League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County

The Voter

Vol. 68, No. 1  January 2019

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VP—Kelly Davis (Voter Services)
VP—Marcy Litzenberg (Administration)
VP—Donna Reynolds (PR/Communications)
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Miriam Ries (Special Projects)
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Suzanne Ronneau (Office Manager)
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Stephanie Schlanger (The Voter)

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Berit Leonard
Miriam Ries
Susan Haase
Donna Reynolds

It’s 2019... and just one year away from the League’s 100th Anniversary!

The League of Women Voters will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding on February 14, 2020. Once the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was passed by Congress, the National American Woman Suffrage Association transformed itself into the League of Women Voters to mobilize ratification efforts across the states and to educate women how to use the vote effectively. Since then, the League has worked diligently for the civic rights of individuals and groups denied the vote and equal status under the law, not only in the United States but worldwide. On August 26, Women’s Equality Day will commemorate the official 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Groups and individuals in New Mexico are convening this winter to organize and synergize.

Want to get involved? See next page

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LWV History Buffs and Organizers Needed for 100th Anniversary Committee!

Over the next year, each League will be determining its own way to celebrate the League’s 100th anniversary and the long, valiant struggle to secure the women’s right to vote. There will be some activities organized by LWVNM and LWVUS. Luckily, each League has celebrated different birthdays over the years and recorded our major activities in our monthly Voter and in La Palabra, so there is there is a wealth of information to sort through. We’ll want to showcase our major accomplishments over the decades with an eye to inspiring others to get involved and engaged. Never resting on our laurels, we can demonstrate how concerted efforts create future opportunities to improve government and enhance quality of life. Please help gather information for display boards and tables that we can share at our Convention in Los Alamos this May and at the capitol in winter 2020. Please write short vignettes of movers and shakers and of those wonderful moments where our advocacy efforts paid off. We can post some photos and excerpts of these memories and milestones on our local and state League websites as well as publish them in our newsletters. We can also submit some of our work to the NM Records and Archives, whose director has enthusiastically agreed to help us find source material and to participate in celebrating women’s suffrage.

Please contact Meredith Machen at Meredith.Machen@gmail.com or 505 577-6337 if you can volunteer even a few hours to make this important project a success. On League Day, February 7, right after the presentations end at noon, let’s lunch together at the Rio Chama restaurant and share ideas with members from across the state and start our planning. Thank you!!!

“In the adjustment of the new order of things, we women demand an equal voice; we shall accept nothing less.”

— Carrie Chapman Catt, Founder, League of Women Voters
Holiday Party guest speaker Julie Ann Grimm, editor and publisher of The Santa Fe Reporter, gave a stirring talk on the issues facing journalism and journalists today. She began by reviewing the suit The Reporter filed against the Governor’s Office in 2013 for refusing access to the paper’s reporters and striking them from the email list. The Reporter had recently printed some stories critical of Governor Martinez’s administration, citing instances of corruption and violations of the public trust.

“The Reporter charged The Governor’s Office with violating the free speech clause of the state constitution,” Grimm stated. “In addition, we charged them with engaging in a practice of ‘viewpoint discrimination’ by sharing information with other media but denying The Reporter the same access.” Finally, we charged they had “systematically and purposefully violated the State Inspection of Public Records Act” by refusing to release public records to The Reporter.”

The Reporter “won some and lost some” in Judge Sarah Singleton’s ruling on the case in December 2017, said Grimm. While the paper was awarded damages, the case was appealed and only just this month settled. However, the paper still has not been given access they have requested to some of the records of the case, specifically the fees paid to the lawyer for the Governor’s Office. Appeals continue and a new suit has been filed for access to these public records.

Most importantly, although Judge Singleton cited case law that “a public official cannot constitutionally deny to one media access that is enjoyed by other media” she at the same time upheld other case law that said officials have a “right to ‘discriminate’ and ‘choose a friendly messenger.’

“Increasingly, there’s been a broad effort to ‘manage the message,’” said Grimm. Government officials and agencies as well as private companies now employ public information officers to speak for them; it’s very difficult for reporters to get access to individuals. As a result, “There’s only one person you can talk to, and that person usually doesn’t want to talk.”

