



The Voter

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

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

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Message from the President

Dear League Members:

Please consider joining me at our Sunshine Week event on March 17th featuring Norman Gaume, former director of the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC), and Daniel Yohalem, NM FOG board member and civil rights attorney, in a discussion of the Interstate Stream Commission's "cloudy" day decision-making process on the Gila River Diversion. The Gila is the last wild and undammed river in the west. This will be a fascinating and stimulating program that members should not miss.



Our Women's History Month project continues to move forward. As a member of the League, I hope you will support the project by attending the breakfast where a "Woman of History" will be honored at the La Fonda Hotel along with a Fred Harvey Girl historical actor. Even better, a free, guided tour of sections of the Fred Harvey Collection at the New Mexico History Museum will follow the event. I hope to see you there!

Lastly, I'd like to send a shout out to member, Nikki Harnish, who has taken the lead on a new League tabling program at local venues and events to help get the word out about our local organization as well as register voters. There will be new opportunities to support Nikki's work throughout the year, so please volunteer when you can. (See page 2 for details.)

Cheers,

**Join the League or Renew Membership.
See Page 11.**

Join Us Doing Something New



We're organizing tabling events for the coming year, and we could really use your help. By staffing LWV tables at community events and gathering places throughout the year, you'll be in the "see and be seen" crowd and you'll enjoy easy back and forth conversations with colleagues, inquirers and total strangers!

Nikki Harnish is leading this new effort, which is something we haven't done in a number of years. Goals for this project are:

- To provide broader visibility for the League
- To provide access to League information, membership and encourage contributions
- To provide ongoing voter information and registration opportunities
- To present an active community presence in Santa Fe

Tabling will allow us to offer personal interactions and provide materials relevant to the interests of each inquirer.

Volunteers are needed to staff the tables in 2 hour shifts. No heavy lifting will be required because Nikki will set up and take down the table and displays. We need members to hand out information sheets and membership forms and engage with the public. Voter Registrars are especially encouraged.

Events already scheduled are

- March 14th, a stand-alone table at DeVargas Center, 10 am to 6 pm
- April 25th, Women's Health Fair, DeVargas, 9 am to 3 pm
- May 9th, Community Days, Plaza, 10 am to 3 pm
- June 6th, Farmers' Market, Railyard, 7 am to noon

We'll also have tables at the Sunshine Week meeting at St. Vincent's on March 17th and at the League History Breakfast at La Fonda, March 28th. We've also been invited to set up at GCCC but don't yet have a date. If you have a community event you'd like to see us attend, please let us know. Contact Nikki at 988-2177 or by email at fulfillmnt@cybermesa.com to sign up.

-Nikki Harnish

One Billion Rising



One Billion Rising is a worldwide mass action to end violence against women; one in three women will be the victim of battering, murder, or rape in her lifetime. A contingent of Santa Feans gathered at Santa Fe Place on Valentine's Day (February 14, 2015) to observe and celebrate this event. A microphone was passed among crowd members, and these individuals were asked to describe briefly how he/she is a revolutionary--a person who advocates or engages in sudden, complete, or marked change. There were many good and powerful responses (I returned to school, I got a restraining order), but my favorite, as a League member, was: "I vote."

-Miriam Ries

High School Student Voter Registration Project

This important project of the LWVSFC needs a new leader. You can be that individual!

You will *not* be expected to reinvent the wheel: contact information for school administrators, teachers, and volunteers will be provided to you.



You and your team will help ensure that Santa Fe's high school students participate more fully in our democracy—starting with voter registration and voting.

See page 9 for complete details and a history of this project.

Women's History Month Project Update

Last chance to sign up and honor the achievements of women at the Women's History Month Breakfast event on March 28, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the La Fonda Hotel downtown. Our selected honoree is affiliated with the La Fonda Hotel and our keynote speaker will set the stage for her accomplishments here in New Mexico. This year we have a special treat – VanAnn Moore, a historical re-enactor, will excite the crowd with her portrayal of a Fred Harvey Girl. The cost for the Women's History Month Breakfast is \$30, with a portion underwriting the overall project and student door prizes. RSVP today by calling the League office at 982-9766 or email rsvp@lwvsfc.org



Our Women's History Month Committee has recruited over 30 career women to hold mentoring sessions in March with Santa Fe Public School 7th grade female students. Each student will be asked to invite a guest to the breakfast event. A special tour of the La Fonda Hotel will be offered to students and their guests immediately following the breakfast.

