“We have embarked on this journey, and we will not and cannot turn back.” LWV CEO Virginia Kase

We are at a critical moment of reckoning in this country. The continued killing of Black citizens by the police and the demands for justice by the Black Lives Matter movement have thrust the issue of race to the forefront of the national consciousness. Collectively and individually we are being challenged to acknowledge our past history and actions and to take steps to mitigate these injustices and commit to equity, diversity and inclusion in our society. Our democracy literally depends on our doing these right and necessary things.

The League of Women Voters is fully committed to this work. In her honest assessment of the League’s past shortcomings with regard to racial justice and her passionate call to action, CEO Virginia Kase has declared that “Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.” Our state league has followed suit by establishing JEDI, an initiative to promote justice, diversity, equity and inclusion; JEDI team members are piloting their efforts through our Santa Fe County League.

This issue is dedicated to our national moment of reckoning. Inside you can read CEO Virginia Kase’s call to action and follow a link to her powerful statement at the National Conference. JEDI Coordinator Irene Epp outlines the team’s current work and future plans. Another link takes you to author Cathleen Cahill’s reflection on the role of Hispanic women in the suffrage movement. Also included are links to a variety of resources for reading, reflection, learning and discussion recommended by our members.

We hope you find some things of value in this issue.

—Stephanie Schlanger and Irene Epp
Team JEDI:
A Powerful Commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

By Irene Epp

JEDI: Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, a state committee of the League of Women Voters New Mexico, is an organization of purpose and action, not theory. We were founded in February and started our work immediately. Our active official membership, including NM State President Hannah Burling, who founded the group and named us, started with only five. But our outreach grows stronger and longer. Highlands Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice Dr. Rebecca Álvarez, UNM Law student Joanna Velasquez, and UNM Law student Brittany Dutton-Leyda and I, a recently retired school head formerly based in Africa, were introduced in The Voter in June.

This past Saturday JEDI welcomed our sixth member, Katie Christianson, an educator who started a successful charter middle school in Walla Walla, Washington. Now a student in her final year at Highlands University, Katie has been in Santa Fe about a year. Katie brings us exceptional tech skills as well training in facilitation and presentation. She will join the rest us in our next presentation to LWVSFC at the end of July (see below). We take seriously the League of Women Voters’ commitment to empower all voters and to work tirelessly for diversity, equity and inclusion in all its forms.

The energy that propels JEDI has been drawn in large part from the vision and drive of Brittany, Joanna, and Rebecca, who are committed to making positive, lasting change. Within weeks of our founding, they staffed an informational LWVSFC table at the Highlands University International Women’s Day celebration. We created a broad vision of outreach to the other three local NM Leagues. We created a statement of purpose and identity. Within a month of founding, JEDI submitted a proposal for a “Lunch with a Leader” type event for the LWVSFC. COVID-19 stopped that concept, but it did not stop JEDI. We morphed our concept into a Zoom presentation to the LWVSFC and to a request that the LWVSFC serve as our “pilot” for subsequent outreach to Central New Mexico, Southern New Mexico, and Las Cruces. LWVSFC agreed, and our pilot is launched; we are now in communication with President Karen Wentworth of Central New Mexico.

Thanks to Brittany’s connections, JEDI has formed an inspiring and active connection with the Welstand Foundation, a new Albuquerque nonprofit led by Nichole Rogers, which focuses on support for young people of color as well as on fostering active civic participation, getting out the vote, and publicizing the census in the Albuquerque area.

(Continued on next page)
Rebecca and Brittany participated in the large Albuquerque celebration for Juneteenth, organized by Welstand. They hosted a JEDI LWVNM information table, offering technical advice on registering to vote and updating voter information. I did much the same for the Juneteenth celebration in Las Vegas. All four of us were a presence at a scheduled Black Lives Matter event on the Santa Fe Plaza in June and again offered technical assistance on voting at a League table. Rebecca participated in an earlier Black Lives Matter event on the Plaza, and both Rebecca and I marched with the Public Defenders in Santa Fe, as usual offering information on voting and the League. I completed the pilot of the LWVUS training in DEI and earned our state League a small $500 grant for outreach work.

