From the Leadership Team

Courage in the face of opposition . . .

I, like many of you, watched the final day of the most recent Supreme Court nomination hearing to learn more about the allegations against Justice Kavanaugh and his accuser, who had only been depicted in a couple of photographs via the media. Even before the hearing, I had already been reliving some of my own youthful coming of age activities, recognizing that I had put myself in some unsafe situations as a teenager. I’m sure I was not alone in these reveries, but sincerely grateful that none led to an unwanted, life-threatening sexual assault.

As I watched the Kavanaugh hearing where Dr. Christine Blasey Ford provided riveting testimony, I had a wave of emotions admiring her personal courage and honesty. I, then, prepared myself for Judge Kavanaugh’s response. His emotional approach, displaying anger, indignation, and blatant partisanship, certainly shocked me and many across the nation. As the hearing unraveled along with the loss of Senate decorum, it became obvious that the country was reeling from the events of the day.

I must say it was heartening to receive a message from our national League President, Chris Carson, announcing a decision to take action by making an official statement and encouraging the Senate to delay a floor vote.
President Chris Carson offered the following message to members:

One in five American women have survived rape or attempted rape. So, like many of you, I watched the Senate hearings this week with anticipation, anger, and heartbreak.

Dr. Christine Blasey Ford was a portrait of dignity and incredible courage, sharing the most intimate details of her sexual assault in high school. Her testimony, along with additional sexual misconduct allegations, raises serious concerns about a nominee who could make decisions that will shape the future for women for generations to come.

As a Board, we made the decision that we could not sit silent. **This is an important moment in our history and the League must demand a process that will uphold the integrity of the U.S. Supreme Court.** We stood with a number of nonpartisan organizations, including the American Bar Association, which asked the Senate to delay a floor vote pending a full investigation into the allegations of sexual misconduct. We made a strong statement and issued an Action Alert encouraging the public to call their senators asking them to delay a vote.

It came as a tremendous relief that cooler heads prevailed in the Senate and a final vote was not rushed through. **The reopening of the FBI background investigation announced...was the very least that can be done to ensure the Senate has sufficient information before voting on a lifetime appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court...**

I am personally grateful that a “pause” was provided by the Senate to further explore allegations and pleased that LWVUS was one of the organizations encouraging such an investigation. There are moments in our history that are defining, and I believe the actions surrounding the nomination of Judge Kavanaugh will be ones we reflect on and evaluate for many years to come.

- Donna Reynolds
VP of PR/Communications

**March Nonfiction Book Club Selection**

*The Fifth Risk*

The League will hold its next Nonfiction Book Club meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2019, at Collected Works Bookstore & Coffeehouse, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The book selected to read is **“The Fifth Risk”** by Michael Lewis.

From an NPR review, “Government may be too big and the bureaucracy too complex, but Lewis delves into its critical missions: to protect us from threats, including nuclear weapons proliferation, devastating tornadoes, and foodborne illnesses; and to efficiently distribute services and benefits to those needing a hand — whether from Federal Emergency Management Agency or food stamps.”

Get reading, and we will see you in March!
This summer’s League of Women Voters convention in Chicago lasted only a few days, but the determined ladies from the Florida chapter (above) managed to accomplish what they had set out to do: Have the National Popular Vote become an official national priority for Leagues across the United States.

The National Popular Vote is a LWVUS priority

The national League has supported a direct election of the U.S. President for a long time, as expressed, for example, in a 1970 position statement, but it took developments elsewhere to arrive at a specific mechanism and a “National Popular Vote Interstate Compact” terminology (“National Popular Vote” for short) to establish how a direct election would work.

By 2010, the League’s “Statement of Position on Selection of the President” declared that “The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished.”

Yet interestingly it’s actually the “winner-take-all” state laws, not the Electoral College, that cause the large-scale voting inequalities and other pronounced disadvantages of the current presidential election system.

The good news is that state laws can be changed, and that is exactly what New Mexico will have a chance to do during its upcoming 2019 legislative session.