Women's History Month is celebrated across the country, so please join us to highlight the achievements of a New Mexico Woman of History, along with local career women mentors, students, student family guests, and Leaguers at the breakfast on March 28th.

-Donna Reynolds



New Member

Lucille Osaki

Why do we need sun, and what happens when it doesn't shine?



When government acts without any public involvement, bad decisions can affect all New Mexicans for decades to come.

On Tuesday, March 17, during Sunshine Week, The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County and the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government (NMFOG) will host a session to explore this in a case study. The discussion will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Christus St. Vincent Southwest Conference Room, off the cafeteria.

Join Norman Gaume, former director of the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC), and Daniel Yohalem, NMFOG board member and attorney, in a discussion of the Interstate Stream Commission's cloudy day decision-making process on the Gila River Diversion. The Gila is the last wild and undammed river in the west.

Norm will summarize the facts of the Gila River issue and describe the ISC's Gila River planning as a case study in the dangers and downsides of secret government policy discussion and formation. In addition, he will discuss why he filed suit in October 2015, asking the court to impose a restraining order against the commission because decisions about the project had been made in secret, without proper notice and public discussion.

Daniel Yohalem, NMFOG board member and attorney, will discuss the ISC's punitive SLAPP suit (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) against Norm to punish him for his OMA case and how the ACLU (Yohalem and Phil Davis) has stepped in to represent Norm in the SLAPP case. He will also talk about the fact that this SLAPP suit by the government against a citizen for exercising his statutory and First Amendment rights is unprecedented in New Mexico and represents a substantial threat to transparency.

The Gila River Diversion Project - Current status and issues

In 2004 the Congress passed the Arizona Water settlements Act (AWSA), which authorized diversion of the Gila River as one option for New Mexico based on New Mexico's agreement to buy water from Arizona to replace what it takes out of the river. New Mexico agreed to pay for the delivery of water from the Colorado River to senior water rights owners in Arizona to replace what the state takes out of the river. \$100 million (in 2004) has been made available through the AWSA, of which \$66 million is available to meet southwest New Mexico's water needs without diverting the Gila River.

In November 2014, the commission voted to move forward with planning for a Gila River diversion project under the AWSA in spite of significant opposition. The decision was reached after a series of closed meetings. The ISC approved approximately \$8 million to partially fund non-diversion projects, such as municipal conservation, irrigation ditch improvements, and \$1 million for watershed study and restoration proposals; the projects were funded at only 10 to 40% of the requests.

Many argue that fully funding the non-diversion alternatives could meet southwest NM's future water needs for less than 10% of the cost of a Gila River diversion project. The ISC-proposed diversion means a dam, estimated to cost \$600-800 million, and they don't know where the funds will come from. Federal funds will pay for about 10% of this estimated total. Some estimates put the true cost at over \$1 billion. Environmental impact studies have not yet been done.

Norman Gaume sued the Interstate Stream Commission in October, alleging the commission violated the Open Meetings Act in its deliberations regarding the future of the Gila River. The commission has countersued, claiming Gaume intended to hold up a decision that had to be made by a certain date. The state is also seeking damages. The ACLU is defending Gaume.

Both the ACLU and the NM Foundation for Open Government have said it is highly unusual for the state to take such an action; Susan Boe, the NMFOG Director, has said this will have a chilling effect on other efforts to force government to be more open and to file complaints when it is not.

Norman Gaume was Director of the Interstate Stream Commission from 1997 through 2002. He was studiously avoiding paying attention to the ISC's Gila River diversion project planning as he knew it was not feasible and was his successor's business. At the urging of friends, however, he attended an ISC meeting in December 2013 and was puzzled by the Gila River diversion planning discussion. Mr. Gaume's intensive subsequent professional involvement in the process led him to conclude that the ISC was ignoring or denying fatal flaws, denying public access to public records, and conducting its formation of Gila River diversion public policy and contacting with consultants behind closed doors. He provided a notice of intention to sue the ISC for violations of the open meetings act on September 22, 2013, and sued on October 15. Mr. Gaume's interest evolved from his wild Gila River values and his commitment to stop the ISC's waste and deceit, to require transparency, and advocate for ISC decisions in the public interest.

