

League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County

The Voter

1472 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505-4038
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Leadership Team
President
(open)
1st Vice President
Marcy Litzenberg (Finance)
Secretary—Susan Herder
Treasurer—Berit Leonard
Directors
Ann Coulston (Voter Services)
Miriam Ries (The Voter)
Coleen Dearing (Technology)
Laura Atkins (Member & Program Services)
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Janet Lincoln (Membership)
Patricia Pedersen (Arrangements)
Bonnie Coleman-Iapoce (Digital Experience)
Donna Reynolds (PR/Communications)
Hannah Burling (A&A)
Susan Herder (Office Liaison)
Laurie Glaze (Transition Facilitator)
Jody Larson (Transition Consultant)
Nominating Committee
Donna Reynolds, Chair
Sharon Chastain
Barbara Conroy
Finance/Budget Committee
(appointed by the board)
Marcy Litzenberg, Chair
Berit Leonard (ex officio)
Executive Committee
Marcy Litzenberg
Susan Herder
Berit Leonard
Miriam Ries
Ann Coulston

A View from the Empty Chair

At May’s Annual Meeting, the Santa Fe League voted to operate under a new leadership structure for the 2017-18 fiscal year. Gone are the president and second vice-president. The president’s job required a great deal of heavy lifting and discouraged some members from becoming more active in leadership and League activities. A flatter organization will allow members to involve themselves without being responsible for running the WHOLE THING. The Leadership Team of eight individuals has assumed the tasks formerly performed by the president. Many hands make light work.


Some of you are skeptical. Some can’t envision how this flatter organization will work. Do not despair. This first year is a test drive. If it doesn’t work, we can return to the hierarchical model for fiscal year 2018-19, or even try something totally different.

The one thing that hasn’t changed is that all of us must work together to make our League successful.

I look forward to our doing great work going forward. The current political climate cries out for responsible leadership, voter education, and voter participation. And that’s where we come in. We are the grass roots that can effect change.

-Miriam Ries
Breakfast with a Leader
(Actually two leaders!)

Tuesday, August 22, 2017, 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Location: Bodega Prime, 1291 San Felipe Avenue (ample parking), off Cerrillos, across from Squeaky Clean car wash

We will discuss the topic: GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION with two local leaders who are active with the group MOMS DEMAND ACTION. This is the group in Santa Fe which has been leading the charge at the State House during the Legislative Sessions. The other active group is New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence.

Karen Watkins, retired librarian, and Michael Greene, retired educator, will lead us in a discussion of:

- Gun culture in America
- Gun violence in America
- New Mexico gun deaths
- National measures for gun violence protection
- National & state legislative efforts

MOMS DEMAND ACTION was formed after Sandy Hook and is a national organization with state and local chapters. Leaders are trained to bring its message to groups such as ours and to elicit cooperation, especially in legislative activities.

LWVNM adopted the National Position on Gun Control (Safety) at the recent State Convention. This is our position:

The League of Women Voters believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the U.S. is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit accessibility and regulate ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.

The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education, and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification.

The League supports a ban on “Saturday night specials,” enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.
Minutes
Action & Advocacy Committee
June 8, 2017


Meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by Ann Coulston, chair. She announced that Hannah Burling will be the chair of the committee going forward and that Chris Furlanetto had agreed to mentor Hannah during this year.

Minutes of the May 4, 2017, meeting were unavailable, but approved, with Adair Waldenberg, Judy Williams, and Mary Ellen Gonzalez abstaining.

Jody Larson presented a review of the purpose of the A&A committee and described past methods of conducting business. Jody was president of LVWSFC in 2007 when she conceived of the A&A Committee as a method to separate advocacy work from the work of the Board of Directors. She pointed out that advocacy is a part of our mission and that this work is done via meeting with officials of various city, county, and other groups; speaking at meetings; writing letters; and other such activities. The work of the A&A committee is based on positions of the local, state, and national leagues. Jody developed the matrix, which can be used to guide the work of the committee - listing current activities, committee members who attend meetings, identifying issues, and potential action. Hence, at a glance, committee members can see what issues are currently being discussed/developed. She reminded us of the diagram Adair put together a few years ago: From Study to Action. Jody pointed out than an A&A committee is not the only structure local leagues use, and she gave examples of a few other options.

