



The Voter

P.O. Box 31547, Santa Fe, NM 87594-1547
Phone: 505-982-9766

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June 2021

Leadership Team

Officers

Debbie Helper, *VP Administration*
Suzanne Ronneau, *Treasurer*
Joann Volinski, *Secretary*
Susan Haase, *VP Program/Events*
Kelly Davis, *VP Voter Registration/
Education*
Pat Hawkins, *VP Election Information*
Stephanie Schlanger, *VP Public
Relations/Communications*

Directors

Chris Furlanetto, *Action and Advocacy*
Debra Helper, *Membership Services*
Marcy Litzenberg, *Development/
Fundraising*
Jody Larson, *LWVNM Liaison*
Hannah Burling, *Outreach*

Off-Board

Danis Kelly, *Arrangements Chair*
Anne Culp, *HS Voter Registration Chair*
Irene Epp, *Civil Discourse Committee
Chair*
Marcy Litzenberg, *Finance Committee
and Nominating Committee Chair*

Table of Contents

2021-22 Leadership Team ... 3-5	
New Member Profile	6
Recommended Reading	7
Art Meets History	8
CHART Proposal	9-10
Midtown Campus	10-11
Frontiers Day at ATC	12
Committees/Projects	13
June Events	14
Membership Form	15
Post Script	16

Greetings!

Welcome to the new LWVSFC year! We held our 2021-22 Annual Meeting on May 12. Judy Williams memorialized members we sadly lost this year, including board member **Laura Atkins**, life member **Marian Graves** and longtime active member **Claire Weiner**.



Debbie Helper,
VP/Administration

Changes to LWVNM positions which had already been approved at the biannual state League convention in April were reviewed. (See Spring [La Palabra](#) for details.) In summary, these included extensive changes to the existing Education policy, a single change to Election Procedures and minor wording changes to Transfer of Federal Lands. The change recommended to Election Procedures was a concurrence with LWV Maine expanding participation in primaries to include those not registered in a major party. It was amended to strike the requirement that those registered in a major party vote on the ballot of their party. We chose to remain silent on that issue for now. A new position on Reproductive Health, adopted through concurrence with LWVFL, was approved and a new position regarding Storage

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of Spent Nuclear Fuel and Greater than Class C Waste, adopted through consensus after completion of a study, was also approved. A new study on Tribal Law Codification at the State level proposed by Rebecca Alvarez was also approved. The study on Qualifications and Selection of Judges of Lower Courts was extended.

[LWVSFC positions](#) were reviewed and approved. No changes were made in 2020.

Bylaw changes made to come into alignment in the LWVUS on Diversity and Inclusion were approved as were changes made to allow for our current horizontal leadership structure. (See the [LWVUS positions](#).)

Annual committee reports were submitted and approved (see the [April Voter](#) for reports) including the Treasurer's report, which highlighted a net income of \$10,687, much of this the result of successful fundraising efforts spearheaded by Marcy Litzenberg. The Finance Committee's proposed 2021-22 budget was approved as well. Finally, the nominating committee proposed a slate of nominees for membership to the board including five VPs, a secretary, treasurer and four directors. The slate

of Officers and Directors was approved. (Meet your new Leadership Team on page 3.) The Nominating Committee also suggested extending and staggering terms of Board members. This issue will be taken up by the incoming Board and will be reflected in the slate and terms of Officers and Directors put forth by the 2021-22 Nominating Committee.

I would like to heartily thank outgoing VP Administration [Judy Williams](#) for her service to the local League this past year, as well as for her service and expertise in other positions prior to this year. Many on the Board have been retained while accepting new positions of leadership. I would also like to thank [Donna Reynolds](#) for her many years of service to the Board and the LWVSFC in various capacities.

I look forward to helping to continue a legacy of productivity as VP/ Administration of the 2021-22 Board of LWVSFC. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

—Debbie Helper,
VP Administration LWVSFC

The 2021-22 LWVSFC LEADERSHIP TEAM



Hannah Burling is a long-time resident of Lamy, where she lives with her husband and two cats. She grew up all over the west and moved here from San Francisco. She and her husband

raised their children here, and she was the librarian for their school. When she was in high school, she was always one of the stage crew, and she is still fascinated by how things are done behind the scenes. Joining the League has given her a sense of empowerment and an in-depth education in how government and politics work. Her interests are outreach, racial healing and advocacy. She is the **Outreach Chair**.