Daniel Yohalem is on the board of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government and is currently in private practice, focusing on first amendment, civil rights, open government, employment, and class action cases for plaintiffs, particularly in the areas of equal pay for women, whistleblower, discrimination, and retaliation claims. Mr. Yohalem served as Chief Legal Counsel for the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department and as Director of the Civil Division of the New Mexico Attorney General's Office under Attorney General Tom Udall.

Mr. Yohalem received the William S. Dixon First Amendment Freedom Award from the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government, and the Cooperating Attorney of the Year from the ACLU of New Mexico.

Before coming to New Mexico, Mr. Yohalem was Legal and Program Director of the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, D.C.

Come to the Christus St. Vincent Hospital conference room on March 17, 5-7 p.m., to participate in this discussion of the transparency issue, which is fundamental to our rights as citizens in a democracy!

Action & Advocacy Committee February 2015



Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners (BCC):
The County continues to make progress towards completion of the Sustainable Land Development Code and Zoning Map. Judy Williams represented the League at a meeting in early February with County staff, the consultants hired to work on completing the missing code sections, and citizens/groups who have been engaged with the SLDC process. Staff said that the target date for final BCC approval of the Developments of Countywide Impact sections is still August 2015, in advance of the expiration of the moratorium on selected DCI sections.

Becky Frenkel attended a BCC study session on 2/10 that focused on capital spending. Because of concern that the state will disallow counties from levying the 'hold harmless GRT' tax, the BCC will likely vote by the end of March on imposing at least a portion of the 3/8th of 1 percent permitted in legislation passed in 2014. This revenue would be dedicated to: 1) capital and/or maintenance expenditures for facilities/infrastructure and 2) payment of principal, interest or other costs related to revenue bonds. A public hearing is scheduled for 3/24 at 5pm at the county building.

City Government:

Redistricting

League member Karen Heldmeyer is chairperson of the Independent Citizens Review Commission where she serves in the statistician position. League members Jody Larson, Neva Van Peski and Suzanne Ronneau are alternate members for their respective districts. Tentative future meeting dates are 3/12, 4/9, 5/14 and 6/11; note, however, that the commission is required to hold one meeting in each district in addition to a public hearing where the commission gives direction to the consultant and another meeting to adopt a final plan.

ECRB

Chris Furlanetto spoke on behalf of the League at the 2/18 meeting of the Ethics and Campaign Review Board. The board directed legal staff to draft language to amend the current campaign finance

ordinance to clarify activities considered "coordination" between campaigns and outside spenders.

Future meetings are scheduled for 3/18, 4/15, 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.

The Mayor's State-of-the-City Address

Karen Heldmeyer noted that Mayor Gonzales: 1) did not mention a public electric utility, 2) did mention additional new city initiatives, Make Santa Fe and Startup Santa Fe, 3) did say that his Climate Action Task Force would hold open public meetings. (Note that the Task Force update and recommendations to the Governing Body have been postponed and are currently on the March 11 Council agenda.)

Mary Ellen Gonzales, a member of the mayor's Children's Cabinet, said that group meets irregularly and only every 3-4 months; she will ask that these meetings be publicly noticed.

SFPS:

SFPS is advocating for increased above-the-line funding during the current legislative session. Currently SFPS ranks 88th out of 89 districts in per-pupil funding.

A special public forum on the Education Technology Note was held 2/17. Attendance was quite low and no one spoke against the tax increase associated with the ETN. Future related meetings are 3/17 (to publicize the vote on the ETN) and 4/7 (to vote to implement the next year of the program). SFPS is advocating in the legislature to allow public votes on ETN's in the future.

Other

County Water Utility:

County Water Utilities Director Claudia Borchert presented an update on the projected county water supply and demand at the February 24 BCC meeting. The Santa Fe County Utility estimates that supply is adequate to meet current and projected 2030 demand as well as provide "set-aside" and "uncommitted" needs.

-Chris Furlanetto

If you are interested in attending our meetings or in joining our email list (to get meeting announcements and minutes) please contact Chris Furlanetto at action@lwsfsc.org. The next meeting is March 12 at noon at the Pecos Trail Café. (Please note that regular meetings are the 1st Thursday of each month.)

