For the second month in a row, this dedicated space is being turned over to one of our stellar volunteers, this time to explore an exciting proposal for a transitional leadership structure. Past President and Nominating Committee Chair Donna Reynolds will do the honors on this occasion as she outlines an alternative that would allow the League to more fully utilize the many skills and talents of its array of volunteers. Donna and her hard-working committee members will be asking for a vote at the May 5th Annual Meeting on this proposal, so please give her remarks your careful attention.

-Suzanne Schmidt, President

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**Guest Column**

**Not Your Same Old Nominating Committee**

by Donna Reynolds

Nominating Committee Chair

Dear League Members:

According to the *Washington Post*, individuals across the country are finding their collective public voices as a result of the national women’s march and are seeking out opportunities to make a difference at local, state, and federal government levels. The League of Women Voters is uniquely positioned to help advocates find effective ways to advance a progressive agenda.

In response to this challenge, the League’s nominating committee is recommending changes to its governance structure and enhanced goals for the incoming board. Many Leagues have already made changes to address the growing time demands on volunteers’ lives by sharing key leadership roles or moving to a team-oriented leadership model. Toward this end, the nominating committee is recruiting the incoming board with a goal of researching a new structure for consideration by the membership in 2018. The committee is currently recruiting leadership under the existing governance structure as found in LWVSFC’s by-laws, but with an understanding that the board will work as a “team” in 2017-2018, modeling the proposed change while accepting an area of responsibility.

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**Officers**

President
Suzanne Schmidt

1st Vice President
Patricia Hawkins
(Communications)

2nd Vice President
Marcy Litzenberg (Finance)
Secretary—Rosemary Greenlee
Treasurer—Berit Leonard
Past President
Judy Williams

**Directors**

Janet Lincoln (Membership)
Ann Coulston (Arrangements)
Bonnie Coleman-Iapoce
(Digital Experience)
Susan Mertes (A&A)
Laurie Glaze (Director,
Program/Calendar; Liaison to
Development Committee)
Miriam Ries (*The Voter*)
Barbara Conroy (Office Liaison)
Suzanne Ronneau (Voter Services)

**Nominating Committee**

Donna Reynolds, Chair
Sharon Chastain
Patricia Pedersen
Marcy Litzenberg
Barbara Conroy

**Finance/Budget Committee**

(appointed by the board)
Marcy Litzenberg, Chair
Flavel Chastain
Brenda Beard
Laurie Glaze
Judy Williams
Berit Leonard (ex officio)

**Executive Committee**

Suzanne Schmidt
Rosemary Greenlee
Berit Leonard
Susan Mertes
Miriam Ries

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1472 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505-4038
Phone: 505-982-9766 www.lwvsfc.org
In addition to the governance structure, the nominating committee is recommending that, as the incoming board develops a new structure, it must ensure that it will support ongoing leadership and membership development; leadership succession; professional administrative support; and move the organization to a fully-integrated digital platform, allowing team leaders the ability to access League tools from their own homes rather than a static office. The nominating committee believes this vital work will require the assistance of an independent facilitator to ensure that goals and objectives are fully met. Lastly, as a League operating in a state capital, the nominating committee is recommending that the incoming board develop a structure to improve methods for members to effectively and readily engage in both local and state policy actions.

While the League leadership looks inward to realign its organizational structure, it cannot and must not lose any ground in its most successful and visible work – voter services. To accomplish this goal, the nominating committee has restructured the voter services portfolio into two areas of responsibility – voter registration and voter information. The committee will bring forward a strong volunteer team to direct and maintain our League’s commendable voter services at the annual meeting.

These are interesting times, and our League must be ready to embrace technology, professionalism, effective leadership tools, and a new governance structure to meet the current and future needs of our members. The LWVSFC board has endorsed these recommendations and looks forward to the challenges ahead.

As chair of the nominating committee, I encourage members to be ready to offer their time and expertise as requested during the upcoming year, as many hands make light work. A general meeting will be held in April to promote the nominating committee’s work and to garner valuable member feedback prior to the annual meeting. The League will need members’ skills, commitment, and advice as we move forward.

