coulston
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 (LWVN) 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
Santa Fe, NM 87505-4038
505-982-9766
www.lwvsfc.org
July 2017
**Calendar 2017-2018**

**September 2017**
Sept. 13, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting  
*Sept. 16, 11-2:30 LWVNM Board meeting, Santa Fe*  
Sept. 23, 1-3: “Media Literacy: How Does One Evaluate What is Being Touted as News?” with the Northern New Mexico Press Women’s Association-Southside Library  
Sept. 28, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

**October 2017**
Oct. 11, N 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting  
Oct. 19, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club, Collected Works Bookstore, 202 Galisteo Street  
Oct. 20, 11:30-1:30 General Meeting (Hilton) City of Santa Fe Economic Development Director-Matt Brown  
Oct. 26, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

**November 2017**
Nov. 1 or 7, 9-11: Unit Meeting – LWVNM Study Information Meeting (Reserved)  
Nov. 8, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting  
Nov. 11, 10-12: Eco-School Tour  
Nov. 15, 11:30-1:30: General Meeting (Hilton) Municipal Tax Options  
*Nov. 18, 11 - 3: LWVNM Board meeting, ABQ*  
Nov. 30, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

**December 2017**
*Dec. 9, LWVNM Citizen Advocate Workshop, SF, NM State Capitol, Room 322*  
Dec. 13, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting  
Dec. 14, 11:30-1:30: Holiday Luncheon (Hilton)  
SFPS School Superintendent Dr. Veronica Garcia

Check www.lwvsfc.org for locations and updates. *LWVNM and other organization functions in italics

Regular meetings:  
**Action-Advocacy** 1st Thursday of each month  
LWVSFC Board meetings 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 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.
June 21, 2017

Dear Members,

This is an exciting time for all of us.

For nearly 100 years the League has stood strong, growing into the vital force we are today: changing our political system and supporting millions of voters. Across the country, we continue to have impact in all 50 states, from local communities to the halls of Congress.

In 1920, our founder Carrie Chapman Catt believed that within five years, a League of Women Voters could give millions of women voters a crash course in civic engagement and launch them into the American political system.

The League was a safe-haven for women, regardless of formal party affiliation, to find their voices on issues that mattered to them. As one early leader described it, the League is “like a university without walls ... whose members enter to learn and remain to shape the curriculum.” Over the nearly 10 decades of our existence, the League of Women Voters has applied the lessons learned in our earliest days to engage and empower all voters.

As we approach our 100th Anniversary we are reminded that government of the people, by the people and for the people, cannot function without active involvement of the people. Like our democracy, the League has been through prosperous times and lean times and the League remains a force for change today because our members and supporters have never lost sight of the importance of the voice of the people.

Even more important than our celebrated past or the impact we have in the present, are the hopes and goals we have for our future.

This toolkit is intended to encourage all of us to explore and celebrate our past, and shape our collective centennial celebration.

Thank you for all you are doing and all the plans you are making!

In League,

Chris Carson
LWVUS President

Wylecia Wiggs Harris
LWVUS CEO