Stephanie Schlanger, the LWVSFC VP for Public Relations and Communications, is now working directly with Joanna and Brittany on revitalizing our local league’s social media outreach. League members can support this effort by liking our pages on Facebook and Instagram. Brittany and Joanna will also create JEDI web pages on both state and local Santa Fe League web sites.

Our second JEDI Zoom event is set for Wednesday, July 29 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Members will receive an invitation to this free presentation by Constant Contact, or you can sign up by going to the calendar on the website Home Page.

JEDI offers a look at the 21st century League of Women Voters. Candid about our complicated history and honest about the challenges ahead, in New Mexico, JEDI has stepped up. Our current exploration of feasibility for a local coalition of organizations to create a dynamic January 2021 Women’s March, equal in force to the impact of this historic 2020 election, is one example of JEDI’s imagination and commitment. JEDI’s enduring march is into a future where justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion are embedded into 100% of the identity of the LWVNM and each of its local chapters, permanently.

Talking About Race in America

Leaguers have recommended the following resources for educating ourselves on the history of slavery in America and its legacy in our society today. We’d like to hear more of your recommendations as we travel this road to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion together. Send us your recommendations: stephanie.schlanger@gmail.com

Print

*How to Be an Antiracist, Ibram X. Kendi*

*So You Want to Talk About Race? Ijeoma Oluo*

*White Fragility, Robin DiAngelo*

*“Every Work of Literature Is About Race” Writers on How We Got Here: https://www.nytimes.com/article/books-race-america.html*

Film

*“How Can We Win?” Kimberly Jones*

(Click image below to view)

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(Click image below to view)
Race and the League of Women Voters: What is the League’s history on racial justice?

In introducing the National League’s new initiative on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in 2018, LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase addressed the League’s history on race, announcing, “We will not only strive for better, we vow to do better.”

She continued, “Last week, Brent Staples of the New York Times published an op-ed titled, “How the Suffrage Movement Betrayed Black Women.” The League of Women Voters was not mentioned in the piece, but we should have been.

“The League was founded in 1920—just months before the ratification of the 19th Amendment—by American suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt. Catt was a complicated character, a political operative, and by modern standards, yes, racist. While fighting for the 19th Amendment and lobbying Southern senators, she famously claimed, ‘White supremacy will be strengthened, not weakened, by women’s suffrage.’

“These remarks are sometimes brushed over as a sign of the times or a political strategy. But actions speak louder than words, and our organization was not welcoming to women of color through most of our existence.

“Even during the Civil Rights movement, the League was not as present as we should have been. While activists risked life and limb to register Black voters in the South, the League’s work and our leaders were late in joining to help protect all voters at the polls. It wasn’t until 1966 that we reached our first position to combat discrimination. Still, our focus on social policy was from afar—not on the front lines.

“Today, we acknowledge this shortcoming and that we have more work to do. The League of Women Voters serves millions of voters in underrepresented communities across America every year, but as an organization, our membership does not always reflect the communities we serve. As we approach our 100th anniversary, we are not only striving for better, we will do better.” —LWV CEO Virginia Kase

See the original blog post at https://www.lwv.org/blog/facing-hard-truths-about-leagues-origin

More food for thought…

Center for American Women in Politics: “One Hundred Years of Women’s Suffrage” https://cawp.rutgers.edu/100-years-womens-suffrage


Sarah Elizabeth Adler, “Black Women Had to Fight for the Right to Vote on Two Fronts” https://www.aarp.org/politics-society/history/info-2020/black-women-voting-rights.html#quest1


Ohio LWV radion discussion on “Women’s Suffrage and Minority Groups” https://radio.wosu.org/post/womens-suffrage-and-minority-groups