To learn more, mark your calendar for the LWVSFC’s National Popular Vote Public Forum with New Mexico Senator Mimi Stewart on Saturday, November 10, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church, 107 W. Barcelona Road, Santa Fe.

To familiarize yourself further with the National Popular Vote before or after the forum, please visit the National Popular Vote-New Mexico website (www.nationalpopularvotenm.org).

– Ute Haker
Member, LWVSFC
Annual Holiday Party & Silent Auction
Wednesday
December 12, 2018
11:30—1:00

Special Guest Speaker: Julie Ann Grimm
Editor, Santa Fe Reporter

Ms. Grimm earned a bachelor’s degree in Journalism from the University of Missouri, and has solid reporting chops from her time at the Associated Press and The New Mexican, before joining the Santa Fe Reporter. We had the pleasure of hosting Ms. Grimm a few years ago, and look forward to another enjoyable lunchtime with her.

Please remember guests or non-members are always welcome! RSVP at www.lwvsfc.org or send your check ($25.00 per person) by December 7, 2018, to:

LWVSFC
P.O. Box 31547
Santa Fe, NM 87594-1547

The silent auction will be managed by Berit Leonard. Please plan to arrive at 11:15 to donate items and to lend a hand if necessary. If you purchase and donate, it’s not the same as bringing home more stuff.
League Libations

Thursday
November 29, 2018
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Santa Fe Hilton
Ortiz Café & Bar
100 Sandoval Street

No-Host Bar

Come, meet and relax with League friends and guests.

Repeats monthly.

New Mexico Roundhouse Art Tour with League Members

Members of the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County are invited to attend a tour of the state Roundhouse fine art collection on Friday, December 7, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. Please plan to arrive about ten minutes before the tour begins to check in at the Rotunda Desk so we can begin the tour promptly at 10:00 a.m. The tour lasts approximately one hour. The New Mexico State Capitol, or Roundhouse, is located at 490 Old Santa Fe Trail. The tour is free. Please RSVP to Donna Reynolds at donnamr@me.com
ACTION & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Highlights

October 2018

- The city website project is on hold, as we still do not know who will be heading it.
- Midtown Campus Project: Chris Jonas of Littleglobe, Marcy Litzenberg, and Hannah Burling continue to meet.
- Mary Schruben has asked Mike Harris to see if the Capital Improvement Plan can be posted more frequently than once a quarter because it changes more frequently. The portion of Camino Carlos Rey that goes over Arroyo Chamiso will be rebuilt. This will be a complex undertaking, as some of the land is owned by New Mexico Game & Fish.
- Proposed Changes to the City Public Campaign Financing Code: Carol Romero-Wirth’s bill has passed.
- Civility in Public Discourse: Before forums, etc., candidates must sign and return the agreement. Hannah Burling is to form a subcommittee to create guidelines, and she will continue to take part in the LWV discussion.
- Kavanaugh Hearing: The committee decided that, even in light of the Chris Carson letter, there was nothing we could do locally.
- Judicial elections: Our state position “Judges of the higher courts should be appointed by the governor from a screened list submitted from a non-partisan nominating commission …” would be more effective if the word “higher could be removed or if elections were eliminated. Suzanne Ronneau will investigate this as a state issue, as well as the possibility of adding another state’s position.
- Health subcommittee: Olivia Ridgeway and Dawn Abriel have been attending the Health Policy & Planning Committee of the Board of County Commissioners. In 2017, there were 93 hospitalizations of children and youth in the pediatric ward for substance abuse. There were several completed suicides. There is no space at Christus for a psychiatric ward for youth, and Presbyterian right now is entirely physical health. The Action & Advocacy Committee is considering ways to change this.
- SFPS: The question of what the school district will do about missing a whole year of funding because of the consolidation of municipal elections remains.

- Hannah Burling
Membership Form—New/Renewal

Please complete in full, even if renewing.

Date: __________________ Name: (please print) ____________________________

Address: (including ZIP) ________________________________________________

Phone: __________________ E-mail: _______________________________________

☐ DO NOT include my contact information in the annual Handbook/Membership Directory.