Kelly Davis grew up in California and graduated from UNM with a degree in sociology; she moved to southern Mexico for her husband's graduate studies and then to Canada where she was

the financial advisor for Native American tribes. After earning an MBA from the College of Santa Fe, she began working for the state of New Mexico as a Program Manager, designing, writing and implementing a number of federal grants for the Governor's Commission on Disability and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. She became active in the League in 2018 as the **VP of Voter Services: Registration/Education**. Kelly is committed to registering voters, both adult and youth; supporting civic education for high school students; and providing voters with accurate information on the candidates and ballot issues so that they can make informed voting decisions.



Anne McDonald Culp is a developmental psychologist who recently retired as a professor of early child development. Born in Denver, Anne and her family often visited Santa

Fe as far back as 1965. She and her husband, Rex, have lived in Santa Fe since 2011, when they purchased a summer home while living in Florida. Now that both are retired from teaching, the Culpes are living full time in Santa Fe and active in the community. Anne is the **High School Voter Registration Chair**.



Irene Epp is a lifelong educator, earning a BA in English from the State University of NY, and an MA in Medieval British Literature and a PhD in Modern American Poetry, both from the

University of Colorado, Boulder. After 17 years at Santa Fe Prep, Irene moved overseas for a 26-year stint as an administrator in US Embassy Schools. Following six years in Asia, and Egypt, she served as a Head of School in sub-Saharan Africa for 20 years, retiring at the end of July 2019. She joined the LWVSFC in August 2019. She is the **Civil Discourse Project Chair**.



Chris Furlanetto first joined the League in the late 70's in Galveston, Texas, where she remembers typing letters to government officials (with carbons!) in response to Action Alerts. While

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continuing her membership, she only became active again when she and her husband relocated to Santa Fe in 2011. She served first as Board Secretary before becoming the **Action & Advocacy Chair** from 2013-2015 and then again in 2020. She served as the LWVNM Program Chair from 2017-2021. After teaching science and math at both the high school and junior college levels, she earned an MBA in marketing and pursued a second career in consumer marketing research, retiring in 2008. She now volunteers as a docent at the Museum of International Folk Art and is active in fundraising for Carleton College.



Susan Haase grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and earned degrees from both Northwestern University and the University of Illinois. She trained teachers for the first Head Start Centers in

Mississippi, taught college English, worked for Public Radio, managed non-profits, and advocated for clients at the Legislature. "Great jobs, all." She moved to Santa Fe in 2016 and joined the League when they needed a secretary, a role she filled for three years, and is now **VP/Program and Events**. She is married to Renny Ashleman, retired attorney, League member, and Director of Voting and Elections at LWVNM.



Pat Hawkins is a retired Foreign Service Officer, having worked for the Department of State for 30 years, in Europe, Africa and Latin America. She and her husband, Dick, looked at New

Mexico and Santa Fe, for retirement since her husband remembered the area fondly from summers here with his grandparents. They retired here in 2011, have made great friends and enjoy all aspects of their life in Santa Fe. Pat has been a member on and off the Board since 2012. She is **VP of Voter Services: Election Information**.



Debbie Helper moved to Santa Fe in 2016 after retiring from her position as Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology/Hepatology at Indiana

University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, IN. She and her husband of 43 years, Harry Wright, are the parents of two adult children with one grandson, all of whom are living in the Midwest. She became active in the League of Women Voters only after retirement and is also active in New Mexicans for Money Out of Politics and the national organization American Promise specifically working on passing a constitutional amendment for campaign finance reform. She also enjoys playing the piano, hiking, skiing, reading and practicing yoga. Debbie is our **VP/Administration and Membership Chair**.



