From the Leadership Team

This is Not a Fundraising Solicitation!

I wanted to get that out of the way right up front because my goal is to ask for your help, not ask you for a donation. I promise.

But we do need your help—and here’s why: The Leadership Team is determined to make up the budget deficit we asked you to approve at the Annual Meeting, keeping our promise to you and exercising our fiscal oversight responsibility. We have taken a two-pronged approach: 1) We scoured the budget to look for any place where we could reduce our expenses. The few expenses that aren’t fixed were scrutinized carefully for any that could be reduced or eliminated. 2) We devoted an entire Board Meeting to brainstorming options for Fundraising, and a subcommittee further reviewed the ideas to select those that seemed appropriate and possible.

Please take a look at the ideas we have proposed (on the next page) and volunteer to chair one of these events or an event of your own choice or join a fundraising event as part of a committee. Any and all efforts will be deeply welcomed and are absolutely critical to our initiatives for 2020 and beyond. Besides, we have a lot of fun when we get together to make something happen!

—Marcy
Here’s What We’re Planning

An Annual End-of-Year Fund Drive, targeting members and likely donors who are not members, via Constant Contact, email, snail mail and social media. (I am working on this currently with help from Val Brooker, Debbie Helper and Stephanie Schlanger.)

A Fundraising Event at Sallie Bingham’s home on Camino del Monte Sol, which she has generously offered us. Danis Kelly did her best to get Nina Totenberg as a speaker, but Nina can’t do it because she has a conflict of interest. Senator Tom Udall may be willing to speak if the timing can be worked out, but we are still looking for other ideas - and an Event Chair and Committee to make this happen.

Featuring our new High School Civic Project by planning an event that involves the students. For example, a “Youth Speaks Out” Forum or a demonstration of the Harvard case study approach to teaching history. We think the best way to make money on an event like this would be to sell sponsorships. And we would need an Event Chair and Committee to make this happen.

Sponsoring a movie screening, such as the recently released film Gerrymandering. Donna Reynolds is researching this, but we still need an Event Chair and Committee.

Applying for grants or major donations from businesses, foundations and individuals. We would need someone to research the options and follow through with the application processes.

Undertaking a Planned Giving Program. Several of our members have already taken steps to write the LWVSFC into their wills, and we think there is potential for expanding this fundraising option. We would need a person to research how to set this up and a Committee to plan the outreach to our membership.

Here’s How You Can Help

Donate as much as you can to our End-of-Year Fund Drive when you get the ask.

Send us the names and addresses of people you know who are not members but might donate to the LWVSFC if we include them in our Fundraising mailing. (email to mllitzenberg@aol.com)

Volunteer to Chair one of the events on the list we came up with or Volunteer to Chair an event of your choice that isn’t already on the list. Volunteer to plan and coordinate a fundraising event as part of a Committee.
A YOUNG PERSON FINDING THEIR VOICE:
Introducing LWVSFC’s First Student Mentorship

Fifteen-year-old high school senior Dante Moon will graduate next spring with both a high school diploma from The MASTERS Program (TMP) Early College Charter School and an Associate of Science in Physical Sciences degree from Santa Fe Community College. Dante, who skipped two grades, was 13 years old when entering TMP as a sophomore. They (Dante’s preferred pronoun) choose TMP for its partnership with the Santa Fe Community College, which provides high school students with easy access to college courses.

While Dante had been introduced to politics at eight years old during the 2012 elections, they were unsure how they could contribute. This legislative session, Dante attended and sat in on meetings of the state House of Representatives, trying to develop an understanding of how governance was conducted. In February, they had the opportunity to register as a Voter Registration Agent (VRA) at the nearby Santa Fe County Clerk’s office, and did so.

About this time the League initiated its High School Civic Project focusing on students becoming VRAs so they could register their peers to vote. As the League set about recruiting students to join the Project, Dante, then already a VRA, was looking for a way to connect with students. With Dante and the League sharing the same goal, Dante joined the High School Civic Project, becoming one of its first recruits and partnered to turn their peers into committed voters.

