



The Voter

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

Phone: 505-982-9766 www.lwvsfc.org

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May 2015

Officers

President

Judy Williams (Program)

1st Vice President

Suzanne Schmidt
(A&A Board Liaison)

2nd Vice President

Patricia Hawkins
(Communications)

Secretary—Nancy Chambers

Treasurer—Berit Leonard

Past President

Donna Reynolds (Ed Fund)

Directors

Marcy Litzenberg
(Voter Services)

Janet Lincoln (Membership)

Ann Coulston (Arrangements)

Suzanne Ronneau
(Office Liaison)

Miriam Ries
(Publisher, *The Voter*)

Nominating Committee

Julia Nathanson, Chair

Joyce Blalock

Barbara Conroy

Finance/Budget Committee

(appointed by the board)

Karen Heldmeyer, Chair

Adair Waldenberg

Neva Van Peski

Berit Leonard

Message from the President

Dear League Members:



I'm back! I served as President from 2012 to 2013, and now I am back for another year. I appreciate the vote of confidence at yesterday's meeting and will work hard to keep the League in good condition. I will also spend the next year working on our succession plan.

We need newer and younger members to move into leadership positions. We have a fine board, with many experienced members. They as well as other long-time members are eager to help mentor new leaders, so please let us know if you are interested in helping with activities or working into leadership roles. I will be glad to help pair you with experienced members, including former presidents, who can help.

Thank you to our immediate past president, Donna Reynolds, for her leadership over the last two years. She created two memorable events to mentor middle-school girls, organized interesting tours, and kept us together.

Thank you to the board members who are continuing, members who have served, and welcome to new board members! I look forward to working with the board and other members to grow membership, educate and turn out voters, and continue our advocacy for good government, as well as originating special events, projects and studies.

Join or renew your membership.

See page 7.

We are only as strong as our members--we hope you will be able to participate in some way. We need people for voter education activities as well as policy advocacy.

We have strong national, state and local positions as the basis for our advocacy, and we have a solid reputation locally. We need members who are willing to help us monitor development of the county's Sustainable Land Development Code, city and county water planning, city government, the public schools, and the Santa Fe Community College. All have public board meetings, and we like to have members attend when there are issues we are following.

Please come to the calendar planning meeting on June 9, where we will decide on issues we're most interested in, public forums to educate ourselves and the public, and interesting and fun activities.

Our board meetings are open to all League members, so please check the calendar on the website, www.lwvsfc.org and come to one of them.

I am looking forward to meeting you all and working with you to strengthen the League and promote good government.

-Judy Williams



**Highlights
Board Meeting
April 8, 2015**

There was excellent feedback from members and guests attending the Women's History Project breakfast.

Those attending the State Convention in Albuquerque over the weekend of May 16 and 17 will be Suzanne Schmidt, Jody Larson, Janet Lincoln, Marcy Litzenberg, and Miriam Ries from the Santa Fe League and Judy Williams from the LWVNM.

There was a notice from the estate of Mary Honor Rivin that it is donating one percent of her estate to the LWVSFC.

The annual meeting will be held on May 6 at the Hilton from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The speaker will be Ray Rivera, editor of The New Mexican.

At the annual meeting, the budget, bylaw changes, new officers, and directors will be discussed and voted on. New member handbooks will be distributed.

From the spring fundraising letters, we have received \$410 in donations plus \$1240 for the Education Fund.

The Santa Fe School Board approved a second year of funding for the Education Technology program at their April 7 meeting.

There was a meeting with Mayor Gonzales on March 31. Items discussed were transparency, the public parks audit, and the city website.

Suzanne Schmidt will chair the Action and Advocacy committee.

Judy arranged a Calendar Planning meeting for June 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Judy will send out an email with the location of the meeting

The LWVUS is doing a study on the effect of money in politics. Materials will be distributed and all Leagues need to do a consensus meeting by February 1, 2016.

-Pat Pedersen



Calendar Planning Meeting

Please plan to attend this important meeting to set the new fiscal year's events, projects, and studies, including dates and times.

