Message from the President

Dear League Members:

As we head into summer, we anticipate several interesting and important League activities. If you are here for the events, please sign on. As always, we have some stimulating issue forums as well as fun and interesting tours – hummingbirds, the opera, to name just a few! Subjects of intense local interest will be explored in sessions on campaign financing and water issues. See the calendar on the website as well as in this issue of The Voter.

We do hope a lot of you will join us for events this year – we want to engage you in whatever area you find interesting. We have a lot of talent and experience in our membership, and we would like to put it to work!

On a personal note, while I always miss the League and Santa Fe while I’m away, we are on a driving trip to British Columbia, Yukon, and southern Alaska. Time to see some of the big mountains, hike the forests of the north, and see what is happening there as a result of climate change. Since I’ll be away until late July, I have asked Suzanne Schmidt, our first VP, to share her message with you in August’s The Voter. So have a great summer all, and I’ll catch you at one of the August League or musical events.

~Judy Williams

Join or renew your membership. See page 8.
Remember the last Municipal Election?
Remember the difficulties with public financing and outside monies?
Attend the lunch on July 15 and hear all about the proposed amendments to Santa Fe's public campaign finance laws.

A distinguished panel will present and explain the amendments, which may be heard by the City Council as soon as July 29th during a public meeting.

Heather Ferguson, Campaign Director for Common Cause New Mexico, will present the amendments. Ruth Kovnat, a member of the city's Ethics and Campaign Review Board will talk about the Board’s recommendation of the amendments. Patti Bushee, long-time District 1 city councilor and recent mayoral candidate, will talk about the amendments from the candidate's view.

The luncheon will be on July 15 from 11:30 to 1:00 at the Hilton Hotel. It will be a Chef's Selection Buffet with vegetarian options. The cost is $22.00, and the lunch is open to League members and their guests. Please RSVP to rsvp@lwvsfc.org.

Hummingbird Fest on the Pecos

Please join The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County for an evening in the Pecos Canyon, where you will experience the magic of Tererro General Store’s hummingbird colony coming in to roost.

When: July 23, 2015, 6:30 P.M.
Where: Tererro General Store, Tererro, NM
Specifics: Drinks & snacks provided by League member and TGS co-owner, Sherry Ley
Hummingbird history provided by Dawn Graber of Wild Birds in Santa Fe
Hummingbirds roost at approximately 8:00 P.M.
Teaser: www.youtube.com “Tererro General Store Hummingbirds”
RSVP: Suzanne Schmidt, 505-988-7070, or cmilagra@yahoo.com
Directions: IH25 toward Las Vegas. Take exit 299, Pecos/Glorieta. Go left onto overpass. Turn right onto Hwy 50 toward Pecos. In Village of Pecos, turn left onto NM63, going north toward the mountains. Tererro General Store is 14 miles up the spectacular Pecos Canyon. Driving time from Santa Fe, 1 hour.

Mark your calendars and plan to join other League members to discover the remarkable process of how an opera production comes together. Through a comprehensive “Behind the Scenes” tour, you can explore many of the production and front-of-house areas. This one-hour tour will be followed by an extended tour of the grounds, known as the “Opera Ranch,” with a “Meet the Artist” component. The cost to participate in both tours is $20. The tour starts at the Santa Fe Opera Box Office at 9:00 a.m. If you plan to attend, please send an email RSVP to Donna Reynolds at donnamr@mac.com
Suzanne Schmidt, new member and 1st Vice President, attributes her lifelong dedication to feminist issues to a click of consciousness incident in 1973. As a recently relocated resident to a community in Deep East Texas, Suzanne went to the local library to get a card to check out books. What she got instead was a slap in the face clothed as a rule that the card must be issued in her husband’s name rather than hers. As Suzanne says, “It felt like I was being told I was his property.”

From that point forward, Suzanne dedicated a significant piece of her life to advocacy for women’s equality. She helped organize the first National Organization for Women chapter in her community, served as President of the Women’s Center of East Texas Board of Directors, and was a founder of both the Longview Women’s Network and Women in Longview Day. She wrote and spoke about women’s issues, attempting to raise awareness of the subtleties in the suppression of women.

Suzanne is also an author. She has published articles in counseling journals, Today’s Dallas Woman, and the member publication of the International Association of Fitness Professionals. She has penned a self-help book, a book of personal stories with mental health themes, and a family drama novel. Her most recent publication is a cookbook titled Wisecracks, Wisdom, and Wicked Good Food: An Earth Woman Cookbook for Body and Soul.