Virginia Kase, “Standing in Solidarity with the Black Community” https://www.lwv.org/blog/standing-solidarity-black-community
Hispanic Women Played a Crucial Role in the Fight for the Right to Vote

“At three o'clock on an October afternoon in 1915, the suffragists of Santa Fe, New Mexico, took to the streets of the capital city to make ‘a public act of faith in the cause of woman suffrage.’” One hundred and fifty women joined the parade, Anglos (the term New Mexicans used to refer to whites) and Hispanics (which referred to the Spanish-speaking citizens of the state). Some marched; others rode in gaily decorated automobiles. Mrs. Trinidad Cabeza de Baca, whose family owned one of the first autos in the city, lent hers to the cause. She was joined by a number of other Hispanic women, including Dolores "Lola" Armijo, Mrs. James Chavez, Aurora Lucero, Anita (Mrs. Secundino) Romero, Arabella (Mrs. Cleofas) Romero and her daughter, Marie.” So writes historian Cathleen Cahill in *Suffrage in Spanish: Hispanic Women and the Fight for the 19th Amendment in New Mexico*.

Cahill’s fascinating blog for the *Women’s Vote Centennial* highlights the critical role Hispanic women played in the fight for the vote in New Mexico. She concludes, “New Mexico's Hispanic women's advocacy of suffrage and their work with the National Woman's Party reminds us that Spanish was also a language of suffrage. Armed with economic security and the political clout of long-established Spanish-speaking families, New Mexico’s Hispanic women represented a formidable political force. Without New Mexico as one of the thirty-six states that ratified the Amendment, it may well not have passed. And the state's vote to ratify would not have happened without the support of the Hispanic community or the advocacy work of Hispanic suffragists.”

To read the full article, go to https://www.womensvote100.org/the-suff-buffs-blog/2020/6/24/suffrage-in-spanish-hispanic-women-and-the-fight-for-the-19th-amendment-in-new-mexico

More on Suffrage in New Mexico

PBS’ “New Mexico in Focus” with host Megan Kamerick has been airing a series of discussions called “New Mexico and the Vote” to accompany the American Experience documentary *The Vote*. One podcast included this suffrage ballad, “El Votacion Corrido.”

Click on the image below to hear this rousing call to arms:

And check out the podcast at https://www.newmexicopbs.org/new-mexico-and-the-vote-podcast/
Dr. Deborah Ann Turner elected LWV President

At the National Convention in June, the League of Women Voters of the United States elected Dr. Deborah Ann Turner to serve as the 20th president of the board of directors.

“Deborah Turner’s commitment to advancing voting rights and her dedication to democracy reform make her the right leader for our national board of directors,” said Virginia Kase, CEO of the League of Women Voters. “As a medical doctor and an attorney, Deborah’s experience and vision will shape our work for the next two years. The League is preparing for the election of our lifetime and our membership is fortunate to have such an accomplished woman directing our focus.”

“The League is at the intersection of democracy, social justice, and civil rights, and it is through that lens that we seek to advance voting rights in this country.”

A League member for more than a decade, Dr. Turner spent the last four years on the national board of directors, where she advanced the League’s commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as chair of the DEI Committee. Hailing from Iowa, she now calls Omaha, Nebraska home.

“I see my role as President as a tremendous honor, an important opportunity, and a great responsibility,” she told more than two thousand League members Saturday in her Convention remarks: “The League is at the intersection of democracy, social justice, and civil rights and it is through that lens that we seek to advance voting rights in this country.”

Click here to hear Dr. Turner’s speech at the Convention.

2020 National Convention Highlights

It was a week of stirring speeches and stimulating caucuses in a new virtual format. Click on the images below to hear the full speeches.

“When democracy is attacked, we can’t stay neutral. We must stand in our positions and advocate for what is right and just.”

—LWV CEO Virginia Kase

‘Congress won’t get things done unless you demand they get it done. Call them out and use your voice to demand justice and change.’