Dante was provided additional VRA training, given a League’s voter registrar’s badge to identify the affiliation with the League, and proceeded to set up shop in TMP’s common space, the “Atrium.” After some initial hiccups, Dante began to develop skills for approaching fellow students, and they began to sign up. Dante was so successful that in 6 weeks they registered 21 students. Along with their success as a VRA, Dante, previously a shy person, says the experience “changed my life.”

They could “not avoid connecting to people” talking to them on the importance of voting, and that connection so necessary to registering voters was crucial to allowing Dante to gain more confidence socially.

“I trust youth more than anyone with handling of the future…I see them up in arms for the causes they care about.”

This fall, Dante began their senior year. Dante’s goal for their political involvement is “ensuring the well-being of as many people as possible.”. Being a voter registrar, Dante says, gives their peers the path to “bring about the change that they seek.” Of young people Dante has said, “I trust youth more than anyone with handling of the future…I see them up in arms for the causes they care about.” Among those causes are preventing climate change (through the Sunrise Movement’s advocacy for the Green New Deal) and the March for Our Lives initiative. They realize that the people in power are not hearing youth’s concerns; nonetheless, in their words, “We are not sorry for ourselves—we are mad as hell.”

At Dante’s request this fall, and working with Inspire Santa Fe, I agreed to do a mentorship project with Dante that would focus on the League of Women Voters’ activities. Dante’s interest in the League is

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driven by the desire to learn how an advocacy organization functions and can bring about change. “I wanted to do it with people who are already competent,” he says. In keeping with the advocacy theme, Dante began a research project to find out students’ levels of civic engagement that includes examining interest in voting, civic activities, and where youths get information on federal, state, and local political activity. Dante has designed a survey for TMP history students to this end, and will soon begin analyzing the data collected. They are hoping to finish a report on this survey by the beginning of next year, including recommendations on ways to increase students’ community and political activity.

Dante Moon was one of the first students to join the League’s High School Civic Project, registering 29 students last spring.

After graduating high school in May, Dante plans to attend college and eventually obtain a postgraduate degree—once finished with their education, Dante plans to work in nonprofit advocacy. Working with the League is one way they seek to prepare for this while through their VRA involvement actually helping people now.

Young people like Dante will become the leaders of tomorrow. I feel privileged as a member of the League of Women Voters to work with Dante and believe that the combination of Dante’s intellect and insightful nature is a gift to all of us. Let us see if we can do our part in listening and learning from them.

—Kelly Davis

Continued from page 3)

In October we welcomed six new members, including two high school student certified voter registrars who are sponsored by the Diversity Fund. There are now ten student and two adult members supported by the Diversity Fund, all of whom are active in voter registration with the High School Civics Project. We are expecting two more students to join in the near future. The Diversity Fund is available to support active members who will diversify our membership by age, ethnicity, culture or skill-set. If you know of anyone requiring sponsorship who qualifies and would like to become an active member, please contact me.

We have four Life Members whom we thanked for their participation over the years: Marian Graves, Jane Hanna, Gisella Knight, and Sally Sabo.

We are in the midst of membership renewal season, with the final deadline for renewals being Dec 31st at which time lapsed members will be taken off the Constant Contact list and will no longer receive automated notices about League events. Participation in voter registration under the League banner is not allowed for non-members. Members should renew by going on-line to the website www.lwvsfc.org and clicking on the JOIN button on the Home Page or by going directly to the Membership Page to proceed with renewing their membership. To renew by mail, print and fill out the Membership Form (pdf available from the Membership Page, include a check made out to LWVSFC and mail to the address listed at the bottom of the Membership Form. Currently 91 out of 169 members are up-to-date on membership.

Thank you for being a member and supporting the League and its missions.

—Debbie Helper
Director of Membership Services
**General Meeting: November 13th**
The second general meeting of the current fiscal year will be held on November 13th, 2019 in the large conference room at the Santa Fe New Mexican from 11:30 am to 1 pm. The topic will be plans for the 2020 census in Santa Fe County. Even a slight undercount can lead to shortages of funding for vital social programs, and we have several hard-to-count areas. Our speakers will be Patricia Boies, Health Services Division Director, Santa Fe County Community Services Department; and Krista Kelley, president and CEO of Motiva Corp., a firm hired by Santa Fe County to manage and coordinate the census count. They will explain the steps that are being taken to ensure Santa Fe County gets a complete count in the upcoming census.

