Attention, please.

See Call to Annual Meeting, May 5, 2016, pages 7-11 herein.
Dear League Members:

Donna Reynolds, President 2012-2014, invented the idea of having periodic meetings of past League presidents. These meetings have been fun and productive events, as we share our collective knowledge of the League and the policies for which we advocate. There was another such event, a lunch, on February 17. I am very grateful for the wisdom of the past presidents, including the ones who couldn’t make the meeting.

It is heartening to know that we have several new members – welcome! – who can begin to assume League responsibilities and, we hope, join the leadership pipeline! For the League to continue strong, we need a constant supply of leaders and energy to advocate for League policies and educate the public. Several of you have joined our renewed project to educate and register young voters, especially in the high schools.

Our next job is to encourage these new voters to learn about the political system, how it affects their lives, and to get out and vote. The League stresses that “Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport,” and that every vote counts. When we meet new people, we should encourage them to get engaged in the process and at least vote.

League members had the opportunity to speak informally and ask questions of Mayor Javier Gonzales on February 16. He has offered to meet periodically with the League. The Mayor spoke pretty candidly about issues facing the city, and of his vision to sustain and promote the city’s economy and sustainability.

And, finally, the short legislative session is over! The legislators had a hard time making a budget with state revenue estimates plunging, but they finally came up with half a loaf. The most disheartening episode was the flameout of the League’s highest priority, an independent ethics commission. The actions of some in the Senate to torpedo the item were quite a shock in one of the last days of the session. We can only hope for better next year. We need our members there!

-Judy Williams

Join the League or renew your membership. See page 13.
Nonfiction Book Club

*The Witches: Salem, 1692*

by Stacey Schiff

The League will hold its next Nonfiction Book Club meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at Collected Works Bookstore, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The title was chosen by members at the October book club meeting. The author unpacks the mystery of the Salem Witch Trials. From the NY Times, “the essential paradox of Salem — the very thing that makes it worth returning to — is that it took place so late, in the twilight of the long golden age of European witch-hunting, among sophisticated and ambitious people, who were in most ways radical and in some respects downright avant-garde.” Get reading, and we will see you in April!

Fundraising Report

The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County thanks the following **members and supporters** for their generous donations to the education fund and general operations of the League that have been received as of March 18, 2016:

Dee Bush
Donna Reynolds
Roger Sims
Adair Waldenberg

CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center (in support of the Women’s History Month Project)

Welcome

New Members

Carmen Lopez
Laurie Glaze
Nancy Baker
Liz Delfs
Lynn Mortensen
Sharon & Flavel Chastain
Vickie Gabin
Robbyne Jones
Laura Atkins
John Hufnagel
Dee & John Rush
Susan & Bob Simison
Natalie Agraz & Steven Chance
Brenda Beard & Kirk Beard

Breakfast with a Leader

*Food Depot Executive Director Sherry Hooper*

The League of Women Voters is hosting a Breakfast with a Leader on Tuesday, April 12, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Food Depot Conference Room A located at 1222 Siler Road. Members will get an update on local food issues from Sherry Hooper, Executive Director of The Food Depot. Members can grab a cup of coffee and a pastry, then hear from Director Hooper on local food policy in their Conference Room. RSVP by emailing donnamr@mac.com
Board Meeting Highlights

February 10, 2016, meeting

The Budget Committee convened with the Board to discuss many topics relevant to preparing the next budget. Topics included:

1. amount or percentage that should be in a reserve fund
2. convention expenses
3. costs for Voter Guide based on election cycles
4. whether the education fund should be embedded into budget
5. new development committee activities and project budget sheets
6. the Women’s History Project review of three years
7. records of endowments
8. the need for more dialogue between the Board and Budget Committee

Our League is eligible to send three delegates to the National League Convention, June 16-19, 2016. The Early Bird registration fee is $395, which would be paid from the budget. Delegates are expected to pay their own way, which will show up as an “In kind” donation in the budget. Suzanne Schmidt has volunteered to be a delegate, and the Board passed a motion to have a Constant Contact message sent out to encourage other members to attend as delegates in the other two slots.

The office has been rented on a six-month lease.