—Valarie Jarrett, When We All Vote

“One hundred years ago, we advanced equality for American women. On this historic anniversary, let’s advance equality, period. We should not rest until there are more Black and Brown women in public office. We should not settle until a woman of color has an equal opportunity to cast her vote.”

—Norah O’Donnell, CBS Evening News, Keynote Speaker

For a recap of the convention, go to https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/2020-convention-daily-briefing
Voter Services Report

June 2020

VOTER REGISTRATION/EDUCATION

- Flyers, posters and a sandwich board urging voters to register to vote and to check their registration status have been developed.

- Flyers are being distributed to organizations e.g., NAACP, NOW, AAUW, Indivisible, Houses of Worship, Constant Contact, social media friends, League’s Social Media platform. Organizations are asked to distribute the flyers to their members and, in turn, to their social media contacts.

- Starting mid-July, flyers will be distributed to Food Depot clients. All materials will be in English and Spanish. Approximately 825 cars are served at the Food Depot every Thursday and Saturday. Flyers distributed through September. Other food distribution sites will be added as time allows. We are reaching out to the Santa Fe Farmer’s Market Food to do the same.

- A Voter Services-Registration & Education HELP LINE is being installed on the League’s phone line.

- Anne Culp has assumed the Voter Services High School Registration Chair. Her co-chair, Randy Lowenthal, is unable to continue. I want to thank Randi for developing the program over the last school year; she has agreed to continue to assist Anne as time permits. Anne’s focus will be on promoting the importance of voting. She hopes to develop materials (curriculum, videos, etc.) for teachers and students to use.

ELECTION INFORMATION

Senate Bill 4 (SB4), passed during the 2020 Special Legislative Session, does a lot to streamline several things for the November election:

- It allows county clerks to mail absentee ballot requests starting 50 days before the election. They aren’t required to do it, and it’s likely some counties won’t. It was a legislative compromise.

- The ballot envelope has been simplified so that now all that’s required is the name, signature and last 4 digits of the SSN. County clerks are required to check this information and reach out to the voter if they forgot to sign it or fill in something on the envelope. Thus, the voter is given a chance to correct their ballot. There is an intelligent barcode on the envelope, allowing better tracking throughout, including when the ballot is returned.

- All voting locations will be convenience centers. Tribal lands will be able to close polling places to outsiders in a public health emergency.

- In-person voting can start 28 days before the election at the County Clerk’s office – October 6.

- Early in-person voting at all locations starts on October 17 and ends on October 31.

- Absentee ballot requests must be submitted by October 27. Some voters may not receive absentee ballot requests automatically.
Highlights of the 2020 Special Legislative Session

The June Special Session began June 18 and ended June 22. The session was an unusual one, to say the least. Some practiced social distancing, though there were differences between the House and Senate on rules for this. In addition, the session was plagued by the outdated video and audio technology used at the Roundhouse. (Remember, they had to be dragged in to the remote viewing era a few years ago.)

The Budget: This part of the session turned out to be somewhat less painful than anticipated, partly because the legislature used some reserves, some federal funds and smaller budget reductions. Salary increases had to be trimmed too. Other bills contained some fiscal relief for state funds as well as for New Mexicans.

November Election Issues: The big item as far as the League was concerned was SB4, the temporary election bill. (See “Election Information” on page 7 for details.)

Civil Rights and Policing: One bill creates a NM Civil Rights Commission to look at the use of qualified immunity as a defense in lawsuits against police. Another requires all police to wear body cameras. This is considered an unfunded mandate, as there are no funds for storage and retrieval, which is complex and costly.

—Judy Williams, VP Administration

Non-fiction Book Club to Resume on Zoom

The League will hold its next Non-fiction Book Club meeting on Thursday, August 20 via Zoom at 10:30 am. If you plan to read the selection and would like to participate, please send an email to Donna Reynolds at donnamr@me.com to receive the Zoom meeting details. The next book selection is “Tailspin: The People and Forces Behind American’s Fifty-Year Fall—and Those Fighting to Reverse It,” by Steven Brill. From a review, "The country may not be in utter shambles...but it’s getting there. President Trump is just the latest manifestation of rampaging anger and resentment. Declining social mobility, a shrinking middle class, widening income inequality, crumbling infrastructure — there’s plenty to be mad about, and plenty of blame to go around."—New York Times. Get reading!