Tuesday
June 9, 2015
9:30-12

Social Services Conference Room
2052 Galisteo, Santa Fe



New Members

David Maidenberg
Marguerite Kearns

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 April 28, 2015:

Jarratt Applewhite

Ann Coulston

Marian H. Graves

June Jameson

Gisela Knight

Linda Siegle

Judy Williams & Elliot Stern

Drs. Dan Jones & Suzanne Schmidt

Joyce Blalock

Chris Furlanetto

Nikki Harnish

Jody Larson

Stan Rosen

Neva Van Peski

Barbara Conroy

Mary Ellen Gonzales

Donna Herbst

Berit Leonard

Teresa Seamster

Fleur Wright

In Support of Women's History Month

Pat & Dick Hawkins

Becky Frenkel

Jennifer Martin

To Honor LWVSFC Action & Advocacy Committee

Steve & Meredith Machen

In Memory of Rosemary McMahon & Jane Hawkins

Pat & Dick Hawkins

To Honor Donna Reynolds and her leadership

Tina Egge

To Honor Elizabeth Wilson

Joy Wilson

Business Contributor

New Mexico Bank & Trust (Heartland Financial USA, Inc.)

-Donna Reynolds



Action & Advocacy Committee—April 2015



Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners (BCC): The most recent update from the County says that staff has held several meetings with the consultants and expects drafts to start coming in for review in May. Once these drafts are in hand, work can begin on zoning map options. The community planning committees are meeting and continuing to work on plan updates, potential zoning map changes and draft overlay zones within each community.

City Government:

Redistricting

The Independent Citizens Review Commission's last community meeting will be on May 7 in District 2. The meeting is open to citizens of all districts. The commission is then required to hold a public hearing where the commission gives direction to the consultant and another meeting to adopt a final plan. Please check our website for dates, times and locations of these meetings.

ECRB

The Ethics and Campaign Finance Review Board continues to meet to consider changes to the city's election code. Future meetings are scheduled for 5/20, and 6/17; all meetings are at 3pm in City Council chambers. They are open to the press and public input is welcome.

We have a national position favoring public financing in general, but do not have positions on any specifics of implementation. Please note, however, that LWVUS is currently working on an update to the campaign finance position – watch for a consensus meeting next year.

Meeting with the Mayor

President Reynolds and three other members of the A&A committee met with Mayor Gonzales in late March to follow up on letters we sent him earlier this year. Most of the discussion centered on aspects of transparency but we also discussed the parks audit, IPRA requests, and the city website; Mayor Gonzales sent his written response to our concerns shortly after the meeting. He suggested that we schedule quarterly meetings in the future to discuss current issues.

SFPS:

The Board approved a second year of funding for the Education Technology Note at its April 7 meeting.

Other

Sunshine Week Program Follow-up:

Judy Williams and Chris Furlanetto met with several Interstate Stream Commission staff members several days after our program on transparency issues with the Gila River Diversion Project. We discussed our concerns further and requested some specific changes to the ISC website to make the information about the Gila River project and the Arizona Water Settlement Act more accessible to the public – those changes were made later the same day. (Hot Topics) at <http://www.ose.state.nm.us/index.php>

If you are interested in attending our meetings or in joining our email list (to get meeting announcements and minutes) please send an email to action@lwvsfc.org. The next meeting is June 4 at noon at Rio Chama.

-Chris Furlanetto

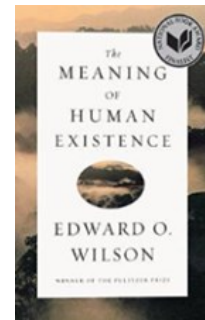
**Nonfiction Book Club – “*The Meaning of Human Existence*”
by Edward O. Wilson, a National Book Award Finalist**

The League will hold its next Nonfiction Book Club meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2015, at Collected Works Bookstore, beginning at 10:30 a.m. At the April Book Club meeting, members chose the July 2015 selection, “The Meaning of Human Existence” by Edward O. Wilson.

From a review in the New York Times, “*Mr. Wilson’s slim new book is a valedictory work. The author, now 85 and retired from Harvard for nearly two decades, chews over issues that have long concentrated his mind: the environment; the biological basis of our behavior; the necessity of science and humanities finding common cause; the way religion poisons almost everything; and the things we can learn from ants, about which Mr. Wilson is the world’s leading expert.*”

It’s a short summer read with a lot of punch, so get reading and we’ll see you in July 2015!

-Donna Reynolds



It’s Always a Good Day to Register Voters



Marcy Litzenberg and Barbara Lanning ready to register voters on the Plaza,
Community Day, May 9, 2015

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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