Suzanne Schmidt told the Board about a new member on the Development Committee, Nancy Baker, a development professional, who will be heading the fundraising event at the School for Advanced Research.

Janet Lincoln, Suzanne Schmidt, and Nancy Baker researched all the large venues in Santa Fe and found the Lensic to be the least expensive at $2,500.

Everyone has been laudatory about the “tabling” efforts of Nikki Harnish at the Legislature and elsewhere.

The Board approved language for signs and statements that can be read aloud at public events. “Keep our democracy fit. Exercise your right to vote” was approved. The statement will be mounted on foam core for tabling and other events.

Janet Lincoln and Suzanne Ronneau will meet to help organize and mentor new volunteers who will register high school students.

Janet Lincoln, as membership chair, announced the League has 129 members. There have been 23 new members this year. There are four lifetime members, who have been part of the League for more than 30 years.
Highlights – March 9, 2016

The nominating committee’s slate of candidates for the May election was announced.

The budget for FY 2016-17 was discussed.

The Women’s History project is going strong.

High school voter registration activities are continuing under new League leadership. Registration events have been well attended and have produced many newly-minted voters.

-Nancy Chambers

Action and Advocacy Committee Minutes
March 3, 2016

Attending: Suzanne Schmidt, Mary Ellen Gonzales, Barbara Conroy, Joyce Blaylock, Suzanne Ronneau, Melissa Lomax, Susan Mertes, Mary Schruben. Melissa (Missy) and Susan are joining the committee. Mary announced that for personal reasons she will not be covering the city and county meetings for the next few months.

Santa Fe School Board: Although she could not attend the recent meeting, Mary Ellen Gonzales reported that unit costs are likely to go up $1 to $2 and not enough for a “clawback” for this year. Focus was on the budget. Loss of income will cause a 10% cut in all central office functions. Compliance issues may emerge. Insurance will rise, no raises. Empty classrooms and schools exist because state is losing population and other reasons. Now any facilities used by non-school groups will be charged rent. Kaune will be sold. A decision on the middle schools will be Monday, March 7 at 5:00 in the Administration building on Alta Vista.

Santa Fe County Trails Committee: Mary Schruben reported that the committee is addressing the northern part of the county. Their job is policy development for this massive trail system that includes the northern Pueblos.
Action: Refer people interested in this issue. No specific requirements for expertise.

Development: Mary also announced that a new subdivision is being planned for the airport area. A plan for building in the escarpment area has serious terrain problems. (The League has a position on the area’s development). Tierra Contenta is into the last segment of its development, which is noteworthy for its density.

Legislature: Melissa has served as a legislative analyst this session and passed out an extensive handout of essentials. She gave an overview of the various parts of the Legislature and how they work and dovetail. There was discussion on the pros and cons of an unpaid legislature (i.e. about $24,000 in per diems is the current system in NM). Suzanne Schmidt related that the League took a position against the anti-abortion bill recently at the initiative of the State LWV.
Action: The legislative information handout prepared by Missy Lomax will be made available to other League members.

City Council: Yesterday’s meeting simply selected new committee members. There will be hearings in April with Budget still the key issue. Finance Committee’s next meeting is March 21st.
Action: The Committee needs someone regularly reporting on the City Council at this crucial time when city budget must accommodate a 25% reduction in revenue.
Charter Schools: Susan will be working with Meredith Machen looking into the issues raised by Charter Schools and their impact on public schools and evolving a proposal for a possible League position. They are considering effectiveness and accountability. Discussion focused on the importance of the League messaging of this issue so the public does not assume we are opposing Charter Schools. Studies and information are needed. At this point the League is for a “time out” or moratorium to figure out the process and impact.

Action: Susan will do an op ed for the paper that more clearly describes our aim for public understanding.

Action Mary Ellen will take a reporter to lunch to get the message better understood from the media.

One Voice Policy of the League: Suzanne Schmidt pointed out that the League speaks with one voice, with the President being the person designated to speak for the organization. She stressed that until a specific position on the Charter Schools issue has been presented for consensus, only the current education position may be used for advocacy purposes.