Lunch will be catered by Kaune’s. You will be able to order lunch on the website through November 10th. Members can also bring a brown bag lunch. If you don’t order lunch, please send an email to the LWVSFC office to let us know you are coming; this will help us in setting up the room.

**Legislative Session Preparatory Meeting: November 21st**
Dick Mason, LWVNM Action Chair, will host a meeting to brief LWVSFC members on the upcoming legislative session, which will run from January 21st to February 20th, 2020. This meeting is for all members who are interested in advocating or lobbying for the League. Every year, the LWVN board develops a list of high priority bills, bills we support, and those we don’t support. In addition to learning about League priorities, members who would like to advocate or lobby for the League can get on the list.

**Holiday Luncheon: December 13th**
The annual Holiday Luncheon will be held Friday, December 13th at the Hotel Santa Fe. Our speaker will be Robert Sobel, American history teacher at The MASTERS Program (TMP) Early College Charter High School. Robert attended David Moss’s Harvard Case Study workshop in Cambridge, Massachusetts. This nationwide program is sponsored by the Greenwich League of Women Voters and made possible by Professor Moss’ donation of his time to teach the workshop. Robert will explain how he has used the methods he learned in the workshop in his classes at TMP here in Santa Fe. We have invited a few of his students to attend this special holiday luncheon. We will also have a silent auction, so please think about items you may wish to donate.
LWVSFC Reader Recommendations

**The Education of an Idealist: A Memoir, by Samantha Power**

Samantha Power, former US Ambassador to the United Nations under the Obama Administration and a Pulitzer Prize author, writes an honest account of her life, interspersing with humor her personal story, family story and diplomatic history as she “tilts” from a young uncompromising super idealist to a more sober policymaker. Throughout she continually questions her idealism as she relates her struggles to balance her idealism with realism, constantly questioning whether she has become one of those officials she despised as a young war correspondent during the Bosnian genocide by the Serbs.

Powers met Barack Obama in 2005, when he was a newly elected senator. After reading her critiques of US foreign policy, Obama asked her to work with him on Capitol Hill. When Obama was elected President, she joined Obama’s team, navigating the halls of power while trying to put her ideals into practice. She served as Obama’s human right adviser, and in 2013, he named her US Ambassador to the United Nations. Her experiences at the UN tested her moral compass as she negotiated through the quagmire of geopolitics.

Powers writes, “The road to hell is paved with good intentions to be sure, but turning a blind eye to the toughest problems in the world is a guaranteed shortcut to the same destination.”

“At the end,” says political columnist and author Thomas Friedman, “she has given you an honest account of who she is--you need to decide whether to denounce or defend her.” I recommend this book— for me the journey was worth my time.

--- *Kelly Davis*

**The End of Ice: Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Path of Climate Disruption, by Dahr Jamal**

War reporter and mountaineering enthusiast Dahr Jamal took a journey around the world to record the effects of global warming on our environment.

From the top of Denali, the highest mountain in North America, to the vast coral reefs off the coast of Australia, Jamal describes the epic changes in landscapes he had visited as little as ten years before and the consequences of these changes for life on Earth. Leaving Australia he writes, “The odds are low I’ll return to Australia anytime soon, and since it is unlikely to survive another thirteen years, I am effectively saying goodbye to the Great Barrier Reef.”

The tone of this book in general is one of leave-taking: while praising nature, Jamal is already mourning her passing. Jamal’s elegiac descriptions of the Earth’s most beautiful places serve to make the pain of loss feel personal and immediate. Many in the audience when he spoke at the Lannan Readings last spring were in tears.

The epigraph is a quietly despairing apology: “This book is dedicated to the future generations of all species. Know that there were many of us who did what we could.”

