From the Leadership

“Direct voter contact is the key to increasing voter turnout” states the National League of Women Voters fall 2019 newsletter entitled Get Out the Vote Toolkit. “Multiple studies and registration program have found that simply helping individuals register to vote is not enough.”

People need to believe they are empowered and that the issues that are important to them can be affected by their vote. In keeping with the theme of “direct voter contact,” Voter Services is exploring approaches to its service delivery system that incorporate not only voter registration but answer the question “Why Vote?” to increase voter turnout.

Voter Services is combining voter registration, education and community engagement into three projects this fall targeting specific communities: 1) high school students, 2) individuals living in Santa Fe Housing Authority developments and 3) senior centers and assisted living homes. People need a reason to vote, so identifying issues that are important to them and telling them they can make a difference by voting is a strong empowerment tool. These projects emphasize face-to-face interaction to engage individuals.

Last spring, Voter Services began a High School Civic Project; currently, there are three high school pilot sites. The purpose of the project is to increase high school students’ involvement in federal, state and local civic activities. There are three project components: 1) encourage students to become voter registration agents (students registering students to vote); 2) engage students to identify, plan and implement civic events that are important to them; and 3) provide tools to teachers to enhance the teaching of history. The project will assist students in identifying issues and then finding candidates that support those issues.

(Continued on next page)
We are also assisting the Santa Fe Housing Authority, which serves low income/disabled/elderly individuals, to create a voting registration program that identifies individuals on staff and leaders in the communities to become voter registration agents. When the person registering voters is known in the community, there is more buy-in. Face-to-face contact also engages potential voters in discussions about their issues, making them feel empowered and more likely to vote.

Likewise, at senior centers and assisted living homes, we are creating access to voter registration and information for seniors by recruiting staff and community leaders as voter registration agents. These voter registrars will be promoting discussion groups that focus on issues relevant to these citizens so they can understand the candidates that will best represent them.

—Kelly Davis, Chair
Voter Services

Join us for
“Lunch with a Leader”

With SFPS Sustainability Coordinator Lisa Randall

October 16th
12 noon to 1:00 p.m.
Large Conference Room,
Santa Fe New Mexican,
202 East Marcy Street

Beginning in 2010, under Lisa Randall's leadership, the Santa Fe Public Schools District Sustainability Program initiatives have expanded to include renewable energy, waste reduction, energy and water conservation, and a move towards a District-wide Sustainability Guide. As the first Coordinator of the District Sustainability Program, Ms. Randall has been able to develop and customize initiatives to capture opportunities as they arise, maximizing resources and increasing effectiveness. Since the 2010 start, a 43% reduction in water use, along with a 13% reduction in electricity and 38% reduction in natural gas use, has allowed the Santa Fe Public Schools to redirect more than $400,000 away from utility companies annually, and put it back into the classroom. Coupled with a 35% recycling diversion rate and 20% of the District's electrical demand powered by solar PV, SFPS has developed both policy and practice supporting sustainability.

Visit www.sfps.info and click on SFPS Green-Sustainability under Departments, then Operations, for more information.

Register and pay online at LWVSFC.org and select a lunch item from Kaune’s. If you don’t wish to purchase a lunch the event is free.
Walking the Talk with Karen Heldmyer

Karen Heldmyer always wanted to have a historic home to renovate, and when she moved to Santa Fe in 1990 she got that house—and with it a name in local politics.

Her new house was located downtown and close to the state capitol, and the push to commercialize that area was strong. At the time, her neighborhood was the second designated historic neighborhood on the east side. “I realized that if we weren’t careful, all those historic buildings in the neighborhood were going to go away,” she recalls.

So Karen started working with her neighborhood association. Her first campaign was to preserve the granite curbstones, which had been installed by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Depression; the city wanted to tear them out and put in concrete sidewalks and curbs. Long story short, the group got the building code changed and the curbstones declared a historic structure.

That experience got Karen thinking. “I realized that all neighborhoods were facing these issues, but facing them individually, so I started this organization called the Neighborhood Network, to bring neighborhoods together and have them collectively address some of these issues.”