Cheers,

[Signature]

April Nonfiction Book Club Selection

*Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali

The League will hold its next Nonfiction Book Club meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2017, at Collected Works Bookstore, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The book selected to read and discuss is *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali. A review from Bookmarks Magazine shares, “Although Ayaan Hirsi Ali remains Public Enemy #1 for radical Muslims, she refuses to be silenced. In this captivating memoir—an act of courage itself—she shares the evolution of her values, beliefs, and identity, all propelled by an urgent mission to educate Western countries about the bigotries of other nations. Set against a terrifying geopolitical landscape of African wars and Muslim fundamentalism, Hirsi Ali addresses timely topics: the plight of refugees and women; the Muslim clan system; forced marriage; political asylum; and, perhaps most significantly, her own personal religious crisis. Written in descriptive, clear prose, *Infidel*, with its radical feminist criticism of Islam, offers a disturbing view of the modern world—and inspired every critic who read it.” Get reading!

-Donna Reynolds
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY
MARCH 28, 2017
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
SANTA FE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, BOARD ROOM
MAP OF SFCC CAMPUS: http://w2.sfcc.edu/files/maps/College-Loop2013.pdf

We invite you to join with the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County as we host Chris Carson, President of the League of Women Voters US and Tom Carson, financial and tax consultant/advisor to Leagues converting to 501(c)(3) organizations.

10:00 am – Noon -- Conversion of League of Women Voters Organizations to 501(c)(3)
Organizations, Tom Carson
- Characteristics of organizations under Section 501(c)(4) and Section 501(c)(3)
- Positive and adverse consequences of alternative structure
- Advocacy and lobbying available to a Section 501(c)(3) organization
- Nationwide League experience with converting to Section 501(c)(3)
- LWVUS support of conversion process
- Process of converting for single-entity Leagues and dual-entity Leagues
- Strategic planning for the conversion process

Noon – 1:00 PM – Lunch
Will be provided by the Santa Fe Community College Culinary Arts students

1:00 – 3:30 PM -- Local League Advocacy and Coalition Building, Chris Carson
- Identifying your core issues for advocacy
- Framing your issues within your local community situation
- Defining your messages to the community
- Identifying the messages of the potential opponents
- Identifying potential coalition partners
- Obtaining a complete understanding of partners’ goals
- Sharing the work of advocacy
- What are the next steps?

3:30 – 4:00 PM -- Questions and Answers

REGISTRATION: You can register one of two ways:
Mail a check for $30.00 to the League of Women Voters,
1472 St Francis Drive, Santa Fe 87505.
Please indicate on the check that this is for the March 28 event.
Go to the website, http://www.lwvsfc.org/store/p44/Welcome_to_Santa_Fe%21.html
and make on-line payment.

NOTE: Seating is limited for this event. LWVSFC members are being given priority registration until March 1. At that time, if there are remaining seats, we will send invitations to League chapters in other communities throughout the state and all seats will then become first come. NO REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED ON THE DAY OF EVENT AND REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE CONFIRMED UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED!!

** This event will be held in the SFCC Board Room which is located in the West Wing Building. There will be signage to help direct you but please review this map. Link to campus map:
http://w2.sfcc.edu/files/maps/College-Loop2013.pdf

Please contact Laurie Glaze, LWVSFC Board of Directors, Program and Calendar Chair, laurieglaze@gmail.com, with any questions.
League Tour

New Mexico History Museum
In Honor of Women’s History Month
Wednesday, March 29, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

Educator Melanie LaBorwit, with the New Mexico History Museum, will provide a tour, featuring highlights of women’s contributions to New Mexico history. The tour will take place at the New Mexico History Museum, 113 Lincoln Avenue, near the historic Santa Fe Plaza. The event is in honor of Women’s History Month, along with other events taking place across the country. On Wednesdays, seniors (60 and older) are admitted at no charge. If you’re under 60, you will need to purchase an admission ticket at a cost of $12.00. Plan ahead by checking out the current exhibitions at: http://www.nmhistorymuseum.org. Don’t miss this great opportunity to explore the New Mexican History Museum with a knowledgeable host. RSVP by March 27th to Donna Reynolds at donnamr@me.com

Welcome
New Members

Susan Herter
Sue Rempel
Hannah Burling
Dawn St. George

“The United States, almost alone today, offers the liberties and the privileges and the tools of freedom. In this land the citizens are still invited to write their plays and books, to paint their pictures, to meet for discussion, to dissent as well as to agree, to mount soapboxes in the public square, to enjoy education in all subjects without censorship, to hold court and judge one another, to compose music, to talk politics with their neighbors without wondering whether the secret police are listening, to exchange ideas as well as goods, to kid the government when it needs kidding, and to read real news of real events instead of phony news manufactured by a paid agent of the state. This is a fact and should give every person pause.”