Danis Kelly is a world-renowned harpist whose musical career has included Principal Harp Chair with the Santa Fe Opera for over 40 years. When she was 16, she performed at the White

House for John F. Kennedy. She has performed the world over, touring Europe, Japan, Cuba, and the United States, including many Carnegie Hall performances. In addition to performing worldwide, she has taught harp in a number of universities and music institutes and has conducted masterclasses in such places as Hong Kong and Beijing; her students perform all over the world. Danis is our **Arrangements Chair**.



Jody Larson first joined the League in 1966 and was active until she started working full-time in the late 1970s. Rejoining in 2005, she has held board positions, serving on and chairing

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LWVSFC and LWVNM studies, including Transparency, Vote by Mail, and Public Regulation Commission. She found her experience in our consensus process very helpful in her career in New Mexico state government. She is **Liaison to the LWVNM** and **Chair of the Good Governance Project**.



Marcy Litzenberg joined the LWVSFC Board in 2010 after a 40-year career as an educator, city administrator, nonprofit director and elected official. She started as Voter Services Chair of

the 2010 General Election and since then she has served in almost every position on the Board except for President, which she promised herself she would never do. Marcy's inspiration to join the League came from working with several iconic members of the LWVSFC in her professional capacity and seeing how effective they were at advocating for good government. She is the **Development/Fundraising Chair**.



Suzanne Ronneau first joined the League in 1979, in Northwest Indiana. Completely naive, she agreed to be Voter Service Chair. What an education! Then she

agreed to be President. After arranging a panel on trainloads of nuclear waste going through our towns, Suzanne was sternly admonished that the League wasn't supposed to deal with "controversial issues." Nonetheless, the government agreed to advise law enforcement of the train schedule. She had been a League member in Hawaii, Ohio, and Florida before moving to Santa Fe in 2014. Suzanne is now happily sequestered in the role of **Treasurer**.



Stephanie Schlanger is a retired high school English and history teacher and school administrator who joined the League in 2016. She has been editing *The Voter* newsletter and managing our social media platforms and the website. She is especially interested in efforts to diversify the league and involve younger voters. She is **VP of Public Relations/Communications**.



Joann Volinski is new to the Board this year. She grew up in Connecticut and attended Northeastern University in Boston and Trinity College in Washington D.C. She began her

career in pediatric nursing at Boston Children's Hospital but upon moving to San Francisco found her true calling – infectious disease research. Her passion for advocacy for the homeless, mental health care and HIV aligned at University of California, San Francisco where she served as a study coordinator for 20 years. Joann and her husband Bill Heid purchased a vacation home in Santa Fe in 2009 and moved here full time after her retirement in 2017. She is the **Board Secretary**.

Get Involved! Stay Connected!

Find out more about LWVSFC and ways you can participate by visiting our website lwvsfc.org

Follow us on

[Facebook](#) League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County

[Twitter](#) @LWVSFC

Instagram #lwvsantafe

Get the latest news in

[The VOTER](#) (LWVSFC) and

[La Palabra](#) (LWVNM)

Meet Cathy Lewis



*New Member
Cathy Lewis*

Why did you join the League?

I joined the League in January at the suggestion of a Santa Fe friend who is also a member. I've never been much of an activist, but the degrading political climate of the past many years, and what I saw more recently as growing threats to our democracy itself spurred me to find a constructive way to get involved. In the 2020 elections I volunteered with Postcards to Voters, writing to inform people about local voting access in their states.

Tell us something about yourself.

For about 15 years I worked as a development professional in San Francisco, most recently at the San Francisco Opera. I also sang for years as a volunteer with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus. My husband and I moved from the Bay Area to Santa Fe full time in 2018, and in this new life chapter I transitioned to my current chosen career as a travel advisor. With a background in foreign languages and international relations and a love of the arts and travel, this has brought my life's work and interests full circle.

What do you think are the most pressing issues facing us today?

Lots of room for further discussion here! But in brief, communities cannot live in a vacuum. Strong multilateral cooperation is essential to address the critical issues that affect us the world over (the pandemic and our growing global climate crisis to name just a couple). In the U.S., bolstering our democratic institutions is one of many growing priorities. Any self-respecting Democracy worthy of the name should facilitate voter participation, not suppress it. I'd like to see Election Day become a national holiday, as one simple starting point.