Nonfiction Book Club

*“This Changes Everything:
Capitalism vs. the Climate”*

by Naomi Kline



The League will hold its next Nonfiction Book Club meeting on Thursday – April 30, 2015 at Collected Works Bookstore, Santa Fe, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

At the January Book Club meeting, members chose the April 2015 selection, “This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate” by Naomi Kline.

From Amazon, “The most important book yet from the author of the international bestseller *The Shock Doctrine*, a brilliant explanation of why the climate crisis challenges us to abandon the core “free market” ideology of our time, restructure the global economy, and remake our political systems.” Get reading, and we’ll see you in April 2015!

-Donna Reynolds



Highlights February 11, 2015, Board Meeting

- The new tenant, Lola M. Moonfrog, has moved into the office.
- The Women’s History project has 29 mentors.
- Nikki Harnish will be setting up tables at community events with League material to recruit new members, provide information, and register voters
- Suzanne Schmidt was appointed to the Board to be in charge of Special Projects.
- Pat Hawkins will be doing a spring fundraising appeal to the membership.

- Karen Heldmeyer is serving as the statistician on the Redistricting Committee for the city of Santa Fe. Members Neva Van Peski, Suzanne Ronneau and Jody Larson are alternates for their districts.
- Marcy Litzenberg will be doing an update of the Who's Who now that the elections are over.
- Janet Lincoln has taken 21 members off the rolls who did not renew their membership. There are now 110 paid members.
- There will be a consensus meeting on Northwest Quadrant, 11-March-2015 at 9 a.m.
- There will be a forum on March 17 featuring speaker Norman Gaume at the Christus Hospital conference room from 5-7 p.m.

-Patricia Pedersen



League of Women Voters of New Mexico Call to Convention

May 15-17, 2015

Crowne Plaza Albuquerque

A special rate of \$79 is available

Book by April 17, 2015

1-877-227-6963

(mention LWV Of Central New Mexico for the Special Rate)

Registration Fee: \$65.00 by April 20th, after \$70.00

See Registration Form on the League website (www.lwvnm.org).

Opportunity Awaits – Student Voter Registration Project

By Lynn Gary

You know how you feel when something really “clicks” for you...makes you say, Wow!...or just gives you a warm feeling and a smile? I experienced that in the spring of 2013 after I accompanied Marcy Litzenberg to a classroom at the Academy for Technology and the Classics (ATC). We were there, by invitation of the teacher, to talk to his senior students about elections and to register students as voters.

The week before, I'd been one of the League volunteers to register seniors at Capital High. Marcy had been invited by the principal, the dynamic young woman Channel Wilson-Segura. That experience was not as effective as the ATC the following week, because there was no chance to communicate directly with the students. They were able to register after the major assembly, coming by the tables we'd set up. But only a small percentage of them were served by us...they were eager to get on to the next thing in their busy day. But, the in-the-classroom experience the next week at ATC – totally different. And the percentage of students registering was four or five times higher.

So, the following summer, when Marcy and I met to talk about Voter Registration for the League, I offered to focus on getting other high schools in Santa Fe to have the League go into classrooms. Marcy gave me the contact information she had for several schools. I went to work contacting principals and teachers. The teachers were helpful and so grateful that we were offering this service. I began a schedule of when the various teachers at the various schools held their government, or history, or economics classes.

I used a list of League members that Marcy had, members willing to help with registrations. I put out a call to the general League membership for more volunteers. A solid and engaged and effective group of individuals emerged for the teams of volunteers we needed to get the students registered.

The election for which we were registering students was the Municipal Election of 2014. A number of students had their first experience voting in that Election. Good stuff for them, a close-to-home local election. The County Bureau of Elections accepted the students' voter information forms, and held the forms until each student became 18, entering them on their birthdays.

The next round of coordination, in the fall of 2014, was for the gubernatorial elections – Primary and General – of June and November 2014. During that season of registering seniors, the qualifications for “who can vote in a Primary” was much discussed in our classrooms. The Primary had already happened, and voters (Republicans and Democrats) had already determined the General Election slate of candidates. The students saw the result of what a Primary means in our New Mexico closed Primary system. The candidates they could vote for now had already been narrowed by the Primary – a lesson in why every vote counts.

Now we need another person to step in as the Coordinator of High School Voter Registration. The value of going into the classrooms is unmistakable. My time, however, is no longer available to coordinate this valuable program. I have a good list of school contacts, templates used to schedule volunteers and classes, and a list of volunteers to register the students. I'm willing to be one of those volunteers.

The Santa Fe League of Women Voters needs someone to step in to coordinate this important and rewarding project, the High School Voter Registration Project.

This could be YOUR opportunity!

Contact Lynn Gary at lgary@cybermesa.com or 505-984-2078 or 505-310-8609; or Donna Reynolds, President, at donnamr@me.com or 505-986-9163.



Check the website for updates and information: www.lwvsfc.org

2015

March 11, 10-11: Consensus meeting on Northwest Quadrant proposed new position

March 11, 11-1: LWVSFC board meeting

March 17, 5-7: Forum, Interstate Stream Commission action re Gila River

March 15-21: Sunshine Week

March 21, 11-3: LWVNM board meeting

March 21, noon: Legislature ends

March 28, 9-11: Breakfast - Women's History Month (La Fonda Hotel)

April 7, 9-10:30: Breakfast briefing, early childhood issues, 3160 Aqua Fria Street

April 8, 11-1: LWVSFC board meeting

April 11, 10-12: New Member Coffee at the home of Donna Reynolds

April 30, 10:30: Nonfiction Book Club

May 6, 11:30-2: Lunch - Annual meeting (Hilton)

May 13, 11-1: LWVSFC board meeting

May 16-17: LWVNM Convention

Check www.lwvsfc.org for locations and updates.

Regular meetings:

Action-Advocacy Regularly meets 1st Thursday of each month at the Pecos Trail Café. New members are always welcome!

LWVSFC board 2nd Wednesday of each month

Early Childhood Issues in Santa Fe

Breakfast briefing hosted by United Way
Tuesday, April 7, 9 to 10:30

Agua Fria Early Learning Center
3160 Agua Fria Street (the old Agua Fria Elementary School), between Henry Lynch Rd. and Avenida de Montoya

Find it on Google Maps

RSVP: JudyWilliams jkwilliams24@gmail.com



March 15-21, 2015

Tuesday, March 17

Discussion session to explore the Interstate Stream Commission's recent action concerning the Gila River.

5:00 to 7:00 at the Christus St. Vincent SW Conference Room, off the cafeteria.
455 St Michaels Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

(See details on pages 4-5.)

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

NEW MEXICO HISTORY MUSEUM PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS

***Sweet Georgia Brown*, a new documentary about African American Women in WW II**

Santa Fe—In war and in peacetime, in theaters of conflict and on the home front, U.S. women have participated in our nation’s defense. Until recent years, those contributions have failed to attract much notice. Even less understood: the contributions of African-American women, who had to fight just for the right to serve.

On Sunday, March 29, at 2 pm in the History Museum auditorium, see the New Mexico premiere of *Sweet Georgia Brown: Impact, Courage, Sacrifice and Will*, a documentary by Lawrence E. Walker of PureHistory Films.

The event is free with museum admission. Sundays are free to NM residents. Seating is limited, but you can make a reservation by calling (505) 476-5152.



When he began working on the film, Walker found little information about African-American women in the military. “It was as though these women did not exist,” he said. He conducted research at the National Archives, Library of Congress, and Rutgers University to learn more. “The purpose of this documentary is to examine the consequences or changes in race and gender policies for the status of African-American women in the military during World War II,” he said on the “Journey to Freedom” website

(<http://lewfoundation.orgsweetgeorgiabrown.htm>). “This is a logical period to study, because it marked a significant turning point for African-American women in the U.S. armed services.”

(Photo: Ruth Wade and Lucille Mayo, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, December 8, 1942)

The Academy for Technology and the Classics “Rocks the Vote.”



Photo: Honeycomb Marketing

The Academy for Technology and the Classics took 10 age-eligible student voters to the SFPS Administration Office to cast their vote for the SFPS School Board and HB33 election, February 3, 2015. The League of Women Voters, with the leadership of Lynn Gary, had gone to ATC earlier in the year and registered all seniors.