— E.B. White, One Man's Meat (essays, 1938-1943)
Nominating Committee Report—Donna Reynolds, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented information on the work and recommendations of the committee. The next League leadership team will have a less hierarchical structure and a greater division of work and responsibilities. A special membership meeting to discuss/review the new structure will be held in April. The concept of the Nominating Committee’s recommendations was approved unanimously.

President’s Report—included in agenda packet. No volunteers were identified to manage a League table at the March 10 Women’s History event at the Roundhouse.

Budget Development—On schedule, per Marcy Litzenberg. At its March 8 meeting, the board will review completed worksheets and present proposals for additional programs/expenses/discussion/decision. A review of and vote on the proposed budget for FY 2017/18 will occur at the April 12 board meeting.

State Convention—Pat Hawkins reported on agenda and budget items. Dinner speaker Valerie Plame will appear at no charge to the League. Local volunteers will need to be identified by late March/early April. Registration fees will be processed through the LWVSFC.

Job Descriptions—for President, Public Relations/Communication, and Office Team were submitted for approval. The Webmaster job description will be reviewed by Bonnie Iapoce prior to submitting for Board approval. Three job descriptions were approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report—accepted as presented by Berit Leonard.

Action and Advocacy Committee—Susan Mertes stated that processes need to be put in place to review the contents of information on the website.

Digital Director—Board discussed security needs for website and asked Bonnie Iapoce to research costs for various levels of security.

Membership—Janet Lincoln reported that there are 149 members.

Calendar—Written report in packet. Judy Williams asked for a correction in January 31 Program Planning Committee meeting minutes to reflect that her motion should have included LWVNM positions. The board voted unanimously to approve that current LWVSFC and LWVNM positions be retained.

Arrangements, Office Liaison, Voter Services — all no report

Sunshine Week Event — Written materials in packet. Miriam Ries presented budget. The board unanimously approved, using $2500 from the Opportunity Fund for expenses related to Sunshine Week event.

Suzanne Schmidt presented a City of Santa Fe Resolution submitted by Mary Ellen Gonzales regarding status of Santa Fe as a welcoming community for immigrants and refugees and asked if the board wanted to support the resolution. The board declined, stating that it does not correlate closely enough with current LWVSFC positions.

-Minutes by Laurie Glaze
-Highlights by Miriam Ries
From Guam to Alaska to Santa Fe . . .
It’s Sunshine Week

Join the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County for a lively discussion of *Money in Politics* . . .
Who is behind dark money and how do we bring that to light?

**Special Guest Speakers**

**Former Lt. Governor Diane Denish**
**Santa Fe Mayor Javier Gonzales**

Thursday, March 16, 2017, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
La Posada de Santa Fe, 330 E. Palace Ave, Montana Ballroom
Delicious Food and Drink (Cash Bar)
Valet or Street Parking

Advocating for open/transparent government is central to the mission of the League of Women Voters. Join other members for this festive occasion and invite a guest to explore the League’s core values and benefits of membership.

Each individual or family membership unit may invite one guest. Maximum attendance is 100, so RSVP without delay to rsvp.lwvsfc@aol.com. (Note that this is a new RSVP address.) Please provide the host member’s and guest’s names.

*RSVP deadline is March 10, 2017.*
Minutes
Action & Advocacy Committee
February 2, 2017

Present: Susan Mertes, Mary Ellen Gonzales, Suzanne Ronneau, Bonnie Iapoce, Jody Larson, Mary Schruben, Chris Furlanetto, Pat Hawkins, Laura Atkins, Barbara Conroy, Judy Williams (note taker)

County Items
Sustainable Land Development Code - Chris said there is no new action; we are awaiting the hard rock mining ordinance.

Indigent health care - Judy reported on the new effort by the NM Human Services Department to take a percentage of county Gross Receipts Taxes earmarked for indigent care. They see this as a way to avoid raising taxes and plug a hole in the Medicaid budget. It follows a similar, successful move two years ago. County staff and the SFC Health Policy and Planning Commission believe this will destroy the county’s new indigent care initiatives.