--- *Stephanie Schlanger*

--- *Happy Reading!*
League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County
Voter Services Report
October 2019

VOTER SERVICES: ADULT

Adult Voter Registration Activity for October
Voter registration ended October 8th for the November 5th Regular Local Election. Anyone registered after the 8th will be eligible to vote in the 2020 General Election. All sites provided voter information for the November 5th Regular Local Election and the 2020 General election. The following are the League’s voter registration and information sites for October:

October 5th -- Santa Fe Farmers Market: 12 registered
October 8th -- Last Southside Farmers Market this season: 1 registered
October 19th - Santa Fe Farmers Market: 11 registered
October 19th - Valle Vista Housing Neighborhood Community Day: 2 registered

Domestic Violence Awareness Day
The League was asked to provide voter registration on October 5th during the Domestic Violence Day of Action Event at Warehouse 21. There were approximately 50 attending. As one of the sponsors, we were asked to give a brief presentation about the League and some of its activities. The League’s presentation focused on its endorsement of the Violence Against Women Act signed into law in 1994 and its reauthorization as a stand-alone bill in 2010. Also mentioned was the importance of voting as being one of the most effective ways to assure that you elect representatives who support your issues. The event included a variety of activities, presentations by service providers, tabling, and an announcement by Mayor Webber who presented a proclamation creating October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month for the City of Santa Fe.

Domestic Violence Day of Action:
1 registered

Santa Fe Housing Authority-Voter Turnout Project
Irene Epp and I attended the following Housing Authority Neighborhood meetings/event:
Camino de Jacobo Resident Council Housing Neighborhood meeting Monday, October 7th. The League presented a flyer on the importance of voting for distribution to the Neighborhood residents and encouraged Council members to become VRAs.
Valle Vista Housing Neighborhood Community Day on Saturday, October 19 to provide voter registration services. The neighborhood is located off Highway 14. Registered 2.
Valle de Esperanza Housing Neighborhood Resident Council meeting Wednesday, October 23rd. The Neighborhood is located in Santa Cruz. We provided information on the League and distributed the flyer “Why Vote.” We talked about the importance of voting and encouraged the Council members to become VRAs.
In addition, we encouraged Housing Authority staff Maria Lucero and Falina Rodriguez to become VRAs.

Registering voters at the National Domestic Violence Awareness Day in Santa Fe on October 5th.
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VOTER SERVICES: HIGH SCHOOL

High School Civic Project
Student VRAs have provided voter registration at the following HSCP schools:
Santa Fe Prep – 10 students registered
The MASTERS Program – 2 students registered

Harvard Research Project-Implementation of the Moss History of American Democracy Curriculum-a Case Study Approach to Teaching History
Robert Sobel is currently working with the Moss curriculum’s Case Study #9 Race, Justice, and the Jury system in Post bellum Virginia (1880) and #10 Australian Ballot for California (1891). Since Robert is still in the early stages of implementing Moss’s Case Study curriculum, it was decided to postpone the planned ERA Community Discussion event with the League Board Members until early next year.

Inspire Santa Fe Mentorship Program
In September, the League began a mentorship with Dante Moon, a senior at The MASTERS Program (TMP), as the mentee and me as the volunteer mentor. The program is overseen by Inspire Santa Fe, an organization that administers student mentorships in Santa Fe. Dante will research the level of student civic engagement in Santa Fe by examining factors such as interest in voting, participation in civic activities and where they get information about federal, state and local political activity. Dante will then write a report on findings that includes recommendations of ways to encourage students to take an active role in civic activities. An article introducing Dante is in this issue of The Voter (pg. 3).

High School Registration
Voter registration was provided at the following high schools:
Tierra Encantado High School – 7 registered
Capital High School – 137 registered
Plans are being finalized for voter registration at Santa Fe High School.

An Informed Voter Is a Smart Voter

The LWVSC hosted four candidate forums in October in advance of the November 5th local elections. Thanks to Voter Information Services Chair Pat Hawkins for organizing and to all the League volunteers who helped out — and to all the candidates who attended.

Santa Fe City Council candidates speak at the Higher Education Center (HEC).

League members sort questions for the candidates at the SFPS School Board Candidate Forum.

