



League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County

The Voter

Vol. 64, No. 10

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

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October 2015

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(appointed by the board)

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Message from the President

Dear League Members:

Fall brings us another busy season of issue events, advocacy, and politics in the form of municipal elections. We will be engaged in all of them, including producing a Voters' Guide and conducting candidate forums.



Educational panel discussions are also coming your way, as is another consensus meeting, this time on Money in Politics, an LWVUS study. We will be posting materials on the website, and hope you will attend some or all of these events.

We are constantly updating the website with events, advocacy, and League business. The [Membership Resources](#) page now includes League policies, League job descriptions, and bylaws. You can read about our latest advocacy activities. Check this and more at www.lwvsfc.org. And thanks to Chris Furlanetto and Suzanne Ronneau for learning the website and doing the updates. We make a great team!

We are planning an exciting fundraising event on Thursday, October 29, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Save the date on your calendars and watch for your invitation. We hope you will join us for this special event and program.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico is engaged in advocacy activities and preparing for the 2016 legislative session. We have asked Governor Martinez to put legislation for an independent ethics commission (maybe now is a good time?) on her call. This is the only way to get non-budget legislation on the short budget session agenda. We are fairly sure a number of bad bills on other topics will also crop up on that list. Do we have to go through the drivers' license fight for a sixth time?



Join or renew your membership.
See page 7.

While the state League may seem remote from us at the local level, I encourage you to consider helping with lobbying activities before and during the legislative session. You can see what other leagues in the state are doing by reading La Palabra. The other leagues also have very interesting programs and are working on issues of importance to us all. Finally, the state league website has gotten a facelift and has a lot of new information. Please check it out: www.lwvnm.org.

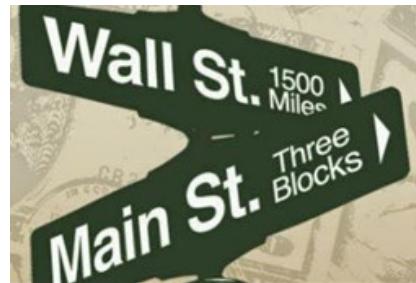
I look forward to seeing all of you at an event --or all of them! Thank you for all your support; we can't play a role in the community without money and woman- (and man-) power!



The PNM case on the San Juan Generating Station (SJGS) is still pending before the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC). PNM is proposing to abandon the two units and purchase a greater share of one of the remaining two units as a replacement. They also intend to purchase more coal for the purpose. The plan includes natural gas, nuclear power, and a small amount of renewables (wind, solar, and geothermal). PNM has been granted two more extensions since the original June deadline to present a final coal contract for the San Juan mine and ownership restructuring agreement at San Juan Generating Station.

A decision is expected in the current calendar year. Ten days of hearings have been scheduled by the PRC, starting October 13 and ending on October 23.

-Judy Williams



Santa Fe Public Banking Initiative

Katie Updike, Managing Partner of Building Solutions, will discuss her city-commissioned study on the feasibility of a Santa Fe public banking initiative at the October 28 lunch at the Hilton. Her report will cover the economic and financial conditions currently driving the public banking movement here and elsewhere, and possible ways of addressing the City's financial objectives and the economics using new tools to enhance accountability and transparency. She has a talent for making this complex topic clear and interesting.

Ms. Updike's varied background ranges from managerial positions in large commercial banks to working with non-profits and municipalities on projects to improve the health of communities.

-Neva Van Peski

Reservations required.
Buffet luncheon.
Wednesday, October 28
11:30—1:00
\$22.00
Hilton Hotel, Santa Fe
RSVP to rsvp@lwvsfc.org



Mark Your Calendar



New Leadership at LWVUS



The League of Women Voters of the U.S. has a new Executive Director. Dr. Wylecia Wiggs Harris brings many years of seasoned leadership, experience, and a passion for (and a doctoral degree in) organizational development. With more than 25 years of diverse association experience, Dr. Harris brings strong relationship management skills and a proven track record in successfully building and establishing organizations by providing leadership and vision for staff, volunteers, and members. She is expected to bring many needed qualities to the League as it reaches out to new members, conducts advocacy and voter education and engagement, and helps local Leagues to develop their potential.

She served 11 years as chief operating officer of the American Nurses Association (ANA), where she transformed the association's Race for Relevance, launched the Leadership Institute, and reorganized the American Nurses Foundation. At the American Heart Association for 17 years, Dr. Harris held positions at the local, regional, and national levels. In these roles, Dr. Harris used technology, communication, and innovative approaches as the backbone for building or rebuilding successful educational and outreach programs.