—Donna Reynolds

Notes from the LWVSFC Annual Planning Meeting

LWVSFC held its annual calendar planning meeting on June 24 on Zoom.

Given the issues around the election, claims of voter fraud being issued for high levels in our government, and the racial justice protests, the attendees decided to hold several events related to these issues. These are still being organized and are shown as tentative on the preliminary 2020-21 calendar that appears in this issues of The Voter. Events through the end of this year will be those that can be effectively held on Zoom.

The second Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) event will be held on July 29. It will be posted on the website and registration will be available so that those who wish to attend will receive the Zoom link.

In August, we will tentatively hold a general meeting about water conservation efforts in Santa Fe County and possibly an event with the NAACP. You will receive Constant Contact messages about these events as they are organized, and they will be posted on the website.

—Laura Atkins, VP Programs

—Donna Reynolds
Highlights from the June 4 and July 2, 2020, A&A Zoom meetings:

- Hannah Burling coordinated the delivery of 5,000 Census brochures from SF County to restaurants and convenience stores outside city limits in June.
- We anticipate being asked to participate in the Public Engagement Advisory Group for the Midtown Campus Project.
- Hannah and Chris Furlanetto are planning a new A&A page on our website.
- Judy Williams reported that LWVSFC has signed onto an *amicus* brief – with Common Cause – in the appeal related to the campaign finance case brought by the Rio Grande Foundation about two years ago. We also signed the *amicus* brief for the original case.
- Chris Furlanetto noted that activity related to the Terrero exploratory mine application had slowed, but just after our meeting, we learned that the Santa Fe National Forest is now requiring an Environmental Assessment.
- Santa Fe Public Schools recently surveyed parents, teachers and students to inform decisions on how schools can open in August. A hybrid of in-person and remote classes is likely, with the goal of meeting the needs of all stakeholders.
- SFCC fall enrollment is down significantly from last year at this time. Most fall classes will be remote; decisions on how hands-on classes can happen is still pending.

Our next Zoom meeting will be August 6 from 1-3 pm. Please contact Chris Furlanetto at crfurlf@yahoo.com if you’d like to be added to the distribution list. All are welcome!

### New Initiatives Underway for 2020-2021

#### Outreach—Hannah Burling
The mission of the Outreach Committee is to support LWVSFC programs and activities and to build capacity in order to achieve the League’s mission and goals. I’ll be working with the Membership Chair to increase members and member participation; collaborating with individuals and organizations; serving on the Fundraising/Development Committee; and working with the Action & Advocacy Chair, the Voter Services Chair, the PR Chair, Project Chairs and the Board. Expect to hear from me over the next few months!

#### Civil Discourse—Irene Epp
The CDP has now formed a small, very active working group to “jump start” the project: Stephanie Schlanger, Susan Haase, Mary Ellen Gonzales, Kelly Davis, and Chair Irene Epp. We are starting deliberately with LWVSFC members and have committed to two major launch strategies: one, creating a series of listening sessions as practical outreach just for us to learn deeply on a “people” level from diverse elements in our community; and two, framing our work using the strategies and resolutions most relevant to CDP from *Our Common Purpose*, a report created by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2018.

