



The Voter

1472 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505-4038

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Officers

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(Public Relations &
Fundraising)

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(Publisher, *The Voter*)

Nominating Committee

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Finance/Budget Committee

(appointed by the board)
Karen Heldmeyer, Chair
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Neva Van Peski
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Message from the President

Dear League Members:

Happy New Year!



As the New Year rolls in, please consider volunteering for your local League! Our Nominating Committee will soon begin their work to retain and recruit directors and officers for our 2015-16 LWVSFC Board. If asked or contacted, I hope you will seriously consider continuing your service or joining as a new director or officer. It is a rewarding experience and a great opportunity to have fun working alongside a fabulous group of smart, capable and dedicated members.

In January, we will have two important events for members. Our Program meeting will take place on January 13th beginning at 9:00 a.m. This is the meeting where members review our programs and positions for possible new studies or updates. It's a wonderful way to learn more about League positions and how they help direct our work and actions. The very next day, January 14th, please come to our annual Legislative meeting where you will meet your local New Mexico state representatives and learn what their priorities will be this upcoming 2015 session.

Cheers,

**Join the League or Renew Membership.
See Page 11.**



We welcome:

Leslie Lakind
Margery Odell
Hank Bahnsen

Scenes from the Santa Fe League's 2014 Holiday Party



L-R: Julie Ann Grimm (Editor, Santa Fe Reporter), Julia Goldberg (radio host, writer, teacher), Donna Reynolds (Santa Fe League President)



Julia Goldberg speaks to League members.

Women's History Month Project Update

Honor the achievements of women by signing up now to attend the Women's History Month Breakfast event on

March 28, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the La Fonda Hotel downtown. Our

selected honoree is affiliated with the La Fonda Hotel, and

our keynote speaker will set the stage for her accomplishments here in New Mexico. The cost for the Women's History Month Breakfast is \$30, with a portion underwriting the overall project and student door prizes. RSVP today by calling the League office at 982-9766 or email rsvp@lwvsfc.org

Our Women's History Month Committee is now recruiting career



women to hold mentoring sessions with Santa Fe Public School 7th grade female students in March. Each

student will be asked to invite a guest to the breakfast event, and a special tour of the La Fonda Hotel will be offered to students

and their guests immediately following the breakfast.

Women's History Month is celebrated across the country, so please join us to highlight the achievements of a New Mexico Woman of History, along with local career women mentors, students, student family guests, and Leaguers at the breakfast on March 28th.

-Donna Reynolds

Fundraising Report



The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County thanks the following members for their generous donations to the education fund and general operations of the League that have been received as of December 19, 2014:

Irene Leslie
Herbert & Elizabeth Rickert

Marcy Litzenberg

Yara Pitchford

Nathanson Family Trust
In Memory of Dani Frye
In Memory of Norma Brown
In Appreciation of the LWVSFC Board
In Appreciation of all Volunteers

**League Day at the Legislature
Legislative Reception
Monday, February 9, 2015, 5:30-7:30 pm**

Garrett’s Desert Inn, 311 Old Santa Fe Trail
(just down the street from the Roundhouse toward the Plaza)



Panel Discussion: Education Funding & Priorities

Senator Mimi Stewart, former Chair of House Education Committee
Representative Dennis Roch, Legislative Education Study Committee
Dr. Veronica Garcia, Executive Director, NM Voices for Children
Don Moya, Chief Financial Officer, Albuquerque Public Schools

Come meet with fellow members and legislators and experts and learn more about the issues.

Tuesday, February 10
Hearings at the Roundhouse from 8:00 am on
League Information Event from 10:30 am to noon
New Mexico Land Office, Morgan Hall
310 Old Santa Fe Trail

Fred Nathan, Esq., Hospital Pricing Transparency Initiative
Dr. Gabriel Sanchez, Voter Photo ID and Voter Disenfranchisement

Please see bios below and accompanying articles in this issue of La Palabra on our priorities for the 2015 Legislative Session and on education.