Marcy Litzenberg moderates the Pojoaque School Board Candidate Forum.
League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County
Action and Advocacy Report
October 2019

Midtown Campus Project: The RFI from KDC, a Texas developer) is already in. They say they will be partnering with UNM. The committee has been unable to find out what is going on and proposes writing a letter that asks for more transparency on the grounds that the public should know.

County Census Committee: Carlene Carey and/or Judy Williams will stand in for Hannah at the meeting on October 28th.

Website: More suggestions, following the Voter Services page. Hannah Burling will present a mock-up at the next meeting.

Hannah Burling and Jody Larson will meet with Land Use staff on the changes in procedures to STRs and lot splits.

Count: The county has passed the hard rock mining code. There are a number of staff vacancies and the county is in the process of migrating to the new building.

SFCC: Carlene Carey reported that enrollment and finances seem stable, the AAUP reported that there are no major issues at this time. As usual, there is a whirlwind of activity at the college. There are five candidates for two positions on the board.

HEC: The center has a projected shortfall of $42,000 this year. This is a result of less commitment from partner schools than anticipated. SFCC continues to cover these shortfalls and no reliable solution is in sight. Director McGarrity reported a rather aggressive stance from UNM regarding the HEC and their position in it.

Forums: The committee is interested in hosting a public forum on affordable housing.

Thanks to the people who have already donated to the 2019 Fund Drive, for a total of $2,000. We are off to a good start!

Laura Atkins, Cecelia Dunne, Becky Frenkel, Debra Hart, Stephanie Schlanger, Fleur Wright
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 and currently enrolled in an accredited institution)

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:

☐ $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.

P.O. Box 31547
Santa Fe, NM 87594-1547
Email: lwvsfc@gmail.com

505-982-9766
www.lwvsfc.org

September 2018
Calendar of Events

2019

November
November 5, Election Day – Local Elections
November 7, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
November 13, 11:30-1 General Meeting: Patricia Boies and Krista Kelly on SF County census activities, Conference room Santa Fe New Mexican, 202 E. Marcy St.
November 16, 11 - 3: LWVNMF Board meeting
November 19, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
November 21, 10-12: LWVNMF Legislative Session Prep Meeting, State Capital Room 326
November 21, 5:30-7: League Libations, Hilton Hotel

December
December 5, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
December 7, 10-12: LWVNMF Citizen Advocacy Workshop, location TBD
December 13, 11:30-1:00: Holiday Luncheon (Hotel SF), Robert Sobel and high school civics program students
December 17, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting

Monthly Meetings/Events:

Action & Advocacy Committee: 1st Thursday of each month, 12-2, Rio Chama, 414 Old Santa Fe Trail
LWVSFC Board Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month, 10-12, at NM Bank & Trust, 1592 St. Michael’s Dr.
League Libations: 4th Thursday of each month, 5:30-7, Ortiz Café & Bar, Hilton Hotel

2020

January
January 2, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
January 9, 11:30-1:00: Legislative Preview, Hotel SF
January 15, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
January 18, 11-3: LWVNMF Board meeting, Albuquerque
January 21, Legislative Session – Opening Day
January 23, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel
January 28, 10-12: Unit Meeting - Program Planning

February
February 5, 5:30-7:30: LWVNMF Legislative Reception
February 6, LWVNMF 100th Birthday/Suffrage Centennial, Roundhouse (or Capitol)
February 13, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
February 18, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
February 20, Legislative Session – Closing Day
February 27, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

March
March 5, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
March 11, 11:30-1: General Meeting: Women in Politics; TBA
March 17, 10-11:30: LWVSFC Board Meeting
March 19, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club
March 21, 11-3: LWVNMF Board meeting, Santa Fe
March 24: Tour of Local Jail: TBA
March 26, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

April
April 2, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
April 21, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
April 23, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel
April 27-30: Candidate Forums: Primary Election: TBA

May
May 7, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
May 13, 11:00-1:30: Annual Meeting; TBA
May 16, LWVNMF Council, Santa Fe
May 19, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
May 28, 5-30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

Please note: Events in blue are only tentatively scheduled at this time. Check later for the final dates, times and locations of those events. LWVNMF and other organization functions in italics

Join us on Facebook (League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County)
and follow us on Instagram (santafeleague)