What League activities would like to be involved in?

I'm particularly interested in efforts around civil discourse and voter registration.

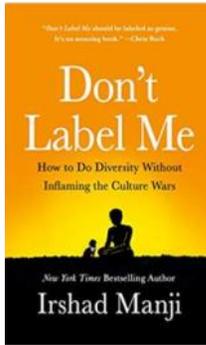
What is the best thing you've read or watched this year?

I started watching 'Lincoln: Divided We Stand' on CNN. Not saying it's the best thing I've watched, but there will be much for me to learn from it.

Red or green chile?

Usually I go with Christmas (that way I can choose between the one that's less hot!)

Many thanks to Hannah Burling for these new member profiles.



Recommended Reading

I learned about Irshad Manji, a renowned author, filmmaker,

Muslim reformer and founder of the Moral Courage Project from her May 22 interview with Margaret Hoover, the host of *Firing Line* (see link below). The interview included a discussion on her award-winning *Moral Courage Project*, located at New York University, and her most recent book published in 2019 entitled *Don't Label Me: An incredible Conversation for Divided Times*. The book presents a different perspective on diversity making us all rethink how we see one another—and ourselves. About Manji, the jacket blurb note: “African by birth, Canadian by citizenship, American by immersion and universal by reach, Irshad inspires fresh perspectives on success, leadership, inclusion and integrity.”

According to Manji: “Whatever your vision of progress, you will need to win over many holdouts. That requires listening to people who disagree with you, not labeling them. Curbing your ego demands exercising moral courage. For example, when do you

step up for the sake of honesty? When do you step back for the sake of humility? Combining her reflections with cutting-edge research, she realized that moral courage is needed by anyone who seeks to have enduring impact.”

I recommend that you listen to the video before reading the book. In my opinion, both are worth your time. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9cLFxOZfRQ>

—Kelly Davis

For More Good Reading: LWVNM's *La Palabra*

LWVSFC Liaison Jody Larson writes, “*La Palabra* is a great way to keep abreast of LWVNM activities as well as what’s going on in Los Alamos, Southern and Central New Mexico; those feisty local Leagues work hard to keep our state safe for democracy and have a lot of fun doing it.”

Check out the latest issue [here](#).



Art Meets History

In honor of Juneteenth, the celebration of June 19, 1865 when the state of Texas freed its slaves, then finishing what the Emancipation Declaration started two years before, here is a selection of resources which may entice you to explore how art tells history. Who tells a story determines the story told.

First, *Exterminate all the Brutes*, (a phrase from Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*) is a documentary on HBO Max by Raoul Peck. Using historical reenactments, documentary photographs, drawings and other historical documents to chart the history of European expansion into the African and North American continents, Peck tells an American history not usually covered in school. The material is difficult and compelling, and for some, controversial.



Click on image to watch trailer.

A *NYTimes* article on how American presidential agendas reflect art curation at the White House is linked here: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/05/05/arts/design/oval-office-art.html?referringSource=articleShare>

This fascinating walk through hallowed halls of history shows the power of art to communicate vision. *Theater of War Productions*, highlighted in this interview at *On Being*, <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/on-being-with-krista-tippett/id150892556?i=1000516322106> is a company which brings classic Greek theater into modern conversations “providing a nuanced approach to pressing public health and social justice issues”.

And finally, this article on mural art of El Paso may give reflections on how stories are told, by whom and for whom. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/08/opinion/el-paso-art-murals.html?referringSource=articleShare>

—Kristina Flanagan

Mayor Webber Briefs LWVSFC on the City's CHART Initiative



Mayor Alan Webber

Mayor Webber along with City staffers Pauline Kamiyama and Kristine Bustos-Mihelcic gave a Zoom presentation on the City's Culture, History, Art, Reconciliation and Truth (CHART) process on March 8.

