The Action & Advocacy Committee had a busy fall, and it looks to be a busy winter.

Last summer, we reviewed and updated the matrix. This organizational template helps us keep track of community issues that oﬀer opportunities for action and advocacy. League positions and resources are already in place, and it makes it possible for us to respond quickly to new developments.

In October, we began work on the Flying J proposal and—thanks to Chris Furlanetto, Jody Larson, Judy Williams, Carol Johnson and Karen Heldmeyer—we have sent a letter to the Board of County Commissioners opposing the current proposal. Several members have attended public meetings on the issue, and Chris and Judy have met with Penny Ellis-Green of the County Growth Management Administration and Jose Larrañaga of County Building and Development Services. A follow-up letter citing our concerns not only about the proposed development but also the observed breaches of the county’s process has been sent. We will continue to monitor the situation and have members attend the meetings and hearings.

In November, Karen Heldmeyer brought Councilor Carmichael Dominguez’ proposed amendments to the City Campaign Code to the committee. We did some signiﬁcant work on this, culminating with a “My View” in The New Mexican shortly before Councilor Dominguez withdrew his suggested amendments. Thanks go out to Jody Larson and Karen Heldmeyer on this one.

We continue to work on Mary Ellen Gonzales’ suggested rules for civility in public governmental meetings.

This is how the work of the A&A Committee begins: an issue surfaces in the community or a member monitoring an older issue spots a possibility for action. The issue is brought to the committee where it is examined to see whether
we have a position which supports action and advocacy, and whether it is the League of Santa Fe County’s issue and not a state or national issue. Action is agreed upon, drafted, sent to the board for review and approval and, if approved, implemented.

The committee is chock full of intelligent, extremely well-informed individuals. It’s a pleasure and an education to be among them. This is one of our two difficulties. We hear so much fascinating information on so many topics which are not our issues and do not call for action. We straggle out to our cars discussing the school lunch program, ranked choice voting, tree infestations, etc. We just can’t stop. And we’re looking into ways to offer this experience to the entire membership.

The second problem is that we need members to monitor the City Council Finance Committee and Public Works meetings and report on them. Everyone who is active in the Action & Advocacy Committee is already very busy. Please consider doing this. The Finance Committee meets on 1st and 3rd Mondays and Public Works meets on 2nd and 4th Mondays.

A major obstacle to retaining volunteers is that meetings often ran late into the night and were not televised. Well, now it is not even necessary to leave the house! Pull on those comfy slippers! Curl up on the sofa! Watch the City Finance Committee meetings on SFGTV 28!

If you are interested, please contact me at hannahburling@gmail.com.

-Hannah Burling

The Interfaith Leadership Alliance seeks volunteers to participate in a study of the teaching of math in Santa Fe public schools. Math proficiency is at 16%. Let's get together to brainstorm how this dismal statistic can be set right.

Contact Hannah Burling at hannahburling@gmail.com for further information.
The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County has serious concerns about the Flying J development project proposed at the intersection of NM Route 14 and Rancho Viejo Blvd. We were involved in the development of both the Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP) and the Sustainable Land Development Code (SLDC) and supported the adoption of these ordinances. We strongly believe that land use decisions must be made "to protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the present and future residents of the County" as stated in section 1.4.1 of the SLDC.

This letter addresses two important aspects of this project:

1) Interpretation of the SLDC for Approvals of Conceptual Plans and Subsequent Site Development Proposals

League members attended the December 6 County facilitation meeting on the Pilot Flying J conceptual plan. We were disappointed that the meeting agenda did not follow the requirements specified in Chapter 4 of the SLDC; i.e., no organized opposition groups were asked to make a presentation and there was no attempt to identify areas of agreement or disagreement. Written notes taken by one of the facilitators were distributed late yesterday; they raise some additional issues which we will address at a later date. [The most relevant (edited) sections of the SLDC are included in the Appendix to this letter; bolded items are those the League is especially concerned with.]

If we understand correctly from the applicant, the conceptual plan is what is now before the County; a public hearing on that application will be held before the Hearing Officer on January 11, 2018. The plan as described by the applicant includes subdividing the parcel into 3 phases, each with a different site development objective: a truck stop in Phase 1, 1 or 2 low-rise hotels in Phase 2 and a commercial/light industrial area in Phase 3. Truck stops are not specifically listed in the CCD Use Table 8.44. However, if the County should determine that this use is analogous to a gas station, which is a listed use in the Use Table, the construction would still require a conditional use permit within the Community College District. The League does not, however, believe that a truck stop is equivalent to a gas station in terms of its impact on a community.

At the facilitation meeting, a question related to the process for approvals of the conceptual plan and the subsequent site development was raised; surprisingly, the applicant was not able (or was unwilling) to answer this question.

The issue – and it is a critical one - is whether a conceptual plan can be approved without a simultaneous determination on the required conditional use permit for the site development. In other words, will there be two separate approval processes – one for the current application for the conceptual plan and a subsequent process, if the conceptual plan is approved, for any conditional uses for phase 1 of the site development?
If the approval of the plan and the phase 1 conditional use permit are simultaneous, then per 8.10.3.5 of the SLDC, it appears that the applicant would need to request any variances as part of the plan application. However, Mr. Siebert specifically said no variances are requested in the conceptual plan application.

The League would like to meet with County staff to discuss this issue. Our concern is that if there is a stand-alone approval of the conceptual plan with no variances specified, the applicant will argue that they have implicit approval to proceed with Phase 1, that is, to build the truck stop. We do not believe that the intention of the code was to allow sneaking through a controversial proposal in this way; we ask that County staff clarify the issue.