“There’s been a long campaign of PR against neighborhoods, portraying people as against any kind of building or development. NIMBYs and so forth. But I never met a neighborhood that was against change per se; people just want to be informed about the consequences of changes and be prepared to mitigate any negative consequences.”

Another of her initiatives was the Early Neighborhood Notification (ENN), which alerts neighborhoods to development plans so they have time to get informed about potential changes.

As head of the Neighborhood Network, Karen began attending City Council meetings. She noticed that neighborhood concerns weren’t being represented. She remembers “the Council was basically a haven for developers in those years, and other points of view weren’t being expressed.” After trying unsuccessfully for several years to recruit people to run for City Council, she decided in a moment of exasperation to run herself.

Karen ran a totally grassroots effort. To prepare for her campaign, she bought a book from Emily’s List that explained how to run for office. In a three-way race, she won with over 50% of the vote, soundly defeating the incumbent.

In her eight years on the Council, Karen focused on protecting neighborhoods and advocating for the people in them. She has been painted as an anti-development activist, but she points out that it’s not a simple “us or them” issue.

During the time she was on the Council, Karen credits the the League with giving her a lot of support; Becky Frankel and Neva Van Peski in particular were important mentors to her. After she stepped down from the council, Karen was made chair of the Independent Citizens’ Redistricting Commission and continues to work with the League on this issue.

Reflecting on her time in public office, Karen notes that not only do more women need to run for office but candidates in general need to reexamine their principles. “There’s this contradiction in politics: ‘You’ve got to win to do anything, so you got to do anything to win.’

“There are two kinds of people who run for office: there are people who want power, for better or for worse; then there’s a smaller group that has specific principles and issues they want to run on. That group is getting smaller all the time. People who are running for office are being told that you need to hide those convictions and principles, that you need to appeal to the widest base.

“What we really need is people, women and men, who will say what they believe and stand up for it.”

—Stephanie Schlanger
Anne Culp and Randi Lowenthal have assumed responsibility for the High School Voter Registration Program from long-time coordinator Sharon Starkey. Anne and Randi have been expanding the voter registration effort to include students as voter registrars in their own schools. Anne is a developmental psychology professor recently retired from the University of Central Florida. Randi managed a number of law firms, and now consults for small businesses and non-profits in addition to volunteering her services.

What’s been the response from the students?
ANNE: The Climate Strike brought us together with the student registrars, and all the students at the table was excited to be there. One of the students was very nervous at first, and then suddenly she said, “I can do this,” and she got up and she got two done. I was so proud of her. Another student registrar said to me, “When people don’t vote, it hurts our democracy.”

What’s next for the program?
ANNE: We want to take it the next step beyond registering, to why are you voting, that is, why vote? This is a big deal for us, this educational component.

RANDI: Like anything in life, we have to find the right person, and then the idea goes. We just have to find the teachers that are excited about this, and the students will come.

What will success look like for you?
ANNE: If we can succeed at registering and educating students in the high schools this year, and get our protocols down and our contacts organized, we’ll feel good about that.

RANDI: I’d love to be able to say, “Our kids love to vote.” I think the sooner we can get them to understand what it’s all about, it will carry through to the rest of their lives.

How did you come to join the League together?
ANNE: Because we were neighbors, we became friends. When I retired Randi asked me what I was going to do with my retirement, and I said I was going to join the League and work with Sharon Starkey on the High School Project. And my recollection is that Randi said, “That sounds great, I want to do it.”

Why the high school project, specifically?
ANNE: I really feel that kids are the key to the effort to getting out the vote and energizing our democracy, and so when this project came up, it just seemed to fit my interest as well as my sidekick’s.