The Mayor started by talking about Isabel Wilkerson's latest book, *Caste*. Her analogy about owning a 400-year-old house with a basement that needs cleaning out and repair reminded him of our situation in Santa Fe. It has to be dealt with.

Mayor Webber said we need the dialogue we have avoided for too long. We have to listen to each other, not debate. Long-term Hispanic groups such as the Caballeros have feelings of loss and disrespect of their history. This isn't just about the Plaza – it's about representation and community overall. It's not limited to the City proper but includes the County and nearby pueblos. No one will check addresses!

He acknowledged that the previous plan to create a Commission was a

mistake, as there were serious issues with representation and control. Instead, the process will follow the model used in Albuquerque. It will be grass-roots and community-based. Issues addressed will be monuments, celebrations and holidays, both existing and new.

Santa Fe residents will have three ways to participate: an online questionnaire in English and Spanish (and also a paper version); a one-on-one telephone interview with a trained interviewer; and group facilitated discussions.

The group discussions will be a series of three roundtable sessions with fewer than 15 participants each. Ground rules will include no cross-talk, listening and respecting others' opinions. The meeting topics will be, in sequence,

- 1) Who is at the table, *i.e.*, what's your connection to the community?
- 2) Who influenced you, your values?
- 3) Your view of the history of Santa Fe, commonalities among groups, how you make sense of the current situation.

The facilitators will have experience in Northern New Mexico and be objective. Local facilitators will be trained in how to conduct these sessions. Any group can request a

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(Continued from page 9)

session; there appears to be no limit on the number of such groups. Mayor Webber specifically asked the League to participate. There will be on-line and off-line outreach efforts. The hope is that within two to three months, when this effort is in full swing, the group sessions can be held in person and be more inclusive.

Those who participate in the discussions can then participate in the Community Solutions Table, which will focus on what to do going forward.

The time frame is one year, with budget approved beginning this fiscal year. Speed is not the objective; broad participation is more important. An RFP to hire a consultant for the process was released March 9, with an April 1 deadline for submissions and a decision by April 20. The scope of work outlined in the RFP follows the resolution passed by the governing body.

There are sign-up links for updates on the CHART process on the [City website](#).

Mayor Webber asked for suggestions of groups or individual “influencers” to meet with, including younger people.

The Action and Advocacy committee will continue to follow the CHART process with a focus on transparency issues. Watch for the opportunity to participate either as a member of a discussion group with a phone interview or via a questionnaire.

—Chris Furlanetto

Midtown Campus Project Update



*Project Manager
Daniel Hernandez*

Daniel Hernandez, Project Manager for the City’s Midtown Campus Project, first spoke with members at a Lunch with a Leader in pre-pandemic February, 2020. He returned via Zoom a year later on March 24 to give us an update on the project status with an emphasis on public engagement. Daniel’s slides are posted on the [LWVSFC website](#).

After the developer (KDC/Cienda) initially selected through the RFEI (Request for Expressions of Interest) process withdrew in early 2021, the City and the project team have

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reevaluated the process and agreed to move forward as assertively as possible.

Daniel spoke to us about alternative pathways to achieve the City’s development goals. Should the City put the entire 64 acres up for sale as is, develop it incrementally or tackle all the infrastructure and zoning needs before doing any building? He argued that the incremental approach will work best to achieve the City’s goals. Basically, it means build *some* before building *all*. This flexible, adaptive approach will allow the City to focus on the highest impact areas while maintaining the ability to respond to dynamic economic conditions. Zoning changes, demolition and infrastructure improvements will not have to be done all at once. A master developer may not be required with an incremental approach; alternatively, the City might work with local developers and businesses over time.

Daniel introduced the concepts of horizontal vs. vertical development. The zoning, clearing, and mitigating activities as well as infrastructure are the “horizontal” components that need to be done before constructing new buildings, the “vertical” component,

can begin. The City can choose at each stage to do the horizontal activities before disposing of a land parcel or to work in collaboration with a developer on the parcel.

Five Strategic Tactics Teams (STTs) have been formed within City government. These are Public Engagement; RFEI and Solicitation Options; Land Use Zoning, Development Planning, Infrastructure and Utilities; Existing Buildings; and Public Finance.