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

**Membership Categories**

☐ Individual member: $60.00

☐ Second member (same address): $40.00  Second member name: ________________

*For separate listing of second member in Handbook/Directory, please list phone and e-mail:*

Second member phone: __________________ Second member e-mail: ________________

☐ Student membership: $20.00 (for students 18-25 years of age and currently enrolled at an accredited school/college)

**Membership checks made payable to LWVSC:** Please mail form with check to LWVSC, Attn: Membership, to the address at the bottom of form.

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

**Additional Donation**

Inasmuch as the majority of membership fees is sent to the state and national Leagues, members are asked to make a contribution in addition to membership fees.

For example, the Santa Fe League keeps only $12.00 of the $60.00 paid for an individual membership and $11.00 of the $40.00 second membership. Any amount will be greatly appreciated.

The LWVSC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All fees and donations to the League are tax-deductible.

**Get Involved**

LWVSC has no paid staff. All work is accomplished by volunteers. Consider giving some of your time to support either Voter Services or Organizational Support. Check all that apply.

**Voter Services:** ☐ Voter Registration ☐ High School Voter Registration ☐ Information Table

*Are you a trained Voter Registrar? ☐ Yes ☐ No*  If No, walk-in training is available at County Clerk’s office downtown.

☐ Monitor public meetings ☐ Candidate forums/meetings ☐ Lobby government officials (w/LW VNM)

**Organizational Support:**

☐ Help at events ☐ Development ☐ Membership ☐ Write for newsletter ☐ Website

☐ Staff League office ☐ Board member ☐ Other __________________________

P.O. Box 31547
Santa Fe, NM 87594-1547  Phone: 505-982-9766
www.lwvsc.org  05/09/2018
Calendar 2018-2019

2018

November
November 7, 10-12: Unit meeting-Transfer of Public Lands Consensus
November 10, 2:00-4:00: National Popular Vote Public Forum, Unitarian Universalist Church, 107 W. Barcelona Road, Santa Fe
November 14, 7-9: Nonprofit news organization public forum
November 17, 11-3: LWVNM Board meeting, Socorro
November 20, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
November 29: 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

December
December 7, Roundhouse Art Tour
December 8, 10-12: LWVNM Effective Citizen Advocacy Workshop, NM State Capitol, Room 322, Santa Fe
December 12, 11:30-1:00: Holiday Luncheon (Hotel Santa Fe)
December 18, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting

2019

January
January 9, 11:30-1:00: Legislative Preview (Hotel SF)
January 12, 2:00-4:00: National Popular Vote Public Forum, Unitarian Universalist Church, 107 W. Barcelona Road, Santa Fe
January 15, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
January 19, 11-3: LWVNM Board meeting, Albuquerque
January 24, 5:30 SFPS school board candidate forum
January 29, 11-1: Unit Meeting - Program

February
February 6, 5:30-7:30: LWVNM Legislative Reception-TBD
February 7, LWVNM League Day at the Legislature - Census presentation by Robert Rhatigan
February 19, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
February 27, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

March
March 16, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club, Collected Works Bookstore, 202 Galisteo Street
March 17, 11-3: LWVNM Board meeting, Santa Fe
March 19, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
March 20, 11:30-1: Sunshine Week presentation (Hotel SF) Update of city finances
March 28, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

April
April 4, 7-9: Public forum on Immigration
April 16, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
April 25, 5:30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

May
May 8, 11:00-1:30: Annual Meeting (Hotel Santa Fe)
May 15, 10-12: LWVSFC Board meeting
May 19, LWVNM Convention, Las Cruces
May 20, 11-3: LWVNM board meeting
May 23, 5-30-7: League Libations-Hilton Hotel

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 meetings 3rd Tuesday of each month
10-12 at NM Bank & Trust, 1592 St. Michael’s Dr.
Unit Meetings are only for League members
League Libations: Last Thursday of each month @ the Hilton Hotel Ortiz Café & Bar
A citizen of America will cross the ocean to fight for democracy, but won't cross the street to vote in a national election.

Bill Vaughan