A&A Committee: This is the last month for Suzanne Schmidt to serve as Chair, so new leadership is required. So far no one has stepped forward to take the leadership. However, Susan proposed a rotating chairship. She is willing to coordinate that process until a more permanent chair emerges in response to Suzanne’s solicitation and suggestions from other members.

Action: Members are needed to cover and report on the many key city and county decision-making bodies.

Action: The Committee needs a meeting place to continue the luncheon meetings.

Women’s History Month Breakfast—Sign Up and Attend

Please plan to attend this year’s Women’s History Month Breakfast event on April 16, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Marriott Courtyard on Cerrillos Road. The cost for the Breakfast is $30.00, with a portion underwriting the overall project and student door prizes. The event is the culmination of a project that includes the recruitment of local career women who mentor a middle school female student in partnership with Santa Fe Public Schools. Please reserve your space today at rsvp@lwvsfc.org, then mail your check to LWVSFC, 1472 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

Our 2016 New Mexican Woman of History honoree is storyteller and protector of the Tewa language, Esther Martinez. Matthew Martinez, Ph.D., grandson of Esther Martinez, has been asked to share personal stories about his grandmother and accept the award on the family’s behalf. Bea Duran, Native American artist, will be on hand to talk about the tradition of storytelling and women’s roles in Pueblo communities.
Deep appreciation is extended to Mary Honor Rivin and her family for a generous bequest to the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County

Mary Honor Rivin (known to her friends as MH) died in Santa Fe, NM on December 29, 2014, at the age of 92. Shortly after her death, the League was notified that Mary had left a portion of her estate to the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County.

Mary was born in Bowling Green, Ohio, and was educated at Bowling Green State University and Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Her career was as a reserve officer in the U.S. Government's Foreign Service, working first in Washington, D.C., and then for several years in Vienna, Austria. She met her husband-to-be, Arnold Rivin of Missoula, Montana, while both were working in Washington in 1947.

Mary Honor served as a volunteer translator for social service agencies, and she also did volunteer work at the Illinois Rehabilitation Hospital and at St. Vincent's Infant Asylum while living in Chicago. Upon her husband's retirement in 1974, the couple chose Santa Fe as their new home, attracted by its art, its intriguing history, its archaeology and its classical music, as typified by the Santa Fe Opera.

Mary Honor's Santa Fe activities included voter registration and membership on the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters; board membership on the Santa Fe Opera Guild; and service as Education Director for the New Mexico Opera Guild. Appointed by the Mayor of Santa Fe, she served four years on the City's Election Review Committee. In addition, she volunteered in numerous other community activities.

Bequests are an integral part of any League’s development efforts. The leadership of the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County is grateful for the role Mary played in personally advancing League priorities and will use the funds to continue the valuable work of the League.

If you have left a gift to the local League in your will or as part of your estate, please alert us to your plans as the League would be delighted to publicly acknowledge your generous gift with your permission.
Call to Annual Meeting

The 2016 Annual Meeting will be on Thursday, May 5, from 11:00 to 1:30 pm. Please plan to attend this important business meeting and vote on actions needed to support the organization. We need a quorum of twenty members to act on these important annual agenda items.

The meeting will be at the Santa Fe Hilton, 100 Sandoval Street, Santa Fe. Lunch is $22. Please call 982-9766 or email rsvp@lwvsfc.org. Reservations must be guaranteed by noon, April 29. We will charge for no-shows.

At the business meeting, members will vote on the budget, LWVSFC policy positions, and studies for the coming year. We will also elect a new president and board. Please see the annual meeting packet below for detail on recommended positions and studies.

Please bring this VOTER with you to the Annual Meeting. Annual Reports from all of the committees, the financial statements, and other pertinent materials will be distributed at the meeting.

Following our business meeting, members will have lunch and hear a presentation titled:

**Economic Development in Northern New Mexico**  
Speaker: Liddie Martinez, Executive Director  
Regional Development Corporation (RDC)

The RDC is a regional economic development organization for Northern New Mexico. The RDC works collaboratively to create new jobs in the region by strengthening services to businesses and developing the infrastructure, public policy and workforce to support job growth.

**Proposed Program 2016 – 2017**  
**Donna Reynolds, Program Director**

The following Program Report is based on input from members at a meeting in December 2015 along with LWVSFC Board review and action in early 2016.