“Reporters themselves are partly to blame for the erosion of access,” admitted Grimm. “We’ve gotten lazy, sent too many emails, had too little face to face conversations, used too many canned quotes, gave in too easily to getting questions answered in writing and not following up to make sure we really understood the issue. We acted as stenographers instead of critical thinkers. Now some of the people in power think that that’s the way it should be.”

“That said, The Santa Fe Reporter will always try to end run around obstruction,” Grimm vowed. Citing the recent Council on International Relations sponsored conference “Journalists Under Fire” held in Santa Fe in November, Grimm noted that journalists from all over are facing real, life-threatening opposition.

“A woman from Kosovo was struck that in America, stories by journalists have an impact, that things happen; where she is there’s no expectation that anything happening,” continued Grimm. “Hearing them talk made me really grateful for what we have here in this country.”

Grimm concluded her talk by quoting Josh McKeown, a photographer for the Washington Gazette, where five journalists were shot and killed last June: “If we die for it, someone else will pick up the threads. We are your neighbors, we are not your enemies—we are you.”

Despite the serious challenges facing journalists today, Grimm is optimistic about the future of journalism. She cited a recent Pointer Institute poll that said “over 70% of Americans express a fair amount or a great deal of trust in their local papers and television news, even as resources continue to shrink.”

A free press is essential to democracy, and citizens hold the power to keep it free. “Keep doing your part,” she encouraged us. “Keep reading.”
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY
ACTION & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
December, 2018

♦ Midtown Campus Project: The city is developing an Request for Information to select a contractor for a “Master Plan” development project. The city and state have come to an agreement to transfer public school lands to this project, so that the city will gain the entire perimeter road of the old SFUAD campus which will now become 50 acres. In return the city is giving up the State Police location which the state has been paying $1 a year rent.
♦ Christus Behavioral Health Youth Service: The GRT will fund some psych services, but only buildings, nothing inside. There are eight beds for adult mental health issues, none for children and youth.
♦ 2020 Census Complete Count: Hannah Burling attended the 2020 Census Complete Count Meeting for the county and is asking for volunteers to staff the 7 outreach and information disseminating subcommittees. The committee is hoping to become a model program for all counties in New Mexico.
♦ Bonds: Renny Ashleman gave a presentation on infrastructure bonds. The city is not at capacity, which has helped the bond ratings. The city is doing better about charging the right fund and applying for the right grants though many departments do not have anyone who can apply for grants.
♦ City Transparency: Written materials for many committee meetings are not available to the public, the city’s presentations do not transcribe and many links do not work. Furthermore, councilors receive reports at the meeting and have not had a chance to read them before taking action. Renny Ashleman and Hannah Burling are working on a letter to the mayor, city attorney and city clerk which will be presented to the BOD at the January meeting.
♦ City Report: Much of the city is not surveyed, recycling is up in the air and the Economic Development Committee has had a restructuring in the works for the last six months.
♦ County Report: Jody Larson reported that the Mining and Resource Extraction Working Group is worried about the SLDC which was passed some time ago but has place holders instead of actual restrictions. This part of the code is very general and very hard to enforce. The working group wants to have standards as high as possible. Given that the group felt the county should ban open pit mining, are absolute bans inverse condemnation? And what financial impact would this have on the county? When the wording comes back from the working group, Jody Larson, Chris Furlanetto and Judy Williams will search for league positions that apply.
The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County would like to thank Miriam Ries for her valuable volunteer work over the last six years editing and publishing The Voter newsletter. Miriam was instrumental to the key work of the League by using her graphic, communication and editorial skills to regularly share with members the events, activities and mission of the League. Miriam also offered her volunteer service during the recent office move. The League cannot meet its mission without the dedicated and committed volunteer support provided by its members and leaders. Thank you, Miriam, job well done! The League looks forward to your continued service on the board and as its Special Projects Chair.

We welcome new members Candy Blackwood, Guy Dimonte Susan Summers and Harry Wright and express our deep gratitude to our lifetime members Marian Graves, Marianne Hale, Jane Hanna, Gisela Knight and Sally Sabo for their dedication and service.