Suzanne’s movement into work with the League is a natural extension of her interest in government. She taught government, economics, and history in what she terms “a previous life.” Suzanne actively lobbied for counselor licensure in Texas and served on both state and national Legislative Committees. As she tells students in her role as Adjunct Professor, “It is government that controls much of our lives. Participation in the process is a way to reduce the sense of helplessness that often comes with sitting on the sidelines and watching the train wreck unfold.”

Reminder
Non-fiction Book Club
Thursday, July 23, 2015
10:30 a.m.
Collected Works Bookstore
Discuss Edward O. Wilson’s “The Meaning of Human Existence”
Choose the next book for discussion.
**Action and Advocacy Committee**  
*Meeting Notes, July 2, 2015*

*Members Present:* Joyce Blalock, Ann Coulston, Chris Furlanetto, Mary Ellen Gonzales, Suzanne Ronneau, Mary Schruben, Neva Van Peski;  *Presiding,* Suzanne Schmidt; Special Appearance, Janet Lincoln, Membership Chair, with newly minted sunshades in hand!

**County Issues**  
*Reporting: Chris Furlanetto*

The Board of County Commissioners will finalize the Sustainable Land Development Code by September, when the moratorium on an ordinance for three Developments of Countywide Impact will expire. Those DCI’s address junk yards, landfills, and sand/gravel operations. The language must be adopted by the September moratorium deadline. The draft ordinance was released on Tuesday and is available on the county website. Sand and gravel operations would be covered if they involve more than 10 acres, or more than 20 tons, or blasting. Thus, only larger operations would be impacted. There will be two public hearings on July 28 and August 11. Chris pointed out that the League should comment before the August 11 date. In addition to the public hearings, 4 community meetings will be held to address questions about the ordinance.

**City Issues**  
*Reporting: Mary E. Schruben*

Mary elaborated on the written report she submitted to the committee prior to the meeting. Involvement with her neighborhood association began her contact with city committees, whose names, meeting dates, and current pertinent issues were outlined in her written summary. Mary will report to the A&A Committee on the committees she monitors. She also made suggestions about additional committees it would be important to cover.

**SFPS Issues**  
*Reporting: Mary Ellen Gonzales*

Mary Ellen stated that nothing of significance needed to be reported to the committee at this time.

**Public Banking**  
*Reporting: Joyce Blalock and Neva Van Peski*

Neva had submitted to the committee in advance a very thorough summary of a forum that addressed public banking. Joyce and Neva explored the meeting they attended, pointing out that it was more global in nature than specific to public banking. Questions arose about the timing of the endeavor and whether a public bank would only be a part of a broader financial package for the city. In response to a question about how much of the city's cash balances could be used to finance a public bank, Ms. Updike said about $80,000. The League will conduct a public forum on October 28, 2015, to explore the issues surrounding the founding of a public bank.

**“It’s the People’s Data” Initiative**  
*Reporting: Suzanne Schmidt*

Suzanne reported that she and Chris will represent the League at the initial exploratory meeting of this group on July 2. The League board raised a number of questions that Suzanne and Chris will be asking of Tom Johnson, moderator of this meeting. Tom is spearheading this movement to get the city to provide data in ways more easily analyzed by citizens and reporters.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Schmidt, Chair
LWVUS STUDY: Suggested Readings on Money in Politics Study

This list of suggested reading material is intended to help League members get started in learning about the complex topic of Money in Politics. This is an initial list designed to orient League members and the general citizenry to the issues. Other suggestions will be added to the list in the future. The readings were selected with several key considerations in mind. First, the material is considered relevant to the scope of the work of the Money in Politics Committee, such as providing a historical overview of the subject matter and/or addressing recent events. Second, the material is generally accessible and available for either purchase or review online. Third, the list represents differing points of view and different aspects of the general topic so that the reader is exposed to a broad range of viewpoints and appreciation of the complexity of the issues. No single source covers all aspects of the topic. The material is intended to be educational in nature and does not represent the viewpoints of the League of Women Voters.