**Local Positions**

1) Continue the LWVSFC Economic Development Study for a 2nd year.

Other Issues Discussed with Recommendations:

a) Review LWVSFC files regarding position and study on city and county cooperation to determine if there are examples defining cooperation. If not, consider an update of the position to better define and share examples of cooperation. No action taken by the Board as no leader identified.

b) Medically Indigent Fund needs to be updated in light of federal health care changes that have impacted its priorities. No action taken by the Board as no leader identified.

c) Consider a limited study of a proposed regional water authority – Recommend hosting an educational meeting to better define scope and length of a future study.
d) Consider a study of consolidated medical services and its impact on patients – *Recommend hosting an educational meeting to better identify specific issues and whether existing state positions provide support for action.*

General Comment: LWVSFC should consider crafting white papers on issues of interest to members after general meetings or forums. The LWV of Arizona has several excellent examples.

**National Positions**

General Comment: Members commend LWV for providing permissive language on the issue of living wage, thus allowing for action.

1) Will LWVUS take a position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)? Members raised concerns with the TPP and the League’s existing trade position. Members believe that NAFTA has demonstrated that unforeseen problems or the details of implementation can result in significant trade issues and problems for the United States.

2) Issues were raised with the lack of response from LWVUS regarding New Mexico opportunities to take action with other key stakeholders, including the ACLU, on border control rights violations.

3) Immigration Discussion – Members recommended that LWVSFC should have permission to work with the LWV of New Mexico to craft limited language changes to the National League’s Immigration position in the area of border control to better address New Mexico border concerns with:
   a) The increased militarization of border control guards;
   b) The way families are separated and detained;
   c) Improving the humane treatment of detainees

Specific language was suggested by members for consideration.

**Nominating Committee Report - Nominations for FY 2016-2017**

**Officers**
- President: Suzanne Schmidt
- 1st Vice President: Pat Hawkins
- 2nd Vice President: Marcy Litzenberg
- Treasurer: Berit Leonard
- Secretary: Rosemary Greenlee

**Directors**
- Past President: Judy Williams
- Arrangements: Ann Coulston
- Voter Services: Suzanne Ronneau
- Membership: Janet Lincoln
- VOTER Publisher: Miriam Ries

**Off Board**
- Ed Fund: TBA
- Nominating Committee: Donna Reynolds, Chair
  Sharon Chastain
  Pat Pedersen
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<th>Ordinary Income/Expense</th>
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<th>Proposed Budgets 2016-17</th>
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*Note: The $10,000 expected is divided $1,000 to Ed Fund, $9,000 to Operating fund.

**Assumes $54 and $26 dues; 90 individual, 16 primary household, 16 secondary household

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<tr>
<td>Supplies / Printing</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Voter</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter Service / Publications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter Service</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter Guide</td>
<td>2,350</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications - Local</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Voter Service / Publications</td>
<td>3,100</td>
<td>6,200</td>
<td>3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expense</td>
<td>23,314</td>
<td>30,347</td>
<td>26,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Ordinary Income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>493</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BUDGET NARRATIVE: 2016-2017 BUDGET

The attached budget for the League’s general fund shows the budget for the current year, 2015-16, as well as projections for the next two years. As in the past, we provide a two-year budget in order to reflect the different costs associated with election years vs. non-election years.

In order to project budgets for the next two years, some assumptions had to be made—the number of members, expected per-member-payments (PMP) to the state and national Leagues, and the expected success and associated expenses of fund-raising efforts. The following paragraphs deal with the assumptions made in constructing the 2016-17 and 2017-18 budgets.

The number of current members is based on the information provided by the membership chair, and is held constant in the next two years. We have assumed there will be a $1 increase in National PMP in 2016-17, and an additional $1 increase in 2017-18. We have assumed no increase in State PMP.