Judy Williams reviewed League policies on who speaks for the League and how. The League speaks with one voice, and the president speaks for the league or designates someone to speak. She cited the General Policies and strongly recommended that all members read them. League members must have permission from the president or designee and clearance on the topic and content of the comments. Jody stated that observers in the past have not been permitted to speak for the League.

Members may speak only on items on which the national, state or local League has a position; they may not speak as a League member and contradict any position. In the past, the local and state positions have been published in the LWVSFC Handbook.

Copies of the LWVUS IMPACT ON ISSUES, 2016-2018, are available from Amazon.com, $5.95 paperback or $3.95 Kindle edition.

Other issues suggested by this discussion involved identifying the local positions with background papers which are in hardcopy in the office files on the office computer. Hannah Burling will meet with league office staff to identify those documents. The committee also supported having the local league positions, with background information, readily available on our website. Jody suggested developing a local league “Impact on Issues.” She would work on this document with assistance from one or two other committee members.

The committee asks the Leadership Team of the local league for direction/priorities for topics for the coming year. We would like to have quarterly general membership meetings which would
provide content on the priority issues and bring new members up-to-date with league positions and advocacy projects.

The document which outlines the general league non-partisan policies: General Policies 7.13.16 needs to be updated and put on the website for easy access.

Reports:

Nothing new from the County.

School Board report from May Ellen Gonzales. Issues involve a planned increase in school lunch pricing: only 25% of our students pay for school lunch; the remainder receive reduced price or free lunch. The La Farge Library will remain open although a final contract has not been signed. There was discussion about the VoTech (ECO) school. We recommend this for a topic on the coming Program/Calendar year.

No report from recent City Council meetings. It was suggested that the league might find the future of SFUAD an interesting topic and one where we may have something to add.

Follow-up on the Local Economic Development Study saw articles in the New Mexican and the Reporter. The reporting was not as accurate as we would have liked. A “My View” on this topic will be published in a Sunday New Mexican.

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 6, 2017.

VOTER REGISTRATION HELP NEEDED

We have about one month to set up Voter Registration sites around the city so that newcomers can register, or citizens who have moved or changed their name can update their registration to vote in the Santa Fe County Special Election, September 19th. August 22nd is the last day to register to vote in this election.

I have heard from some 3rd party voter registrars. If you would like to register voters or would like to become a 3rd party voter registrar and help with this voter registration drive, contact Ann Coulston, Voter Services Chairman. Our focus will be on the south side of town.

Southside Farmers Market (Tuesday afternoons from 3 - 5 p.m.)

Southside Library (hours to be established)

Smith’s grocery on Cerrillos or Target (also 3 - 5 p.m., Wednesday or Thursday)

If you are interested in helping, please email Ann Coulston, Voter Services Chair, at anncoulston@gmail.com I look forward to hearing from you.

Information about this election has been posted on www.lwvsfc.org
Coming Soon!
1920—2020

100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution

Harriot Stanton Blatch, daughter of the lifelong suffrage leader Elizabeth Cady Stanton, summarized the movement's legacy best when she wrote these words: "Perhaps some day men will raise a tablet reading in letters of gold:

'All honor to women, the first disenfranchised class in history who, unaided by any political party, won enfranchisement by its own effort alone, and achieved the victory without the shedding of a drop of human blood. All honor to the women of the world!'"

Harriot Stanton Blatch
1856 – 1940

National Women's History Project

League Libations

Thursday
July 27, 2017
5:30—7:00
Downtown Hilton
Ortiz Café/Bar

Social Time with the LWVSFC

Join us at the Downtown Hilton Ortiz Cafe/Bar! This is a monthly gathering that encourages members and interested parties to attend and mingle in a social setting. Members are encouraged to bring guests, especially those who might be prospective members. Membership Committee members will be there to greet you each month for a “Sure Happy It’s Thursday” meet up.