How do you recruit students?
RANDI: We work with teachers and ask them to identify students who are interested. And the first step in the screening process is that they have to get themselves down to the County Clerk’s Office and get certified. Then they have to go through another hour with us, where we talk about the mission of the League and its being non-partisan. Signing up for all this is their decision, not ours, so we know they will follow through.
League of Women Voter of Santa Fe County Voter Services Report October 2019

Voter Registration Adult:
The League’s September voter registration sites:
-Santa Fe Farmers Market: Every other Saturday form 8 am to 1 pm.
-Southside Farmers Market: Every other Tuesday from 3 to 6 pm.
-Southwest Acupuncture College- Constitution Day: September 17th 11 am to 1 pm.
-National Voter Registration Day (Adult): September 24th at DeVargas Mall from 12 noon to 6 pm and Whole Foods from 11 am to 5 pm.
A total of 130 individuals were registered to vote from April to September 2019. At these sites 59 were adults and 71 were students.
A special thanks to the following VRA League members and one non-League member who volunteered to work at voter registration sites on National Voter Registration Day: Pat Pedersen, Robbie Richards, Irene Epp, Susan Nickelson, Claire Weiner, Martha Romero, Richard Markwood, Rebeccca Porras, Stephanie Schlanger, Lydia Pendley, Chris Furlanetto and Mary Ellen Gonzales.

Voter Registration Materials:
Materials on 2019 legislation and the Regular Local Election in November were created for League tabling handouts. The handouts included a flyer with information for the November Regular Local Election, including dates voting registration ends, early voting begins, same day registration site, and absentee voting cut-off dates. All voting materials the League distributes are sent to the County Clerk to assure their accuracy.

Santa Fe Housing Authority:
A meeting with Santa Fe Housing Authority’s Program Coordinators Falina Rodriguez and Maria Lucero was held on September 27th. Maria requested the meeting to discuss the possibility of the League assisting them in developing voter registration services for the three housing sites Falina and Maria oversee. It was decided that the League would meet with the Resident Council of the Camino de Jacobo site on October 5th to discuss the best approach to creating a voter registration service for its residents. The population of the housing authority traditionally does not vote.

High School Civic Project:

Harvard Case Study Workshop:
Robert Sobel continues to implement his case study workshop materials. He will soon have help from Ester Kovari, a Monte del Sol history teacher who is enrolled in the Case Study Workshop’s online course.

Robert Sobel and Esther Kovari (once she completes the online course) are required to have at least one Community Discussion Event by August 2020. The event will focus on the ERA Case Study. Prior to the larger Community Discussion to be held next spring, there will be a Community Discussion as a practice exercise in the first part of November. The specific date, time and place to be decided.

(Continued on next page)
Pilot Sites:
The League’s High School Civic Project was pleased to add Santa Fe Prep as a third pilot site. Santa Fe Prep history teacher Nick Wirth will oversee the project. Nick is interested in integrating the Harvard David Moss Case Study Method into his history curriculum. He will be working with Robert Sobel to do that.

Student Voter Registration Agents:
- Although Santa Fe Prep joined the project less than a month ago, there are four Prep students—Campbell Leonard, Parker Hailey, Cody Babcock and Ian Day—who have become certified Voter Registration Agents (VRAs) and have completed the League’s VRA training.
- The MASTERS Program added two new student VRAs: Luke Karns and Jasmine Garcia. Counting Luke and Jasmine, along with Dante Moon who became a VRA last spring, there are a total of three VRAs at TMP.
- Monte del Sol continued with the six student VRAs who were certified and trained last spring.
- As of September, the League’s High School Civic Project has a total of 13 student VRAs.

High School Registration:
A High School Voter Registration Event is scheduled for October 17th at Capitol High School.

Climate Strike Event:
A Climate Strike Event was held on September 20th at the Roundhouse. Students from the League’s High School Civic Project provided the voter registration services. Participating student VRAs were: MASTERS Program’s Luke Karns, who partnered with Santa Fe Prep students Campbell Leonard, Parker Hailey and Cody Babcock, registering 24 individuals. Anne Culp, Voter Services High School Registration Co-chair commented: “The students were dynamite!”
The city Land Use Department is dissolving the Summary Committee and will be using administrative approval for lot splits with no public hearing. Their administrative procedures “do not need to be published” per the Land Use attorney. Formal complaints are allowed for 30 days after the decision, but we are told there is no way to know about the decision. The A&A committee is trying to find out the Land Use procedures and policies. If there is this lack of transparency, we will propose writing letters to the editor or an op-ed to the board.