Packets of materials for League Day will be available at the Reception February 9 and in the lobby of Garrett’s Desert Inn from 7-9 a.m. on February 10. Members may wish to attend committee hearings and/or sessions in the House and Senate before 10:15 am when we will head down a few doors toward the Plaza to the Land Office to listen to the panelists.

BIOS for Education Panel/Monday Reception

Senator Mimi Stewart (D- Albq.) served in the NM House of Representatives from 1995 to 2014. She left her role as Chair of the House Education Committee this session to take the seat Senator Keller held before his election to State Auditor. She brings years of teaching experience and expertise in grappling with the challenges students and educators face in New Mexico. Her deep understanding of the needs of students at risk of low academic achievement because of language differences, poverty, and increased testing has brought her national recognition.

Rep. Dennis Roch (R-Logan) serves on the House Education Committee and is also Superintendent of the Logan School District. He is on the Public School Funding Formula Task Force, and he has sponsored important legislation to provide teachers and community schools with needed resources. Prior to being elected to the House in 2008, he served on the NM Public Education Commission (formerly the State Board of Education).

Dr. Veronica García, Executive Director of New Mexico Voices for Children, served as New Mexico's first Cabinet Secretary of Education for seven years. Her decades of work within the state's

K-12 education system range from teacher to principal to superintendent, first of Santa Fe Public Schools, then Albuquerque Public Schools. She also served as executive director of New Mexico Coalition of School Administrators.

Don Moya, Chief Financial Officer for Albuquerque Public Schools, is an expert in public education funding. Prior to being hired by APS to develop and oversee the budget, he served as Deputy Secretary for Finance and Operations at the NM Education Department. As a budget analyst and planner, he is often called upon by legislators and educators to discuss the intricacies of funding both traditional and local charter schools.

BIOS for League Day Informational Event/Tuesday morning

Fred Nathan is the Executive Director of Think New Mexico. Before founding this highly regarded non-partisan public policy think tank, Fred served as Special Counsel to NM Attorney General Tom Udall from 1991-1998. In that capacity, he was the architect of several successful legislative initiatives and was in charge of NM's lawsuit against the tobacco industry, which resulted in a \$1.25 billion settlement for the state. This year Think NM is working to win passage of legislation making hospital prices and quality transparent with the aim of lowering health care costs in New Mexico.

Dr. Gabriel Sanchez is an Associate Professor of Political Science and Interim Executive Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico. As Director of Research for Latino Decisions, he also provides political commentary to several state, national, and international media outlets and conducts studies on the impact of voter photo IDs on the minority and elderly populations, the relationship between racial/ethnic identity and political engagement, Latino health policy, and minority legislative behavior.

Accommodations: Garrett's Desert Inn once again is offering us a very **special rate of \$59 plus tax for single occupancy/\$69 for double occupancy and waiving the \$8 parking fee**. Reserve your space under the code "**SWING VOTE**" to take advantage of this rate. After the **January 25 cut-off date**, rooms will cost \$99 for a single room if space is available. Call **1-800-888-2145** to make a reservation with a credit card or advance deposit. Be sure to mention the code.

There are a number of good, close-by restaurants.

The LWVNM Action Committee will be sending out email Action Alerts throughout the Legislative session. If you are not part of the LWVNM Action List please go to www.lwvnm.org and sign up.

For further information on League Day, please call 505-884-8441, visit www.lwvnm.org, e-mail action@lwvnm.org, or call Dick Mason at 505-239-3804.

Action & Advocacy Committee December 2014



Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners (BCC): Chris Furlanetto and Jody Larson met with Penny Ellis-Green and Robert Griego in early December to discuss staff plans for completing the SLDC, zoning map and fee schedule. We were pleased to learn that staff had taken initial steps to organize the community planning process and to contract with outside experts to draft the necessary SLDC sections. Applications for citizen members of community planning committees are due in early January – check the county website for more information. Staff hopes to award consultant contracts in January and to complete all tasks by late summer 2015.

Chris also participated in a meeting with County Attorney Greg Shaffer in early December. The meeting was organized by Paul White and William Mee of United Communities; Susan Boe from NM FOG also attended. Mr. Shaffer reviewed the policies he has given to Commissioners re *ex parte* communications on land use (and other quasi-judicial) matters.