Repeats monthly, every 4th Thursday.
July Nonfiction Book Club Selection
The Alphabet Versus the Goddess by Leonard Shlain

The League will hold its next Nonfiction Book Club meeting on Thursday, July 20, 2017, at Collected Works Bookstore & Coffeehouse beginning at 10:30 a.m. The next book selected to read is “The Alphabet Versus the Goddess: The Conflict Between Word and Image” by Leonard Shlain. A review from GoodReads shares, “this groundbreaking book proposes that the rise of alphabetic literacy reconfigured the human brain and brought about profound changes in history, religion, and gender relations. Making remarkable connections across brain function, myth, and anthropology, Dr. Shlain shows why pre-literate cultures were principally informed by holistic, right-brain modes that venerated the Goddess, images, and feminine values. Writing drove cultures toward linear left-brain thinking and this shift upset the balance between men and women, initiating the decline of the feminine and ushering in patriarchal rule. Examining the cultures of the Israelites, Greeks, Christians, and Muslims, Shlain reinterprets ancient myths and parables in light of his theory. Provocative and inspiring, this book is a paradigm-shattering work that will transform your view of history and the mind.” Get reading!

Welcome New Members!

Tamara Bates
Catherine Kinney
Debra Helper

Editor’s Note: To respect members’ privacy, personal information is not published in The Voter. However, we encourage you to keep your 2017-2018 Member Handbook up to date by requesting an addendum sheet, which lists phone numbers, and mailing and e-mail addresses of new members. Contact Miriam Ries at mries415@yahoo.com for a copy.
Voter Registration at Women’s Health Fair, DeVargas Mall, April 29, 2017
(Yes, it snowed on April 29.)

Sharon Nickelson & Sharon Starkey at the table for the 9am shift!
Minutes
Action & Advocacy Committee
July 6, 2017

Members in Attendance: Joyce Blalock, Hannah Burling, Chris Furlanetto, Mary Ellen Gonzales, Bonnie Iapoce, Suzanne Ronneau, Mary Schruben, Neva Van Peski

Meeting was called to order by Hannah Burling, chair.

Mary Ellen Gonzales moved that the minutes of the June 8, 2017, meeting submitted by Ann Coulston be approved, with grammatical corrections. Neva Van Peski seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

County: There was no report from the county. The Committee may need to find someone to monitor the County Commission.

Santa Fe School Board:

Mary Ellen Gonzales reported that Steve Carrillo who had been very difficult with the union leader has changed his attitude towards her. In Mary Ellen’s view this change is due to the Superintendent doing some hard work towards reconciliation.

Not giving D’s: A ‘D” means that the student has not mastered the material but is still given points towards graduation. Now, C is followed directly by F. Hopefully, there will be a ripple down effect all the way through the grades.

Now that there is no more lunch shaming, where will the money from lunch come from? First, from the cash balances, which no longer exist. Secondly, from the legislature, which is probably not possible, and thirdly, from the community. Farm to Table and other programs help with food quality but not with food cost. 75% of children in the Santa Fe Public Schools qualify for free or reduced price lunches. The question of how lunches will be paid for might be an opportunity for the League, but only at the state level. Another opportunity for the League would be to look at the entire funding of public schools in the state. Mary Ellen Gonzales says this should wait until the sufficiency lawsuit is settled. Again, this would be a state issue.

There was some discussion of the Department of Agriculture distribution of food surplus to the public schools, but this would be a national study.

City Council:

Mary Schruben reported that appointments to the Public Banking Task Force were announced. Unionized employees want more than a 2% raise and want no one receiving more than $90,000 a year to get a raise. This came up during the public comments section.

There was great conflict during the public comments section.

The city is still not settling the many lawsuits re: water rights. They have been trying hard, but there has been no progress. There is a massive number of wells in the city, and the State Engineer will not enforce metering on these wells.
Local Action or Study:

In light of what Dr. Garcia has done to reduce conflict on the School Board, could the LWVSFC do a study on managing conflict and reducing incivility? The School Board has rules and generally enforces them. The city gives no direction to smaller boards. Then we could meet with the Mayor and City Council to say this is what we’ve seen going on. This will be on the next agenda.

Hannah Burling read an email from John Hufnagle who is no longer interested in monitoring the Finance Committee. We need to actively look for someone to follow that committee. The Finance Committee meets 1st and 3rd Mondays. It would also be necessary to attend the Public Works Committee meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays as that is where the money is spent.

Website:

Bonnie Iapoce wants to make sure that when a potential member accesses the website, he or she would find reasons to want to belong to the group. Chris Furlanetto said that League positions and how they were reached are the important items to include on the website as they are no longer in the handbook.

What is published under the Speeches & Testimony tab must be the official league positions.

Suzanne Ronneau asked how searchable our positions were. That is, if someone is searching for that topic on Google, will our website come up? We do not pay Google to index our website. Bonnie said that if she were to go up a notch in hosting, Google indexing would be covered.