A&A would like to hold an affordable housing forum in November or December. Renée Villareal suggested that we would be the group to do so.

The committee is looking into updating the website page and has numerous suggestions including more visual interest and not a wall of text.

Enrollment is stabilizing at the Santa Fe Community College as a result of extraordinary methods which may not be sustainable and dual enrollments with high schools. The numbers were not available. The college is planning its legislative strategy for getting what they want from the budget.

The county’s 2020 census complete count committee has formed and the league may be asked to find volunteers and do public education on the census.

VOTER INFORMATION
FOR THE 2019 NEW MEXICO REGULAR LOCAL ELECTION

Voter Registration for the 2019 New Mexico Regular Local Election closes on October 8, 2019 at 5:00 PM. Same day voter registration for Early Voting will only be processed in the Office of the Santa Fe County Clerk 102 Grant Street.

Absentee-In Person Voting begins in Santa Fe County from Tuesday October 8, 2019 through Saturday, November 2, 2019 at the Office of the Santa Fe County Clerk 102 Grant Street. The Office will be open during regular hours of business (Monday through Friday 8:00 AM-5:00 PM). The Office will be closed Monday, October 14th in observance of Columbus Day.

The County Clerk’s Office will be open for Voting on Saturday, November 2nd only, but not the other Saturdays of early voting.

Alternate Sites Early Voting begins Saturday, October 19, 2019 through Saturday, November 2, 2019. Voting hours are from 12:00 noon-8:00 PM Tuesday through Friday and from 10 AM – 6 PM on Saturdays. Polls are closed Sunday and Monday.

Early Voting Sites are located at:
Santa Fe County Fair Building – 3229 Rodeo Rd, Santa Fe
Christian Life church – 121 Siringo Road, Santa Fe
Max Coll Corridor Community Center – 16 Avenida Torreon, El Dorado
Pojoaque County Satellite Office – 5 W. Gutierrez, Ste 9, Pojoaque Pueblo Plaza
Abedon Lopez Community Center – 155A Camino de Quintana, Santa Cruz
Edgewood Elementary School – 285 Dinkle Road, Edgewood

A qualified Santa Fe County voter can vote at any of the above Early Voting sites.

Santa Fe County will be using Voter Convenience Centers on Election Day Tuesday, November 5, 2019, rather than the traditional polling places at individual precincts. Any qualified Santa Fe County voter can vote at any Voter Convenience Center between 7 AM – 7 PM on Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

Absentee Voting by Mail
Request an application for an absentee ballot any time up until Friday, November 1, 2019. The last day Absentee Ballots will be sent out is Friday, November 1st. You can request an Absentee Ballot Application: Online (santafecountynm.gov or call the Office of the County Clerk (505.986.6280)
“Nevertheless, She Persisted”

As we rapidly move toward the centennial of Women’s Equality Day, August 26th, 2020, and recognize Constitution Day each September, let’s take a moment to reflect on women’s contributions to society with and without the vote.

As my friends and family can testify, I’ve been obsessed with researching the suffrage movement and reflecting on history. To learn about courageous women who over the centuries have given so much to this country takes time away from present advocacy needs, so why do we need to do it? Next to nothing is in textbooks. Researchers have to scour letters that were written to Congressional, state, and local officials and find news articles on rallies, fundraisers, and civic projects in order to glimpse the relentless efforts to improve conditions. Some remarkable gems are being discovered as people around the country study the valiant efforts of suffragists, but why bring these historical struggles to light when there is so much to do at present?