The biggest change in this budget from those in the past is the expected income from fund-raising efforts and the expenses associated with those efforts. These are amounts requested by the Board, based on the ambitious goals of the development committee. These items and a comparison with the amounts budgeted in 2015-16 are as follows:

Income from special fundraising events, $9,000 ($0 budgeted in 2015-16)
Advertising expense, $1,000 ($600 budgeted in 2015-16)
Membership committee expense, $1,000 ($525 budgeted in 2015-16)
Fund-raising expense, $6,000 ($400 budgeted in 2015-16)

Note that all these amounts are items in the League’s general fund. League rules and federal tax law require us to separate the budget of the Ed Fund (a 501(c)(3)) from that of the general fund (which is a 501(c)(4)). Although this budget shows some of the movement between the general fund and the Ed Fund, it does not show income that goes directly to the Ed Fund, which can be considerable.

The board has assured us that every proposed fund raising event will have a specific chair and a separate budget of expenses and income, so that the membership can see the effects of the fund-raising efforts. With a sizable cash balance, the Board believes that the League has the resources to cover a shortfall if income and expenditures differ from projected amounts.

The Budget Committee:
Karen Heldmeyer
Neva Van Peski
Adair Waldenberg
Berit Leonard (ex officio)
Two hundred new voters registered by LWV in the first two months of 2016!

The LWV Committee for High School Voter Registration visited three Santa Fe high schools, invited by Civics teachers, to both register students and speak to attentive students about the importance of voting in local, state, and national elections.

The LWV high school voter outreach program was initiated and for years directed by Lynn Gary, who conceived the idea for the program and established the high school contacts still used by the new committee. Once Lynn retired from actively directing the program, a committee of three--Virginia McCallum, Joannie Sparkman, and Sharon Starkey--assumed responsibility for it. Sharon Starkey ably chairs the committee.

The three high schools in which the League volunteers have registered students are: Capital, St. Michael’s, and New Mexico School of the Arts. The first hundred new voters were registered at Capital, followed by 50 each at St. Michael’s and NMSA.

In every school, the students were polite, attentive, and very conscious of the responsibility they assume as voting members of our society. As each student completes the registration, he or she is presented with a small U.S. flag and congratulated for becoming a voting citizen. The looks on their faces is well worth the small time commitment to be part of their transition to full participation in citizenship.

The committee of three does not work alone. There is an email list of League members interested in joining the fun. Sharon contacts this list once the high school program committee receives an invitation from a high school. Since there is a list of volunteers, no one on the list is registering new voters every month or at every high school. Interested in being part of the high school new voter program? Contact Sharon Starkey (sharon7@comcast.net).

Being part of registering these brand new voting citizens, answering their pertinent, thoughtful, and informed questions will either confirm or renew faith in the future of our republic.
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY
NEW/RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date: _______________   Name: (please print) _______________________________________________

Address: (please include zip) ____________________________________________________________

Phone: _______________________   Email: _________________________________________________

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

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

Make membership check payable to LWVSFC for:

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

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

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

_____ Unrestricted general fund contribution (not tax deductible): $_________

_____ Education Fund (tax deductible): $_________  (Make separate check payable to LWVSFC Education Fund.)

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

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

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

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

________________________________________________________________________

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

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

Work on Issues:

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

________________________________________________________________________

Voter Services:

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

________________________________________________________________________

Organizational Support:

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

☐ Other ______________________________

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

May 7, 2014
ESTHER MARTINEZ
P’oe Tsáwá’ (1912–2006)
OHKAY OWINGEH

Esther Martinez served her community as an educator, linguist and storyteller. Her foremost contributions to our state are documenting and preserving the Tewa language and the art of storytelling. Esther was named a National Heritage Fellow in 2006 by the National Endowment for the Arts, the nation’s highest honor for artists.
Calendar

April 2016
April 12, 9-11: Breakfast with a Leader – Food Security (Food Depot)
April 13, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
April 16, 9-11: Women’s History Month Breakfast
April 21, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club, Collected Works Bookstore, 202 Galisteo Street

May 2016
May 5, 11:30-1:30: Annual Meeting
May 11, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
May 21, LWVNM Council – Los Alamos

Check www.lwvsfc.org for locations and updates.
*LWVNM and other organization functions in italics

Regular meetings:
Action-Advocacy 1st Thursday of each month
LWVSFC Board 2nd Wednesday of each month
Book Club, Collected Works Bookstore – 202 Galisteo Street
Unit Meetings are only for League members