"I am thrilled that Wylecia will be bringing her talents and leadership acumen to the League of Women Voters," said Elisabeth MacNamara, president of LWVUS. "Her considerable skills in guiding organizations and setting a strategic vision and roadmap for the future will be incredible assets to the League. Wylecia comes to the League at this exciting and important time as we celebrate 95 years and look toward our 2020 centennial. I am confident that with Wylecia at the helm, we will reach new heights."

"This position with the League of Women Voters means a great deal to me. It provides me with an opportunity to devote my leadership experiences to an organization whose mission closely aligns with my personal convictions. The League's efforts to engage all voters has always been professionally inspiring to my work," said Dr. Harris.

Dr. Harris holds a Ph.D. in organizational development from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minnesota; a master of management degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois; and a bachelor's degree from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio.

Read the League's press release: <http://lww.org/press-releases/wylecia-wiggs-harris-leads-league-women-voters-executive-director>

-Judy Williams



Highlights Board Meeting September 9, 2015

- Board retreat recap: The Board felt the retreat was quite productive. Going through the strategic plan was a useful exercise, and Pat, with Marcy, will revise and organize an updated version for the Board's approval.
- Judy, with Suzanne Ronneau's assistance, has put her files onto the office computer, and they are updating the website on an ongoing basis. It now includes the Board Policies, will include the strategic plan when updated, as well as job descriptions and other information useful to the community.
- The League, through the Action and Advocacy Committee, is trying to ensure that all City and County and State meetings are monitored by a League member or have a League presence. Miriam Ries and Joyce Blaylock will monitor the important City Finance Committee.
- Pat will post a notice on the website of times, dates, and locations of government meetings for public interest.
- The Board will take a fresh look at the league budget and get it aligned with the updated strategic plan.
- Judy Introduced Jennifer Kilbourn, an organizational development professional who sat in on the meeting. Jennifer felt that the Board needed to do some preliminary work before she could make any proposal to help. The strategic plan update, fund-raising objectives and membership development should be areas of focus and work for the Board in the coming year.
- Marcy, who will relinquish Voter Services this year, is pleased that Ann Coulston and Suzanne Ronneau have stepped up to work with her on Voter Services activities. News will be forthcoming about the primaries, candidates, dates, and other election news happening this spring.

-Nancy Chambers

Nonfiction Book Club

***The Righteous Mind:
Why good people are divided by politics and religion***

By Jonathan Haidt

The League will hold its next Nonfiction Book Club meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2015, at Collected Works bookstore, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The U.S. is rife with political polarization and paralysis. Haidt challenges conventional thinking about morality, politics, and religion in a way that speaks to everyone on the political spectrum. He shows how moral judgments arise not from reason but from gut feelings. He shows why liberals, conservatives, and libertarians have such different intuitions about right and wrong.

-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 September 22, 2015:

Mary Ellen Gonzales
Gisela Knight
Elizabeth Roghair

Jane Hanna
Susan Martin

Donna Herbst
Lucille Osaki



League Participates in National Money in Politics Review and Update



The LWVSFC is joining Leagues across the nation to take part in the Money in Politics (MIP) Review and Update. Adopted at the 2014 LWVUS Convention, this involves a member study and consensus to update the League's position on campaign

finance in order to obtain member understanding and agreement on the extent to which political campaigns are protected speech under the First Amendment. Leagues are being asked to consider the rights of individuals and organizations to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities, and how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current position.

LWVUS has set this timetable for the MIP project:

- Spring to Summer 2015: Education materials are posted periodically on the League Management website. Leagues can use these materials for member and community meetings.
- Fall 2015: A study guide and consensus questions will be posted for the Money in Politics Review and Update. Leagues will hold consensus meetings.
- February 1, 2016: Consensus reports (electronic) from Leagues due to LWVUS.
- April 2016 national LWV Board meeting: Consensus reports and resulting position(s), if any, will be approved.

The LWVUS Money in Politics (MIP) Committee that formed last fall includes LWV leaders from across the country and national board and staff members. The Committee is developing ready-to-use resources and strategies that are designed to help League members and the citizenry understand money in politics issues. They will prepare members for the update of LWVUS's campaign finance position. These **educational materials**, called "Meetings-in-a-Box," are designed to use for member and community activities and will be available at <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>

Join the LWV MIP Google Group that replaced the Money in Politics Member Discussion Forum. Members of the former League MIP forum should have received an invitation, but if you didn't or if you would like to join the new discussion group, follow the instructions at <https://groups.google.com/d/forum/lwv-money-in-politics>

Questions about the MIP Review and Update can be sent to MIPCommitteeChair@lwv.org

Please join the LWVSFC as we participate in this important League study on an issue that is critical to our democracy. LWVSFC hosted a local "Money in Politics" program over the summer, highlighting proposed campaign finance law changes for the City of Santa Fe. **Our local League will host a "Money in Politics" Consensus meeting on November 17, 2015, at the Santa Fe County Health & Human Resources Conference Room located 2052 Galisteo from 9:00 a.m to 12:00 noon.** Please plan to attend. Members are strongly encouraged to visit the national League's website listed above to review the educational materials. ***The following documents are now available online:*** Action in the States; The First Amendment; Shifts in Supreme Court Opinion about Money in Politics; The Debate: Can Government Regulate Money in Politics?; Corruption & Rationale for Regulating Campaign Finance; The Role of the Supreme Court in Interpreting the Constitution; and Independent Expenditures.