And we wish to acknowledges, with gratitude, donations from the following members, friends, and foundation. Financial support is essential to accomplish the work of educating citizens and encouraging them to participate actively in government at all levels.

Renny Ashleman  Kathy Holian  Miriam Ries
Laura Atkins  Ellen Lampert  Sally Sabo
Joyce Blalock  Barbara Lanning  Elizabeth Schnieders
Elsbeth Bobbs  Jody Larson  Elizabeth Shillinglaw
Hannah Burling  Berit Leonard  The David Aranov
Caroline Burnett  Irene Leslie  Foundation
Maj-Britt Eagle  Marcy Litzenberg  Margaret Veneklasen
Pamela Epple  Meredith Machen
Rebecca Frenkel  Lucille Osaki
Nikki Harnish  Patricia Pedersen
Patricia Hawkins  Donna Reynolds
Debra Helper  Roberta Richards
Roe v. Wade Day
Tuesday, January 22, 2019
State Capitol Rotunda
Santa Fe, NM
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Special Guest Speaker: Joan Lamunyon Sanford, Executive Director,
NM Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Plus remarks by various state legislators
Cake and coffee will be served.

Roe v. Wade was a landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision that established a woman’s legal right to an abortion. The Court ruled, in a 7-2 decision, that a woman’s right to choose an abortion was protected by the privacy rights guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. That decision has been under attack ever since.

There is nothing permanent or unassailable about a human right. Rights exist only to the extent that the protected class is willing to defend and protect those rights.

On January 22, 2019, stand up and be counted among those who defend and protect a woman’s right to determine her own reproductive health. Not a politician. Not a member of a religious organization. Not a pharmacist. Just the woman herself. As it should be.

National Popular Vote Forum II
January 12, 2-5 p.m.
Unitarian Church Fogelson Hall,
107 W Barcelona, Santa Fe

Find our more about this popular movement whose time has come!
League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County
Board of Directors
December 18, 2018
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Meeting Highlights

LWVNM Liaison – Laura Atkins
The Legislative Advocacy Forum was well-attended this year. In response to Dick Mason’s request that local leagues contact their legislators before the session, Hannah Burling and Susan Haase had a meeting with Senator Wirth and they also had a meeting with Laura Atkins and Senator Rodriguez. Susan gave a brief summary of the budget process Senate Finance follows as explained to them by Senator Rodriguez.

Voter Services – Kelly Davis (See report on page 10)
Kelly and high school voter registration chair Sharon Starkey are discussing ways in which to engage high school students above and beyond just registering those who are eligible. They are looking at possibly partnering with city government to bring presentations to the schools to illustrate the value of living in a democracy and the importance of a vote.

In order to keep students engaged, strategies like having them fill out postcards when they register which we could use to remind them to vote – or text their smart phones with a voting reminder – and/or send a link to the Voter Guide along with the notification. Also we want to make sure every debate coach in every high school has a few of them – AND – maybe have high school students trained as voter registrars themselves. We are open to any ideas to to keep the issue current, alive, meaningful, and personal.

Program planning meeting 2019 - Laura Atkins (See report on page 12)

Action & Advocacy - Hannah Burling (See report on page 4)

Creation of LWVSFC phone tree – Susan Haase
In our meeting with Senator Wirth, he mentioned that passage of HB 51 (removal of all criminal statutes relating to abortion) will be very difficult because opposition will be very well organized, and it will be important to “pack” hearing rooms with supporters. Also, we know that hearings are often not scheduled until late in the night, the night before the hearing. Consequently, it will be necessary to have an “instant alert” system in place for us to show support. Miriam Ries will look into how the alert system might be put into place.
League Libations
January 24, 5:30-7 p.m.
Hotel Santa Fe, Ortiz Café and Bar

Celebrate the New Year!
Catch up with League members.
Bring a friend and make new friends.
Share ideas and get inspired.

See you there!

March Nonfiction Book Club Selection:
The Fifth Risk

The League will hold its next Nonfiction Book Club meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2019, at Collected Works Bookstore & Coffeehouse, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The book selected to read is “The Fifth Risk” by Michael Lewis.