#### Social Media—Stephanie Schlanger
A grant from the Opportunity Fund has allowed us to bring on two consultants, League members Joanna Velasquez and Brittany Leyda-Dutton, to boost LWSFC’s presence on social media, especially with our diverse communities and youth. Our focus until November will be on getting out the vote. Click on the icons below to follow us on Facebook and Instagram, share with friends and colleagues, and let us know how we’re doing!
## Calendar of Events
### 2020

### July
- July 2, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee meeting, Zoom
- **July 18, 11-3:** LWVNM board meeting, Zoom
- July 21, 10-12: LWVSCF Board Meeting
- July 29, 11:30-1: Second JEDI workshop

### August
- August 6, 1-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee meeting, Zoom
- August 12, 1-2: General Meeting, Santa Fe Water Conservation Efforts, Bill Schneider
- August 18, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
- August 19, 5:30-6:30: Outreach event with the NAACP
- August 23, 2-3: Women’s Vote Centennial Car Parade

### September
- September 3, 1-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee meeting, Zoom
- September 15, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
- September 16, 11-12: Joint meeting Santa Fe World Affairs Forum (SFWAF), Foreign Interference in Elections
- September 23, 11-12: Joint meeting with SFWAF, Sarah Hood Impact of Fake News and Social Media
- September 30, 11-12: Joint meeting with SFWAF, Lonna Atkeson, Professor of political Science, UNM
- Week of September 21: Candidate Forums

### October
- October 1, 1-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee meeting, Zoom
- October 1: Candidate Forums
- October 14, 11:30-1: Lunch with a Leader, Childcare Options for Coronavirus Re-entry
- October 20, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting

### November
- November 3, Election Day
- November 5, 1-2:20: Action & Advocacy Committee meeting
- November 17, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
- November 18, 11-12: General Meeting, Debriefing on Election Results

### December
- December 3, 1-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee
- December 9, 11:30-1:00: Holiday Luncheon
- December 15, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting

### January
- January 6, 11:00-12:00: Legislative Preview
- January 7, 1-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee
- January 19, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
- January 19, Legislative Session – Opening Day
- January 21, 5:30-7:00: Public Forum on Racism
- January 27, 10-12: Unit Meeting Program Planning

### February
- February 4, 1-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee
- February 16, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
- February 17, 11:30-1: Lunch with a Leader: Midtown Campus Project

### March
- March 4, 12-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee
- March 17, 11:30-1: General Meeting, Sunshine Week, “Our Common Purpose”
- March 16, 10-11:30: LWVSFC Board Meeting
- March 20: Legislative session last day

### April
- April 1, 1-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee
- April 14, 11:30-1: Lunch with a Leader: Early Childhood Education, Jennifer Sallee
- April 20, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting

### May
- May 6, 12-2:30: Action & Advocacy Committee
- May 12, 11-30-1: Annual Meeting
- May 18, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting

**LWVNM and other organization functions in italics**

**Events in blue are not confirmed; check the website for updates.**

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### Monthly Meetings/Events:
- **Action & Advocacy Committee:** 1st Thursday of each month on Zoom until further notice
- **LWVSFC Board Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday, 10-12
- **League Libations:** Last Thursday; now on hold but may resume on Zoom

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Follow us! [Facebook] [Instagram]
MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member ☐ Renewal ☐

Please check box of the membership you wish to start or renew:

Individual membership: $60
Household membership (two family members at the same address): $100
Student membership: $30 (for students 16-25 years old currently enrolled; scholarships are available to students wishing to be active members; email lwvsfc@gmail.com for more info.)

Member Information:

Name (first and last): __________________________________________________
Address: (include zip code)
________________________________________________________________________________
Phone: ___________________________   Email: __________________________________________________

Please include information about the second household member here, if appropriate:

Name (first and last):____________________________________________________________
Phone: ___________________________   Email: _________________________

Donation - I would also like to donate (circle one):

$25  $50  $100  $150  $200  $250  $500  other $_____________

Make check for dues and donation payable to “LWVSFC” and mail the check with this form to the address below.

Thank you for joining! As soon as we receive your membership registration form and payment, we will send you a confirmation and welcome letter by email.

The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization. All dues and donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Mail to: League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County
         P.O. Box 31547
         Santa Fe, NM 87594-1547

December 2019