Chris and Judy Williams met with incoming Commissioner Henry Roybal in late December to introduce the League to him and to offer him our assistance.

City Government:

The city is taking applications for the newly created Citizen Redistricting Commission. Check the city website for more information on the application process.

The League sent a letter to Mayor Gonzales about transparency issues related to the formation and operations of various task forces. Check the Recent Advocacy tab on our website for a copy of the letter.

The Election and Campaign Review Board (ECRB) held its first meeting since the March 2014 election in mid-December.

Councilor Ives' ordinance on a municipal electric utility was postponed until at least January. A separate resolution from Councilor Maestas is, however, available on the city website.

County Water Utility:

Chris Furlanetto, Suzanne Ronneau, and Judy Williams met with Commissioner Kathy Holian and County Water Utilities Director Claudia Borchert in mid-December. We discussed water planning, water allocation and the policy for bulk water sales in Santa Fe County. Ms. Borchert said the county's long-range water supply plan should be completed in a few months. She also gave us information on the possible re-use of effluent as potable water, citing the El Paso system as an example. The group identified several opportunities for League programs related to water policy and recycling in the coming year. Stay tuned!

-Chris Furlanetto

If you are interested in attending our meetings or in joining our email list (to get meeting announcements and minutes) please contact Chris Furlanetto at action@lwvssf.org. The next meeting is at noon on February 5, 2015, at Rio Chama Steakhouse.

Nonfiction Book Club

“Corruption in America” by Zephyr Teachout



The League will hold its Nonfiction Book Club meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2015, at Collected Works Bookstore, beginning at 10:30 a.m. At the October Book Club meeting, members chose the January 2015 selection, “Corruption in America: From Benjamin Franklin’s Snuff Box to Citizens United” by Zephyr Teachout, Associate Professor, Fordham University School of Law.

“In *Corruption in America*, an eloquent, revealing, and sometimes surprising historical inquiry, Teachout convincingly argues that corruption, broadly understood as placing private interests over the public good in public office, is at the root of what ails American democracy.”*

Get reading, and we’ll see you in January 2015!

*David Cole, *New York Review of Books*, 2014-09-25

-Donna Reynolds



Highlights December 10, 2014, Board Meeting

- President Reynolds announced that Suzanne Ronneau has agreed to be the office liaison to the Board.
- President Reynolds stated that the Women’s History Project will be honoring architect Mary Colter (1869-1958).
- Pat Hawkins and the Board mailed fundraising letters and return envelopes to local area businesses.
- Chris Furlanetto stated that the Action & Advocacy Committee continues to work on getting the County to approve the Santa Fe County land use code redistricting map and fee schedule.

- Marcy Litzenberg reported that she is preparing questions for the Voters Guide for the SF School Board and SF Community College Board elections on February 3.
- The Voters Guide will be published in the *New Mexican* at no charge to the League. Marcy stated that the *New Mexican* likely will continue to print the Voters Guide at no charge to the League as part of the paper.
- Ann Coulston will be coordinating candidate forums for the SF School Board, and the Community College Board elections. The forums will be held at the Community College and School Board sites.
- There are 33 current members who have not yet renewed their membership as of December 3. Half of them stated they would renew.
- Judy Williams reported that the planning meeting is being held as scheduled on January 13, from 9 a.m. until noon at the Health and Human Services community room at 2052 Galisteo Street.
- Judy reported that the legislative luncheon will be held on Jan. 14 at the Hilton at 11:30 a.m., with local legislators in attendance.

-Patricia Pedersen



Election and Campaign Review Board (ECRB)

The city's Election and Campaign Review Board (ECRB) met on December 14 for the first time since the March 2014 city election to discuss issues that came up during that election. However, few members of the public were present.