Daniel provided website links (see below) for information on the project. These sites include sign-up options for updates on the project. The first is specifically for public engagement; the second is more general about the project itself. Note that both sites are currently being updated.

<https://www.cultureconnects.site>
<https://midtowndistrictsantafe.com>

DPAC’s public role will begin with an invitation to community groups to apply for grants to conduct outreach activities according to the five-step Public Engagement Work Plan:

- Listening and Learning,
August 2020 – February 2021
- Co-Creating and Organizing,
January 2021 – May 2021

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(Continued from page 11)

- Implementing and Supporting, March 2021 – July 2021
- Synthesizing and Policy Making, July 2021 – November 2021
- Reflecting and Evaluating, November 2021 – December 2021

The guiding principles for the public engagement activities are transparency, co-creation, collaboration, inclusivity and accountability.

Jody Larson and Chris Furlanetto attended a Zoom meeting on the application process on March 26. With Judy Williams they attended a preliminary Zoom meeting in December 2020 and completed a DPAC survey. The A&A committee will monitor the roll-out of the engagement activities.

Mr. Hernandez' slide presentation may be viewed on the LWVSFC website at lwvsfc.org.

—Chris Furlanetto

“Frontiers Day” at the The Academy for Technology and the Classics (ATC)



LWVSFC member and history teacher Joaquin Martinez invited league members to visit ATC on May 21 for “Frontiers Day”, a living history exhibition by the students. Joaquin wrote, “The 7th grade NM History classes have built an entire pueblo out of adobe, including a functioning *horno*, and will be celebrating the end of this year's school year with a crafts fair. The pueblo is also inter-disciplinary and meets several of the Common Core and NMPED standards”.

In addition to the 7th graders' adobe pueblo, there were goats, pony rides, an art show, crafts and historically correct food.



(l-r): Irene Epp, Joaquin Martinez, Marcy Litzenberg and Kelly Davis at Frontiers Day at ATC.

COMMITTEE AND PROJECT REPORTS

Voter Services: Registration and Education

Coordinated with Robert Sobel, a history teacher at The Masters Program, to plan the first Community Discussion Event using Harvard's Professor David Moss Case Method format (see announcement in the Events section on page 14). The discussion will focus on the adoption of the ERA amendment. Robert is responsible for facilitating the Event; the League is responsible for all other arrangements. There will be other Community Discussion Events this summer facilitated by teachers who have attended the David Moss Case Method workshop.

—*Kelly Davis*

LWVNM Liaison Report

Every member of LWVSFC is also a member of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico. This League follows state-level issues involving state government, including voter services, action and advocacy, state-level studies such as our recent studies on Federal Transfer of Public Lands, Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage, and Education; and others.

LWVNM communicates with all of us members regularly through Constant Contact messages and a quarterly newsletter, *La Palabra*, which provides a great way to keep abreast of LWVNM activities as well as what's going on in Los Alamos, Southern and Central New Mexico; those feisty local Leagues work hard to keep our state safe for democracy and have a lot of fun doing it! In case you missed the most recent *La Palabra*, click [here](#).

—*Jody Larson*

Civil Discourse Project (CDP)

CDP welcomed a new member, *Charlotte Romero*. Charlotte has been in LWVSFC less than a year. Charlotte has worked in hospice care and in dispute resolution. After time caring for her son when he was small, she's back working and is "hungry to get involved" in Santa Fe. Charlotte lived in Mexico and is a skilled Spanish speaker. She did translation at the Food King table in 2020 before the elections and is ready to be more active in the League. She certainly brings valuable experience and skills to CDP. We now have seven active working members meeting weekly on Tuesdays from 3 to 4 pm via Zoom.

May's CDP conversation, "*What, if any, are corporations' responsibilities in a capitalist democracy?*" brought together 16 articulate and thoughtful participants. The next conversation is scheduled for June 7 at 7 pm on the topic "*What is my individual responsibility toward actions for reparations?*"

Register [here](#) to join or go the website lwvsfc.org. For more information, contact Irene Epp at irene.epp@gmail.com.