From an NPR review, “Government may be too big and the bureaucracy too complex, but Lewis delves into its critical missions: to protect us from threats, including nuclear weapons proliferation, devastating tornadoes, and foodborne illnesses; and to efficiently distribute services and benefits to those needing a hand — whether from Federal Emergency Management Agency or food stamps.”

Get reading, and we will see you in March!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Premiere of the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Bio-pic
On the Basis of Sex
January 11, 2019
Violet Crown Theatre, Santa FE
Co-sponsored by LWVSFC and NOW

Join the League of Women Voters and the National Organization for Women for the premiere of the new movie about Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s legendary appearance before the U.S. Court of Appeals to argue for gender equality.

On January 14 and 21, Violet Crown will reprise the documentary Notorious RBG, also sponsored by LWFSFC and NOW.

Check movie listings for times, or check in with LWVSFC on Facebook.

“On the Basis of Sex is the inspiring true story of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and the struggles she faced on the way to becoming a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. Unitig with her husband Marty, Ginsburg fights to bring a ground-breaking case before the U.S. Court of Appeals, and overturn a century of gender discrimination once and for all.”

December 2019
League members and guests on a tour of the state art collection at the Roundhouse arranged by PR/Communications Vice President Donna Reynolds
Completed revisions to Voter Register Protocol. The Protocol required the following revisions: (1) change in process for nonmembers assisting with League voter registration and (2) change in Social Security number requirement for people completing voter registration applications.

Reorganization of Voter Services Chair Board position. Request for Board approval to have two Voter Services Board Members: (1) Voter Registration Chair and (2) Voter Information Chair. In addition, revised job descriptions using the current Voter Services job description and allocating responsibilities accordingly.

Working on the following: (1) redesign voter registration sites charts when sending out request for volunteers. Design of data collection forms for reporting numbers served per site broken down by: (1) number of first time registrants (2) number of registrants who need changes in their registration and (3) those who need information on voting issues.

Working with Sharon Starkey to explore bringing presentations/events that focus on understanding the value of living under a democracy, what it means to their life and the importance of voting to high schools. Would like to partner with city government on the project.

Received Website “Basic Training” to assume the responsibility for Voter Services
League Day at the Legislature, February 6 and 7, 2019

League table at the Roundhouse all day - NEED VOLUNTEERS! Please contact Judy Williams at President@lwvnm.org.

Rooms are available at Garrett's Desert Inn for $79 plus tax (free parking). 311 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87501 Call (505) 982-1851 and ask for the League of Women Voters block. The rooms will be held only until January 16, 2019.

Legislative reception, Location TBA, Wednesday, February 6, 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver will speak on voting rights priorities for the session.

League Day at the Legislature Thursday, February 7. 10:30 - noon, State Land Office, Morgan Hall, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail, across from Garrett's Desert Inn.

♦ Welcome from Stephanie Garcia Richard, State Land Commissioner

♦ Enabling Legislation for the State Ethics Commission - Former Representative Jim Dines, sponsor of constitutional amendment

♦ Taxes and Funding for Essential Services - Amber Wallin, Deputy Director, New Mexico Voices for Children

♦ Meet with legislators as individuals or in groups.

Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver – Voting Rights in the 2019 session. First elected in 2016, Secretary of State Toulouse Oliver is focused on expanding voter access and voting rights, increasing financial disclosure and campaign finance reporting, modernizing the online campaign finance system and advocating for good government and stronger ethics legislation. Secretary Toulouse Oliver served as Bernalillo County Clerk from 2007 to 2016.

Enabling Legislation for the State Ethics Commission - Representative Jim Dines, JD. Representative Dines was the sponsor of HJR8 in 2017, which put creation of a state ethics commission on the ballot in 2018. That ballot question passed with over 75% of the vote. Rep. Dines was on the working group to craft the enabling legislation. Dines was a founding member of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government.

Taxes and Funding for Essential Services - Amber Wallin, MPA, Deputy Director, New Mexico Voices for Children. Amber Wallin oversees New Mexico Voices for Children’s research and policy work. She also manages the KIDS COUNT program and does policy research on education, tax and budget, hunger, and economic issues. She joined NM Voices in 2012 as a Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Fellow, after which she was a Research and Policy Analyst and later KIDS COUNT Director. Wallin has worked in the public sector at the municipal, state, and federal levels, working in the government department at New Mexico State University and the budget department at the city of Las Cruces prior to joining the Voices team.
League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County
Program Planning Meeting 2019
Santa Fe Association of REALTORS Education Center
510 N Guadalupe Street
January 29, 2019, 10 to 12
Preliminary Agenda

Purpose: Review and make recommendations on State and Santa Fe league positions and suggest 2019 local or state studies.