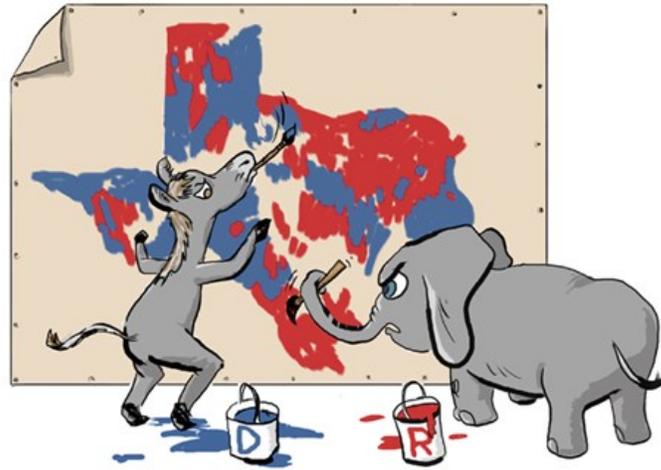
Those who were suggested a number of changes to city code that the ECRB might want to consider. These included regulation of outside money going into city campaigns (especially for publicly financed candidates), increasing the funding given to publicly financed candidates, developing a definition for “coordination” between campaigns and outside funding sources, identifying the source of outside money, and changing the timeline for reporting campaign donations and expenses.

The ECRB established a subcommittee to decide what issues they want to address and they will meet privately in the next few weeks. However, they want to hear from members of the public about which election issues are of most concern to them.

The ECRB meeting at which the ECRB will take public testimony about all the issues that came up during the last city election is tentatively scheduled for January 21. If you want to comment on the problems that occurred in the last election, or have suggestions about how to improve city elections and public campaign financing it would be helpful if you could attend this meeting. Or, if you cannot attend but would like to submit written testimony, you can send it to Zack Shandler, the ECRB's legal counsel at zashandler@santafenm.gov.

-Karen Heldmeyer

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC)



The city of Santa Fe will redistrict its council districts by June. It will do so with an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, as is required by the charter amendment passed last March.

This amendment was proposed, and strongly supported, by the League. This Commission will be the first of its kind in the state and may serve as a role model for other governmental entities in New Mexico.

However, to be successful, the Commission has to have a pool of interested, informed citizens to volunteer to serve on it.

If you or someone you know (who is a registered voter in the city) would like to be on this Commission, please apply; you can find information about this on the city clerk's web site at:

http://www.santafenm.gov/redistricting_commission

Or you can contact Karen Heldmeyer (kheld@earthlink.net) for more information.

This was a big initiative for the League but, thus far, very few people have applied and the deadline is January 15. League members need to make sure this initiative is successful.

-Karen Heldmeyer



Check the website for updates and information: www.lwvsfc.org

2015

January 13, 9:00-12:00: Program Planning Santa Fe County Community Services Conference Room, 2052 Galisteo St.

January 14, 11:30-1:30: Lunch - Legislative preview (Hilton)

January 14 1:30 -3:30: LWVSFC board meeting

January 17, 11-3: LWVNM Board (Albuquerque)

January 20, noon: Legislature starts

January 22, 10:30: Nonfiction Book Club

February 9 and 10: League Day at the Legislature

February 11, 11-1: LWVSFC board meeting

March 4, 10 to 12: Campaign Finance reform member briefing (Van Peski and Heldmeyer)

March 11, 11-1: LWVSFC board meeting

March 15-21: Sunshine Week

March 21, 11-3: LWVNM board meeting

March 21, noon: Legislature ends

March 28, 8:30-11: Breakfast - Women's History Month (La Fonda Hotel)

April 1, New Mexico History Museum tour

April 8, 11-1: LWVSFC board meeting

April 23, 10:30: Nonfiction Book Club

May 6, 11:30-2: Lunch - Annual meeting (Hilton)

May 13, 11-1: LWVSFC board

May 16-17: LWVNM Convention

Check www.lwvsfc.org for locations and updates.

Regular meetings:

Action-Advocacy Regularly meets 1st Thursday of each month at the Rio Chama Steakhouse, 414 Old Santa Fe Trail. New members are always welcome!

LWVSFC board 2nd Wednesday of each month

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.

Membership 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



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