—*Irene Epp*

“Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing”.

—*Arundhati Roy*



June 2021 Events

Monday, June 7 at 7-8 pm:
Fourth CDP Conversation: “What are my individual responsibilities towards actions for reparations?”

Via Zoom. Register [here](#)
 Questions? irene.epp@gmail.com

Friday, June 18 4-5:30 pm:
An LWVSFC Community Discussion on Democracy and Women’s Rights in America: The Fight over the ERA (1982).

The discussion will use Harvard University’s Case Method format. Participants will be asked to read, in advance, prepared background information on the issues surrounding the passage of the ERA. The discussion will focus on the pros and cons of its adoption. Space is limited so register early to reserve a seat.

Note: This is an in-person event; therefore, we require you to be vaccinated to attend.

To register and receive the materials or for questions, contact Kelly Davis kdavis466@gmail.com or phone 505.699.5506.

For details and Zoom links, check the calendar on the website:

lwvsfc.org

Monthly Meetings/Events:

- **Action & Advocacy Committee:**
1st Thursday of each month on Zoom until further notice
- **LWVSFC Board Meetings:**
3rd Tuesday, 10-12

An Invitation from the LWV/National Institute of Civil Discourse (NICD)

“America Talks”, June 12 & 13

[America Talks](#) is a powerful two-day event that invites Americans to connect one-on-one, face-to-face on video across our political divides. By doing so, we remind ourselves that the "other" is – just like us – a person with family, friends, hopes, fears, values, beliefs, and intrinsic worth.

These conversations will take place the weekend of June 12 and 13. One simple conversation, even if multiplied thousands of times, won't transform our country. But it's a start.

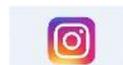
Join this powerful event and speak directly with other Americans seeking to repair divides, restore connection, and find common cause. Register [here](#).

“National Week of Conversation,” June 14-20

For the [National Week of Conversation](#) you are invited to choose courage over contempt and register to participate [here](#).

We invite you to sign up for our own NWOC network event entitled “Listening with Empathy and Humility” on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 3pm Eastern. Register [here](#).

Like and follow us! Share with friends!





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

What's NEW in the New Administration?

Almost daily columns are written comparing Biden to FDR in his attention to job creation or Truman with his advancement of civil rights. Harvard historian Heather Cox Richardson cites differences between Biden and these predecessors in her recent newsletter: his focus on women and children. Following is a short excerpt:

“To my mind, though, what jumps out about Biden and Harris is not their focus on either jobs or Black Americans, but rather their attention to the needs of children and mothers. Even before the pandemic, 21.4 million American women lived in poverty, as did nearly 11 million children, about 14.4% of kids under the age of 18.

“The American Rescue Plan increased the Child Tax Credit from \$2000 to \$3600 for children under age 6 and \$3000 for other children under age 18, offering monthly payments immediately, in advance of the 2022 tax filing season. The measure also provided \$15 billion in expanded childcare assistance, and it increased food benefits (SNAP) by 15%.

“Experts estimated that the American Rescue Plan could cut child poverty in the U.S. by more than half.

“The administration’s American Jobs Plan continues the focus on children and their mothers as it sets out to shore up the caregiving economy. The coronavirus pandemic hit women particularly hard as women, particularly women of color, left the workforce to care for children when childcare centers closed. Women have lost 5.4 million jobs, nearly a million more than men. The American Jobs Plan would invest \$400 billion in the caregiving economy; \$137 billion in schools, early learning centers, and community colleges; \$111 billion in clean drinking water; and \$621 billion in transportation.

“FDR tried to shore up the nuclear family, headed by a man—usually a White man—enabling him to support a wife and children. Truman nodded toward including men of color in that vision. But Biden and Harris are recentering American society on children and on their mothers, giving mothers the power to support their children regardless of their marital status. There is a profound reworking of American society, much more in keeping with what has always been our reality despite our mythological focus on an independent man and his family.” (Author’s italics.)

(Source: “Letters from an American”, Heather Cox Richardson, April 14, 2021.)

—Susan Haase