Books and Other Resources:


Chapters in Books:


Calendar 2015-2016

2015

July
July 15, 11:30-1: Santa Fe Proposed Campaign Finance Law Changes (Hilton)

July 18, 11 – 2:30: LWVNM Board meeting, Albuquerque*

July 23, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club, Collected Works Bookstore, 202 Galisteo Street

July 23, 6:30 PM: Hummingbird Tour – Pecos

July 31, 9 AM: Opera Backstage Tour - $20

August
August 12, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting

August 18, 9-10: Breakfast with a Leader – Judge Shannon Bulman – Probate program

August Date TBD, 10-12: Museum of Spanish Colonial Art Tour

September
September 9, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting

September 16, 6-8 PM: Local Water Forum

September 19, 11-2:30 LWVNM Board meeting, Santa Fe

September 30, 6-8 PM: Next Steps for Distributive Generation Forum

October
October 8, 6-8 PM: Regional Solid Waste & Recycling Forum

October 14, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting

October 20, 9-11: Unit Meeting – LWVSFC Economic Development Study Update

October 22, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club, Collected Works Bookstore, 202 Galisteo Street

October 28, 11:30-1: City of Santa Fe Public Bank Luncheon (Hilton)

November
November 10, 9-11: Breakfast with a Topic – Food Security (Food Depot)

November 11, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting

November 13, 12-2: Past Presidents meeting

November 18, 9-11: Unit Meeting - LWVUS Study “Money in Politics” Consensus

November 21, 11 - 3: LWVNM Board meeting, Socorro

2016

January – City Retail Voting Program Launch
January 13, 11:30-1:30: Lunch - Legislative Preview (Hilton)

January 13 1:30 -3:30: LWVSFC Board meeting

January 17, 11-3: LWVNM Board meeting Albuquerque

February

February 4, 5:30-7:30: Legislative Reception

February 5, League Day at the Legislature

February 10, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting

February 9, 11, 16 or 18, 6-8 PM: Municipal Election Candidate Forums

February 17, 3-5: Meeting with Mayor Gonzales

February 25 or 26: 10-12: County Mural History Tour

March – Municipal Election Day – March 1

March 4, 9-11: Unit Meeting – LWVNM Charter Schools Study Update

March 9, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting

March 18, 6-8 PM: One Person/One Vote – Supreme Court Forum – Sunshine Week Event

March 19, 11-3: LWVNM Board meeting, Santa Fe

March 26, 9-11: Women’s History Month Breakfast

April

April 1, 9-11: Unit Meeting – LWVSFC Economic Development Study Consensus meeting

April 13, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting

April 24, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club, Collected Works Bookstore, 202 Galisteo Street

May

May 14, LWVNM Council – Los Alamos

Check www.lwvsfc.org for locations and updates.

* LWVNM and other organization functions in italics

Regular meetings:
Action-Advocacy 1st Thursday of each month at Rio Chama Restaurant

LWVSFC Board 2nd Wednesday of each month

Book Club, Collected Works Bookstore – 202 Galisteo Street

Unit Meetings are only for League members
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY
NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date: _______________   Name: (please print) _____________________________________________

Address: (please include zip) __________________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________  Email: ____________________________________________

_____ DO NOT include my contact information in the annual Membership Handbook directory listing.

Membership is paid annually between September 1–August 31 and includes state (LWVNM) and national (LWVUS) dues.

Make membership check payable to LWVSFC for:

___ Individual and Associate membership: $54  (Associate members are non-U.S. citizens, who cannot vote on League matters.)

___ Family membership: $80  (Individual plus one family member)

___ Student membership: $30  (For students 25 years or younger and currently enrolled in accredited institution.)

___ Unrestricted general fund contribution (not tax deductible): $________

___ Education Fund (tax deductible): $________  (Make separate check payable to LWVSFC Education Fund.)

Want THE VOTER newsletter delivery via email? It’s faster and saves the League money. _____ Email _____ Snail mail

The Action & Advocacy Committee is open to any member and currently focused on the following issues. Circle those of interest to you, and a League member will contact you for further information and discussion.

Issues (check as many as apply or fill in blank):

☐ Healthcare  ☐ Local govt.  ☐ Ethics/Transparency  ☐ Natural Resources  ☐ Education  ☐ Other

____________________

LWVSFC success is based on the assistance of member volunteers. We welcome and encourage your help.

Volunteer Interests (circle as many as apply or fill in blank):

Work on Issues:

☐ Monitor public meetings  ☐ Lobby government officials  ☐ Study groups  ☐ Other

________________________

Voter Services:

☐ Candidate forums/meetings  ☐ Voter publications  ☐ Information tables  ☐ Voter registration  ☐ Other

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Organizational Support:

☐ Help at events  ☐ Fundraising  ☐ Membership  ☐ Publication content  ☐ Website  ☐ Staff League office

☐ Other _____________________

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE LWVSFC, 1472 ST. FRANCIS DR., SANTA FE NM 8750

May 7, 2014