2) Granting a Conditional Use Permit for Phase 1, a Truck Stop
This stated purpose of the SLDC is consistent with several LWVSFC positions. Specifically, the League supports:

1) Linking development to the available water supply,
2) City and County attention to the environmental impacts of their decisions on air and water quality,
3) Attracting clean industry to provide jobs for local citizens,
4) For any development proposal, a careful analysis to determine its effect on schools, traffic patterns and density, water consumption, waste-water impact and erosion both in its own area and on that of adjoining landowners, and
5) Terrain management techniques to control drainage and prevent erosion of land and protect watersheds.

We are concerned that there are several attributes of the proposed Flying J truck stop that are not likely to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the Santa Fe community: these include air, light and noise pollution; traffic congestion; water availability, and wastewater treatment capacity.

We understand that approval of the truck stop requires a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) under the Employment Center zoning of this land parcel in the Community College District. We also understand that approval of a CUP is discretionary and will be granted only if the specified approval criteria are met and if the developer agrees to additional conditions imposed by the County.

The LWVSFC urges County decision makers to consider carefully the merits of the Flying J proposal and its impacts on the community before granting a CUP and any requested variances to the SLDC requirements. At a minimum, we urge you to impose conditions consistent with the SLDC for setbacks, signage, lighting, air pollution, landscaping, water usage and sewerage so that this development will not negatively impact the health, safety and general welfare of the Santa Fe community.

Thank you for considering our views. Again, we will be happy to meet in person with County staff to discuss our concerns. We realize we’ve raised numerous issues in this letter; it may therefore be more productive to have an in-person meeting with the appropriate staff members.

Sincerely,

Hannah Burling, Chair
Action & Advocacy Committee, LWVSFC
YOU ARE INVITED!
LWVSFC ANNUAL PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING
Tuesday, January 30, 2018
Santa Fe Association of REALTORS Education Center
510 N Guadalupe Street
(across from the National Cemetery)
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

During January and February 2018, local and state Leagues will conduct program planning and make program recommendations at unit meetings, general membership meetings, or at board meetings. Programs are an integral part of the League’s action and advocacy work, at local, state, and national levels.

LWVSFC will conduct its annual Program Planning Unit Meeting on Tuesday, January 30, 2018. Please plan to attend to provide your input on the League’s local and national public policy positions. This is an ideal meeting where members can propose a new study. Studies are also a great tool for recruiting new members and energizing existing members.

Program Process Summary

- Programs consist of studies, updates, reviews of existing positions or concurrence with positions developed and adopted by other Leagues.
- The League of Women Voters develops its positions by considering an issue and its importance to the community. Members then conduct a thorough study and analysis of the issue, usually through the work of a study committee.
- When the study is complete, the study team creates a set of questions, which are answered through consensus among League members. The answers to the questions are used to develop the League’s position on the issue.
- The position is then considered and reviewed by the board of directors, and subsequently adopted by the membership at the annual meeting.

Why Does the League Study Issues?

We examine reliable and respected research on issues where government policies can make a difference so LWV members can reach informed decisions and develop advocacy positions. At every level of the League organization (local, state, and national), studies are conducted when the public policy issue falls within that jurisdiction. National and state positions may also be used by local associations to take action.

How are LWVSFC Studies Chosen?

- LWVSFC studies local issues that we can influence through advocacy.
- The issue should be one that local government can act on within that jurisdiction.
- Issues for studies must fall within League principles and be useful for advocacy.
How Do Studies Get Done?

- Members bring study proposals to the annual program planning meeting
- The person proposing the study usually chairs the study. If not, the person should identify a study chair.
- The chair forms a Study Committee, which
  - Researches and conducts interviews
  - Analyzes information
  - Clarifies issues
  - Identifies problems
  - Writes interim study reports and provides background materials for members to read and discuss.
  - Develops consensus questions for LWVSFC Board consideration and review.
  - Presents final consensus questions to members for consideration at a Unit Meeting.
  - Provides a comprehensive final study report that may be published for both member and public use.

How are positions approved?

- Study Committee drafts a position based on results of the consensus meetings.
- Study Committee presents the position statement to the LWVSFC Board for consideration and review.
- Study Committee presents the proposed position statement to members at the annual meeting for consideration and adoption.

Once a position is approved, LWVSFC can use it for advocacy

As part of our Program Planning Unit Meeting in 2018, LVWUS is requesting that local Leagues respond to a series of questions about its Campaign for Making Democracy Work. Handouts will be available from LWVUS for this portion of the planning meeting.

LVWUS is asking Leagues to share information on how their work will impact the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® as well as identify LWVUS positions that they intend to use in education and lobbying.

The LVWUS Board recommends that Program 2018-2020 continue The Campaign for Making Democracy Work® with Leagues throughout the country working on:

- Voting Rights
- Improving Elections
- Campaign Finance/Money in Politics
- Redistricting

In preparation for the LWVSFC Program Planning meeting, please review the local positions found on LWVSFC’s website at www.lwvsfc.org and take a look at a summary of LWVUS positions located at http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/book/summary-public-policy-positions

-Laura Atkins, LWVSFC Program Chair
The League of Women Voters
Santa Fe County
New Mexico
harvested a bumper crop of
146 newly-registered voters at

Capital High School
Santa Fe, New Mexico,
on January 18, 2018.

Special thanks to Capital High teacher Meredith Tilp.
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!
Calendar

January 2018
Jan. 23, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
Jan. 25, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel
Jan. 30, 11-1: 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

Members: Please check the Events Calendar on the website’s home page often as additions, cancellations, topics, locations and cover charges may occur.

*LWVNM 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.

Check www.lwvsfc.org for locations and updates.