The website serves three audiences: members, members of other leagues, and members of the public who are looking for information.

The website has been allotted $1,000, but has only received $500 of that. The committee requests that the rest of the money be released to the website so that our positions will come up on a Google search.

If we decide to go for an intranet, cell phones will cover that.

Chris stated that it is vital to have the local, state and national positions correct on the website and to have them downloadable and printable.

Action Items:

1. Find someone to follow the City Finance Committee and the Public Works Committee.
2. Find someone to follow the County.
3. Request the rest of the website budget so that our website with our positions will be searchable.

The next A&A meeting will be Thursday, August 3 at 12 noon at the Rio Chama Steakhouse.

-Hannah Burling
Date: _______________   Name: (please print) ________________________________________________

Address: (please include zip) ___________________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________________________ Email: _______________________________________

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

Membership checks made payable to LWVSFC: (Please mail form with check to Attn: Membership Chair at address at bottom.)

_____ Individual membership: $54
_____ Family membership: $80  (Individual plus one family member)

Family member name: _________________________________________________________________

For separate listing of Family member in Handbook directory, please list phone and email:

Family member phone: _____________________  Family member email: _______________________

_____ Student membership: $30 (For students 18-25 years and currently enrolled in accredited institution.)

(Membership is paid annually between September 1 and the following August 31. It includes state (LWVNM) and national (LWVUS) dues.
If you are join between April and August of any year, your membership will extend through the following year to August 31.)

Donation check payable to LWVSFC - (Please note “General Fund” on your check.)

_____ Unrestricted general fund contribution (not tax deductible): $_______ Check #___________

Donation check payable to LWVSFC - (Please note “Education Fund” on your check.)

_____ Education Fund (tax deductible): $_______ Check #___________

Can you attend mid-day meetings, luncheons and other activities during the week? Yes ___   No ___

Volunteer Interests - LWVSFC success is based on the assistance of member volunteers. We welcome and encourage your help!
(Circle all that apply):

Voter Services:
Voter registration • H.S. voter registration • Info tables

(Are you a trained Voter Registrar? Yes___  No___)  (If No, walk-in training is available at County Clerk office downtown.)

Monitor public meetings • Candidate forums/meetings • Lobby government officials (w/LWVNM)

Organizational Support:
Help at events • Development • Membership • VOTER content • Website • Staff League office • Board member
Calendar 2017-2018

January 2018
Jan. 10, 11:30-1:30: Legislative Preview (Hilton)
Jan. 17 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
Jan. 20, 11-2:30: LWVN Board meeting, Abq.
Jan. 25, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel
Jan. 30, 9-11: Unit Meeting - Program Planning
Jan. 31, 6-8 Mayoral/Councilor Candidate Forums

February 2018
Feb.1, 6 or 8, 6-8 Mayoral/Councilor Candidate Forums
Feb. 7, 11-30-1:30: General Meeting (Hilton) Mayoral Forum
 Feb. 14, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
Feb. 21, 10-12: St. Vincent Regional Medical Center Tour and Health Care Forum
February TBD - League Day at the Legislature
Feb. 22, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

March 2018 – Women’s History Month
Mar. 14, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
Mar. 15, 11-30-1: Sunshine Week Event (Hilton)
Good Government Presentation-Sandra Fish
Mar. 17, 11-3: LWVN Board meeting, Santa Fe
Mar. 28, 10-12: New Mexico History Museum Tour
Mar. 29, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

April 2018
Apr. 11, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
Apr. 19, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club, Collected Works, 202 Galisteo Street
Apr. 25, 10-2: Habitat For Humanity-League Build
Apr. 26, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

May 2018
May 2, 11:00-1:30: Annual Meeting (Hilton)
Nuclear Waste Disposal
May 9, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
May 19, LWVN Board meeting, Socorro
May 26, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

Members: Please check the Events Calendar on the website's home page often as additions, cancellations, topics, locations and cover charges may occur.

*LWVM and other organization functions in italics

Check www.lwvsfc.org for locations and updates.

Regular meetings:
Action-Advocacy 1st Thursday of each month
LWVSFC Board meetings 2nd Wednesday of each month @ NM Bank & Trust
Unit Meetings are only for League members
League Libations 4th Thursday of each month @ the Hilton Hotel Ortiz Cafè & Bar, except for December.