The stories of individuals and the cumulative efforts of those who cared and care enough to make the world a better place need to come to people’s attention now. Each day we are seeing systems we thought were solidly in place unravel. Social policies do not serve the self-interests of the powerful. If we want people to vote to sustain policies and programs that strengthen society, it is important that they know what life was like before they existed and how hard won they were. We need reminders of what our ancestors fought for and what we must do to make a difference.

The struggles to obtain the vote can be traced back to Abigail Adams fruitless petition to John Adams to “Remember the ladies” when writing the Constitution through Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s “Declaration of Sentiments” and suffrage resolution at the first Women’s Rights Convention in July 1848 through the next 70 years. Women recognized the need for government to augment their significant efforts to provide quality schools and libraries, healthy food and environment, medical care, and safe working conditions. Monumental community efforts by volunteers were and are insufficient. The ideas and ideals of American democracy still demand governmental support if goals are to be reached.

It has taken organized, altruistic efforts through the centuries here and internationally to make societal progress. Study history, be inspired, and mobilize to protect and expand the vote so that true leaders are elected to serve the public interest.

—Meredith Machen, LWVNM History Committee Chair

We have many other suffragists to research! Please contact Meredith Machen at projects@lwvnm.org or 505 577-6337 if you are interested in the work of the History Committee or in helping to plan our 100th Anniversary and the 19th Amendment Centennial in February or the Women’s Equality Day commemoration, on or near August 26th, 2020.

Be part of moving New Mexico out of obscurity in terms of the suffrage struggle into prominence.
“Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote,” a new exhibition at the Library of Congress through September 2020, draws from the collections of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mary Church Terrell and other suffragists and national suffrage organizations that changed America. Visitors can retrace the largest reform movement in American history through photos, film footage, artifacts, and rare manuscripts.

“Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence” is open at the National Portrait Gallery through Jan. 5, 2020. Visitors will learn about the radical women who fought slavery and pushed for suffrage through portraits, artifacts, and biographies.

“Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote,” at the National Archives through Jan. 3, 2021, features more than 90 items centered on the 19th Amendment and the complex story of suffragists who secured voting rights.

The Capitol Visitor Center will offer special guided tours exploring the stories, people and events that shaped the suffrage movement.

The National Park Service conducts tours of the Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument on Capitol Hill that has been at the center of the fight for women’s rights as the National Woman’s Party headquarters.

“American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith” at the Smithsonian’s National features Susan B. Anthony’s shawl, a suffrage wagon and the table on which Elizabeth Cady Stanton drafted the Declaration of Sentiments for the Seneca Falls convention.

10 Top Centennial Websites to Visit

- Women’s Vote Centennial Initiative (WVCI) www.2020Centennial.org
- National Women’s History Alliance – https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/
- National Votes for Women Trail – https://ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail/  
- Turning Point Suffragist Memorial – www.suffragistmemorial.org
- Suffragists Biographical Sketches (Search “New Mexico” for some of our leaders) https://documents.alexanderstreet.com/VOTESforWOMEN
- Vision 2020 – https://drexel.edu/vision2020/  
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

October
October: Candidate Forums: Local Elections, TBA
October 3, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
October 8, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
October 15, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
October 16, 12-1: Lunch with a Leader: Lisa Randall, SFPS Sustainability Coordinator, SF Public Schools, SF New Mexican 202 E. Marcy St.
October 24, 10:30-12:30: Nonfiction Book Club
October 24, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

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, Location TBD
November 16, 11 - 3: LWVNM Board meeting
November 19, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
November 21, 10-12: LWVNM Legislative Session Prep Meeting, State Capital Room 326

December
December 5, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
December 7, 10-12: LWVNM Citizen Advocacy Workshop, location TBD
December 13, 11:30-1:00: Holiday Luncheon (Hotel Santa Fe)
December 17, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting

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: LWVNM 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 6, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
February 5, 5:30-7:30: LWVNM Legislative Reception
February 6, LWVNM Women’s suffrage day at the legislature
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: LWVNM 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, LWVNM 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. LWVNM and other organization functions in italics

Join us the 4th Thursday of every month for League Libations at the Hilton Ortiz Café and Bar

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