Calendar 2015-2016

2015

October

October 8, 5:30-7 p.m.: Regional Solid Waste & Recycling Forum (SF Downtown Library)
 October 14, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
 October 22, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club, Collected Works Bookstore, 202 Galisteo Street
 October 28, 11:30-1: City of Santa Fe Public Bank Luncheon (Hilton)

November

November 11, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
 November 13, 12-2: Past Presidents meeting
November 14, 11 - 3: LWVNM Board meeting, Socorro
 November 17, 9-11: Unit Meeting - LWWUS Study "Money in Politics" - Consensus

December

December 8, 9-11: Unit Meeting - Program Planning
 December 9, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
December 12, LWVNM Lobbying Workshop, Albuquerque
 December 16, 11:30-1:30: Holiday Lunch – SFPS Superintendent Joel Boyd (Hilton)

2016

January

January 13, 11:30-1:30: Lunch - Legislative Preview (Hilton)
 January 13 1:30 -3:30: LWVSFC Board meeting
January 16, 11-3: LWVNM Board meeting
Albuquerque

February

February 3, 5:30-7:30: Legislative Reception
February 4, League Day at the Legislature
 February 10, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting
 February 9, 11, 16 or 18, 6-8 PM: Municipal Election Candidate Forums
 February 17, 3-5: Meeting with Mayor Gonzales

February 25 or 26: 10-12: County Mural History Tour

March – *Municipal Election Day – March 1*

March 4, 9-11: Unit Meeting – LWVNM Charter Schools Study Update

March 9, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting

March 18, 6-8 PM: One Person/One Vote – Supreme Court Forum – Sunshine Week Event

March 12, 11-3: LWVNM Board meeting, Santa Fe

March 26, 9-11: Women's History Month Breakfast

April

April 1, 9-11: Unit Meeting – LWVSFC Economic Development Study Consensus meeting

April 12, 9-11: Breakfast with a Leader – Food Security (Food Depot)

April 13, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting

April 24, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club, Collected Works Bookstore, 202 Galisteo Street

May

May 4, 11:30-1:30: Annual Meeting (Hilton)

May 11, 11-1: LWVSFC Board meeting

May 21, LWVNM Council – Los Alamos

Check www.lwvsfc.org for locations and updates.

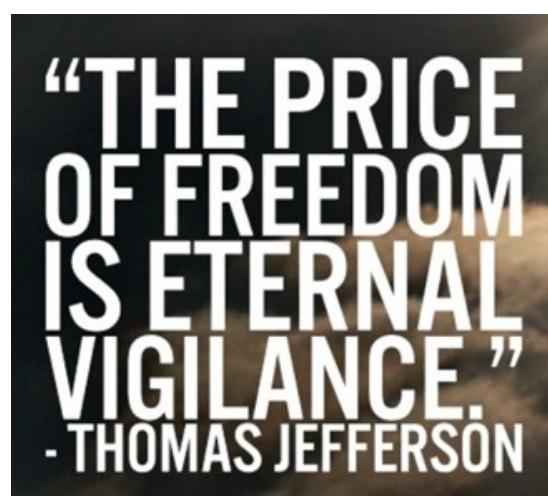
**LWVNM and other organization functions in italics*

Regular meetings:

Action-Advocacy 1st Thursday of each month at Rio Chama Restaurant

LWVSFC Board 2nd Wednesday of each month
 Book Club, Collected Works Bookstore –
 202 Galisteo Street

Unit Meetings are only for League members



**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



Recycling Our Trash:

Are Santa Fe & New Mexico Getting Gold Stars or Can We Do Better?

Learn the latest about recycling in Santa Fe and throughout New Mexico at an upcoming evening forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County. Experienced recyclers and policy analysts will share what's happening with recycling as well as discuss what's on the horizon. Please come and learn more about the latest trends in recycling and how our community measures up. The Recycling Our Trash Evening Forum will take place on October 8, 2015, at the Santa Fe Main Library located at 145 Washington Street from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Neal Denton, Recycling Coordinator in the Outreach Section of the New Mexico Environment Department's Solid Waste Bureau, will be on hand to share the latest recycling news at the state level and Adam Schachter, Recycling Education and Outreach Coordinator with the Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency, will tell us what's happening here in Santa Fe. There is no charge for the event.

-Donna Reynolds



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