The county has gone to a project-based system of funding evidence-based projects that pay for services with no other sources of funding. These include the mobile crisis intervention unit, narcan programs, suboxone for opioid-addicted pregnant women, efforts to reduce the incidence of low birth weight, and others. Judy said people can contact their representatives as county residents and ask them not to vote for this provision, which will likely be inserted into the budget rather than appear as a specific bill.

SFPS - Mary Ellen presented data on challenges facing the schools, including the large number of English language learners, poverty, and other issues. Another challenge is the uncertainty, each year and for each school, about what their enrollment will be; school board member Steve Carrillo is looking for a solution to the late releasing of enrollment numbers. Mary Ellen also presented a report on requirements for graduation, which are detailed and complicated for students to follow to ensure they meet them.

Mary Ellen said the Superintendent is opposed to a legislative proposal to move school elections to October. Santa Fe has just consolidated the SFPS and SFCC elections in the winter. The change would raise the cost of campaigning, as there would be city as well as school candidates.

City of Santa Fe - Mary Schruben discussed the challenges facing the mayor’s proposal for a sugar tax on beverages. This could be a special election item in May. This would be a single issue – would turnout be respectable? The League would probably not support this tax, as it is regressive.

The Planning Commission is approving large hilltop developments, apparently without regard to viewscapes or drainage issues. It is seen as an economic development benefit.

The city is proposing to trade treated effluent from GCCC to the Office of the State Engineer for water rights at Buckman. The effluent would be released above Buckman and water withdrawn below it. This will go before the Colorado Compacts meeting in March.

A resolution for a task force to start the work to create a public bank will come before the city Finance Committee on February 13. The resolution may also be laden with items on internal city functions unrelated to a bank. The mayor and city council would have 90 days to name the task force, which would have 60 days to complete its work.

There is an issue with a group of chemically sensitive people not being able to attend meetings at GCCC, or other buildings, given the materials used in those buildings for cleaning, etc.

New item:
Barbara Conroy is concerned about voter suppression, and wants a watchdog to oversee elections. There ensued a discussion about centralized voting locations to eliminate the problem of being at the wrong precinct. The committee discussed advocating for this with the SF County Clerk.

Announcements:
Judy reminded the members about League Day at the legislature, and the importance of meeting with legislators on issues. Local members can advocate on behalf of LWVNM with permission of the Action Chair.

March 2, 2017, meeting has been canceled.
NEW MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL FORM
(Please complete fully even if renewing.)

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 joining between April to August of any year, your membership will extend through the following year to September 1.)

• 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

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE LWVSFC, 1472 ST. FRANCIS DR., SANTA FE NM 87505
505-982-9766 • www.lwvsfc.org

28-Feb-2017
Calendar 2017

March – Women’s History Month

March 8, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting

March 10, noon-1: Women’s History Month Celebration, State Capitol Rotunda

March 11, 11-3: LWVNMC Board meeting, Santa Fe

March 16, 5-7 p.m.: Sunshine Week Event, La Posada; must RSVP by March 10, limit 100 attendees

March 18, noon: New Mexico Legislature ends

March 28, 10-4: Workshop, SF League conversion to 501(c)(3) and local League advocacy and coalition building, SFCC (RSVP & pre-pay)

March 29, 10-12 noon: New Mexico History Museum Tour

April

April 4, 10-noon: Unit Meeting – LWVSFC Economic Development Study Consensus meeting, Health & Human Services, 2052 South Galisteo Street, SF

April 12, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting

April 20, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club, Collected Works, 202 Galisteo, SF

May

May 5, 11:00-1:30: Annual Meeting, Hilton

May 11, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting

May 20-21, LWVNMC Convention – Santa Fe, Hilton

Regular meetings:

Action-Advocacy 1st Thursday of each month,
Rio Chama (Susan Mertes)
(No meeting March 2017)

LWVSFC Board meetings 2nd Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, NM Bank & Trust, St. Michael’s Drive

Unit Meetings are for League members only

Check [www.lwvsfc.org](http://www.lwvsfc.org) for locations and updates.

*LWVNMC and other organization functions in italics*