Review LWVNM positions
We can recommend small changes, corrections, or updates to LWVNM positions, or we can create a new study to develop a new state position.

Review LWVSCF positions
Discuss, vote, and recommend changes - All

Review local study proposals submitted in advance (study proposal form will be available on the website)

Brain Storming: Topics for coming year and ad hoc studies (submit topics in advance)
What issues and topics will be important in the next year locally?
Forum topics?
What leaders would you like to hear from?
Call for volunteers to work on local studies, coordinate events

12 PM Adjourn

General Information

LWV Program Process
Programs consist of studies and reviews of existing positions.
Members can recommend new studies if existing positions don’t cover an issue needed for advocacy. 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 position on the issue.
The position is then considered and adopted by the appropriate local, state or national board of directors, and subsequently by the membership at the annual meeting.

How are Studies Chosen?
LWVSFC studies local issues than we can influence through advocacy.
The issue should be one that local government can act on.
Issues for studies must fall within League principles.

LWVNM positions are up for review in 2019
LWVSFC can recommend small changes, corrections, or updates to LWVNM positions.
LWVSFC can recommend a new study to develop a new position.
Any LWVUS position can be used. Other state positions can be used by local leagues. But the state league can't use local positions.
Another option is to find a position of another state or local League and recommend concurrence with that position, thus avoiding a study.

Study Process
Members bring study proposals to the annual program planning meeting
The person proposing the study usually chairs the study – if not will 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 to develop and support consensus questions
Develops consensus questions for LWVSCF Board approval
Presents approved consensus questions to members for consideration and approval
Writes final study report that is published for member and public use

How are positions approved?
Study committee drafts a position based on results of agreements reached in the consensus meetings.
The members approve the positions resulting from studies at the annual meeting.

Once a position is approved, LWVSCF can use it for advocacy
Calendar 2009

January
January 9, 11:30-1:00: Legislative Preview (Hotel SF)
January 11, Premiere of On the Basis of Sex, Violet Crown Theatre, SF
January 12, 2-5: National Popular Vote Public Forum II, Unitarian Church Fogelson Hall, 107 W Barcelona
January 15, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
January 19, 11-3: LWVNM Board meeting, Albuquerque
January 22, 1-2: Roe vs. Wade Day, State Capitol Rotunda
January 24, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel
January 29, 10-12: Unit Meeting - Program Planning, Santa Fe Association of REALTORS Ed Center, 510 N Guadalupe

February
February 6, 5:30-7:30: LWVNM Legislative Reception-Garrets Desert Inn
February 7, LWVNM League Day at the Legislature
February 19, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
February 28, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

March
March 17, 11-3: LWVNM Board meeting, Santa Fe
March 19, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
March 20, 11:30-1: Sunshine Week luncheon (Hotel SF) Progress report on city finance fixes
March 21, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club, Collected Works Bookstore, 202 Galisteo Street
March 28, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

April
April 4, 7-9: Public forum on Immigration
April 16, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
April 25, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

May
May 8, 11:00-1:30: Annual Meeting (Hotel SF)
May 15, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
May 19, LWVNM Convention, Las Cruces (?)
May 20, 11-3: LWVN board meeting
May 23, 5-30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

Date TBD: Nonprofit news organization public forum

Check www.lwvsfc.org for locations and updates.
*LWVN 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 at NM Bank & Trust, 1592 St. Michael’s Dr.
League Libations: Last Thursday of each month @ the Hilton Hotel Ortiz Café
Holiday Cheer 2018!

And Happy New Year 2019!
ARRESTED

Miss Susan B. Anthony
for VOTING

The Trial of Susan B. Anthony
1:00pm, Monday, November 4, 2002
Indiana Supreme Court

Indiana State House, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis
*1870s dress encouraged

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC