Greetings from the Director of Membership Services!

I am pleased to announce we had yet another successful New Member Tea in June, graciously hosted by active member Pat Hawkins. This is an excellent way to meet board members and other new members, and to learn more about the League, what its members are actively doing, and “how it works.”

When I attended a New Member Tea two years ago, I was impressed with the way in which League positions are developed, how active the League is in keeping up-to-date on the various state, city and county government bodies’ activities in order to provide transparency and advocate for our community. This is, of course, in addition to the League’s better-known services as voter educators and registrars.

At this tea, longtime active member Jody Larson gave an informative presentation on the way in which League positions are agreed upon (by consensus) and how members can go about proposing studies in order to consider additional positions. Beyond proposing studies, there are many ways for members to actively participate in the League, from joining a committee to working on a public event (see next page).

We now have 150 members and are looking forward to continuing to welcome 3-4 new members a month. Please continue to encourage friends, family and colleagues to join and become active. Consider inviting a friend and joining other members in the casual setting of the Ortiz Lounge (at the Hilton) any time from 5:30-7 pm the last Thursday of each month (with a few exceptions). This is a nice opportunity to get to know other members, their interests and backgrounds. Reminders will come through Constant Contact or you can check the calendar on our website www.lwsvfc.org.

(Continued on next page)
In related news, the LWVSFC is fortunate to have received a generous donation from longtime member and past president Meredith Machen. This has been dedicated for a Diversity Fund, which will allow us to recruit and sponsor members of all ages and from various backgrounds to become active members. So far, the fund has sponsored seven high school students who have become certified voter registrars and will actively engage with their peers to educate them about candidates, the importance of voting and actively participate in voter registration.

If you know of someone you would like to recruit to be an active member—someone who would provide a needed skill set or would enhance our cultural, gender and age diversity—feel free to contact me to see if they qualify for sponsorship through the Diversity Fund.

I hope to see you at our next New Member Tea. And thanks as always for supporting the League!

—Debbie Helper
dwright94@hotmail.com

We Welcome Your Participation!

The LWVSFC is a grassroots organization that depends on our members’ skills and energy. There are many opportunities to participate in the League. Check our website www.lwsvsf.org for more information on programs and activities, to view the calendar, and to read the VOTER newsletter. We are also on Facebook.

Action and Advocacy Committee
This committee meets the first Thursday monthly and is open to all members. Contact Hannah Burling at hannahburling@gmail.com.

Public Relations/Communications:
Contact Donna Reynolds at donnamr@mac.com.

The Voter Newsletter/Website/Social Media: Contact Stephanie Schlanger at stephanie.schlanger@gmail.com.

Voter Services Committee (Voter Registration, Education and Information): Contact Kelly Davis at kDavis466@gmail.com.

Membership Committee: Contact Debbie Helper at dwright94@hotmail.com.

Administrative Assistance: Contact Marcy Litzenberg at mlitzenberg@aol.com.

Program Planning: Contact Laura Atkins at lJatkins@mindspring.com.

Calendar of Events: If you have an idea for a specific event, community meeting or tour, contact Laura Atkins at lJatkins@mindspring.com.

Nonfiction Book Club: Gatherings are held at Collected Works Bookstore. Contact Donna Reynolds at donnamr@mac.com.
It’s time for New Mexico’s premiere suffragist, multicultural education advocate, and prominent political activist, Nina Otero Warren, to be recognized nationally. Our application submitted to the distinguished scholars on the nominating committee for the National Votes for Women Trail has been accepted! Even more exciting is the prospect of having a historical marker to acknowledge her contributions at her beautiful home at 135 Grant Avenue.

The Georgia O’Keeffe Museum owns the building now and uses it as its research center. The space, also known also as the Alfred M. Bergere House, was built as officer quarters for the Fort Marcy’s Military Reservation in the 1870’s. Nina’s stepfather bought it in 1905, soon after her cousin, Miguel Otero II, was appointed governor of the vast New Mexico Territory.

The move from Los Lunas to Santa Fe exposed Nina to a wide political and social circle. Endorsing our application, Dr. Cody Hartley, O’Keeffe Museum Director, remarked, “I wholeheartedly agree that we can and should do much more to recognize her important place in the history of women’s rights in New Mexico, including renaming the building itself to recognize the importance of Nina Otero Warren and the Otero family’s long association with this site.”

In 1914, Otero Warren began working with Alice Paul, leader of the Congressional Union, to fight for women’s suffrage. Because of her passion, commitment, and powerful lobbying efforts, Otero Warren quickly rose in the ranks of the New Mexico chapter of the Congressional Union, and by 1919, she was asked to be the state leader. Alice Paul recognized the importance of having a native New Mexican with social skills and political connections to lead the suffrage movement.

Otero Warren rallied support from both the Spanish- and English-speaking communities and overcame the opposition to women’s suffrage by church leaders and many Hispanic males. She was instrumental in persuading the governor and legislators to support the 19th Amendment, and on February 21, 1920, New Mexico became 32nd of 36 states to ratify. With statehood in 1912, women obtained school suffrage; with ratification, they obtained full suffrage.

From 1917 to 1929, Otero Warren served as Santa Fe County’s Superintendent of Instruction. In 1918, she became the first Hispana elected to public office in the US. Committed to improving education for Hispanic, Native American, and rural students, she raised teacher salaries, repaired dilapidated school buildings, increased the school term, and changed the curriculum to emphasize
bic multicultural education, art, and artisan trades. Otero Warren resisted complete Americanization, which was revolutionary at a time when most schools in the Southwest punished Hispanic students for speaking Spanish.

She was the first Hispana to run for federal office when she ran for Congress in 1922. Contributing to her narrow defeat was the disclosure by her powerful cousin, Miguel Otero, that she was divorced not widowed and her stance on bilingual education.

In 1923, Otero Warren advocated against sending Native American students to boarding schools off the reservation and tempered attempts to Americanize the students by including opportunities to learn about Native history, culture, and traditions.

Throughout the thirties and forties, Otero Warren held various public positions in the Civilian Conservation Corps and other New Deal programs. She worked on historic preservation in Santa Fe and Taos, promoted Hispanic and Native cultures, arts, and languages. She was very active in the League of Women Voters of New Mexico and the Santa Fe County League.

Her courage, persistence, and contributions deserve commemoration with a historical marker on the National Votes for Women Trail.

—Meredith Machen

Help Us Celebrate New Mexico’s Role in the Women’s Suffrage Movement!

We have many other suffragists to research and nominate for the National Votes for Women Trail and need help.

Please contact Meredith Machen at projects@lwvnm.org or 505 577-6337 if you are interested in the work of the History Committee or in helping to plan our 100th Anniversary and the 19th Amendment Centennial in February or the Women’s Equality Day commemoration, on or near August 26th, 2020.

Be part of moving New Mexico out of obscurity in terms of the suffrage struggle into prominence.

Thank you!

Please see the LWVSFC April VOTER for the feature story, “Nina and the Nineteenth.” https://www.lwvsfc.org/the-voter-newsletter.html Alice Paul named Nina Otero Warren chair the NM Chapter of the Congressional Union knowing that only a native New Mexican could overcome the resistance to women’s suffrage. Nina is acknowledged among the greatest suffrage leaders: https://monumentalwomen.org/suffrage

New Mexico Suffragists on the Santa Fe Plaza

Source: Statehood for Whom: New Mexico’s Journey to Universal Voting Rights for Women by Jason Shapiro
Report from the National Council  
June 20-23, 2019  
Leesburg, VA

The celebration of our 100-year milestone was tempered by the challenge to look ahead to the next 100 years. Will the League survive in an environment of changing demographics and new organizations with similar missions? What will it take to be fresh and relevant? Who do we want to be? What needs to change? What does it take to effect organizational change? Heavy.

But not as heavy as the presentation by former national President Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, who remarked that as the first, and last, African American League President, she remembered looking out at the assembled membership in 1998 and seeing only the slightest sprinkling of brown faces in the group. And, twenty years later in June, 2019, that view hadn’t changed. So, no surprise that the overriding theme of the Council was “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.” Speaker after speaker addressed the fact that the League is largely composed of well-educated, older, affluent white women, and we were becoming less and less representative of the population at large.

At the meeting, Hannah Burling and I saw a new National PR campaign designed to 1) Cultivate the Next Generation of League Supporters, 2) Deepen the Relationship with Current League Supporters, and provide an opportunity for a 3) Unified Cross-League Campaign. Theme: She is Me. It will be a social media campaign featuring current League members (not all older and white) and their stories of engagement in fighting voter suppression, gerrymandering, and other hot button issues.

“Bias, Behaviors, Culture Change,” “Systems, Structures, Strategies” and more were topics that followed. The content of the speeches will be posted on the National website on July 8th. They would be worth checking out.

Small group breakout sessions dealt with practical issues like get out the vote, how to deal with reporters, social media, planning strategies, and others. I hope the power point materials from these sessions are also included on the website.

In conclusion, it became abundantly clear that “diversity,” “equity,” and “inclusion” are not words to be talked about and filed away unless The League wishes to be filed away with them. There’s a great deal of work to be done if we don’t want the past 100 years to be our last.

—Susan Haase

League Non-fiction Book Club  
Foreign Policy Selections  
July 18th, 10:30 am  
Collected Works Bookstore

Selection #1: The Hell of Good Intentions: America’s Foreign Policy Elite and the Decline of U.S. Primacy, by Stephen M. Walt. "Walt's book should be recommended reading for all those who work on US foreign policy, even if it may, on occasion, make some of us a little uncomfortable." —Financial Times

Selection #2: How To Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States, by Daniel Immerwahr. "Consistently both startling and absorbing . . . Immerwahr vividly retells the early formation of the [United States], the consolidation of its overseas territory, and the postwar perfection of its 'pointillist' global empire, which extends influence through a vast constellation of tiny foot prints."

—Harper's
**What Does the Constitution Mean to Women?**

After the LWV June Council Meeting in Leesburg, VA, Hannah Burling and I headed for NYC, for a showing of “What the Constitution Means to Me,” written by and starring Heidi Schreck. Not knowing exactly what to expect as the reviews billed it as both funny and serious, I wasn’t fully prepared for how serious “serious” might be. I left with the sense that not only is it essential that Civics be a required course in middle and high school, but that both the strengths and the failures of the Constitution be discussed openly at all levels.

Briefly, Schreck’s mother drove her around the country when she was fifteen to participate in speech contests at American Legion Halls on the topic: “What the Constitution Means to Me”, and to illuminate a connection between the document and her personal life. The prize money she earned put her through college. The play opens with her adopting the persona of her fifteen-year-old self and taking the podium at a Legion Hall with a Legionnaire sitting in a chair on the side of the stage and serving as timekeeper. We see and hear what Schreck at fifteen might have said in describing this perfect document that guided justice in our country.

After much hilarity, Schreck assumes her forty-something self and begins talking more about the connection the document has had with four generations of women in her family: women who were immigrants; women who had abortions; women who were victims of domestic violence. Their life stories involve Constitutional questions of citizenship, reproductive rights, and protection against gender violence. And the Constitution often had and has no answer.

In one disturbing example, Schreck references a Colorado woman who had a restraining order against a violent husband who repeatedly violated the order. She called the local police often but they refused to help her. The husband killed her three children. She sued the police department for failing to protect her and took the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court decided she couldn’t sue the police department because it had no Constitutional obligation to provide her with active protection. The theater played an audio clip from the Court’s discussion arguing on the meaning of “shall.” A woman had been terrorized and children had died, but the legal decision could turn on the interpretation of a single word.

How can this be? The Constitution was created by men who didn’t want government to DO anything. It’s a “negative rights” document, meaning it says what government cannot do, rather than a “positive rights” document saying what government must do. The Bill of Rights, for example, guarantees citizens the right to petition their legislators for better schools or better healthcare, but it does not guarantee the right to a public education or health care or a job. As evidenced in the example above, women are not entitled to federal protection against gender violence. Until women are constitutionally declared equal, legislation granting equal this or that can be repealed. And, women have not been declared equal, constitutionally.

A final audio clip played for the audience was from an interview with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Asked how many women should be on the Court to achieve the right “balance,” she replied “nine.”

For those of you who may not make it to New York anytime soon, there’s a great overview of the issues the play covers in an interview Terry Gross did with Heidi Schreck on *Fresh Air*: “How Women Have Been ‘Profoundly’ Left Out of the U.S. Constitution.” Check it out.

—Susan Haase
Highlights from the Public Forum on Short-term Rentals in Santa Fe

Speakers (l-r): Carol Johnson, Director of Land Use for the city; Karen Heldmeyer, former city councilor; Kurt Hill, former president of the Santa Fe Association of Realtors and owner of a short-term rental unit; and Kelly O’Donnell, economist and author of the short-term rentals study.

On June 15th, the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County hosted a forum on the issue of short-term rentals (STRs).

Land Use Director Carol Johnson gave a brief history of STRs in Santa Fe. There is a cap of 1,000 units in residential areas, with an annual fee of $325. Enforcement has been physical with inspectors driving around to spot short term rentals, which has not worked. One clue is the number of satellite dishes. The city is currently asking for proposals for vendors for on-line monitoring.

Former City Councilor Karen Heldmeyer said that the city’s agreement with Airbnb was negotiated by the Tourism Department and there are two problems: 1) the nuisance factor and 2) neighborhood deterioration. She believes the Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) ordinance will make the situation worse and quoted Simon Brackley of the Chamber of Commerce: “These are affordable for those to whom these are affordable.” Heldmeyer wants to limit where STRs go, offer financial disincentives and have a general community conversation about what we want Santa Fe to be.

Former President of the SF Realtors Association Kurt Hill said the city needs 2,400 units of affordable housing. Currently there are 850 permits for STRs out of a possible 1,000. But many STRs are not permitted. Units of one-bedroom and less were exempt from GRT but that has not changed. Santa Fe has a 7% lodgers’ tax, highest in the state: 5% goes to tourism and 2% to the convention center. He has not seen a mass investment in STRs and said that investment income of this kind is not as good in Santa Fe as in many other cities. He also believes the market for STRs is saturated.

Economist and report author Kelly O’Donnell said Santa Fe is facing a serious housing shortage. There are 1200 to 1400 STRs in the city about 60% of which are permitted. Are short terms rentals an affordable housing issue? The great answer is yes, but the impact is relatively small. The city is missing 6500 housing units. The market for STRs is nearing saturation and the impact on the supply of housing is diminishing. How much revenue is going uncollected? Very few STR hosts are paying gross receipts tax (GRT), which is collected by the state. Changes in tax on internet commerce make it possible for the state to collect the full GRT. This needs to be made a priority. The lodgers’ tax is dedicated to hospitality; the GRT isn’t dedicated. Prices would go up and there would be more money. In an ADU ordinance, long-term rentals can be incentivized. The first step is to enforce existing ordinances. When the market is not working in the best interests of the community, then the government needs to step in. If the GRT were collected and disbursed, Santa Fe would benefit by approximately $3M a year.

—Hannah Burling, Action and Advocacy Director
League of Women Voter of Santa Fe County

Voter Services Report

June 2019

VOTER REGISTRATION/EDUCATION TABLING

Voter registration and education services continue every other Saturday at the Santa Fe Farmers Market. There has been a steady flow of individuals seeking assistance with voter registration and requesting information on various voting issues.

On July 9th, voter registration and education services will be available at the Farmers Market del Sur at the Presbyterian Medical Center on Beckner Road. The League will be at the Market del Sur every other week until the market closes in September.

NEW VOTING LEGISLATION FROM THE 2018 SESSION

The 2018 legislative session passed SB 672 Early and Auto Voter Registration and HB 407 Election Laws - 50 Year Tune-Up. Both laws will make changes to existing voting regulations. Some of the changes will affect this fall’s local election under the Local Election Act.

The Secretary of State (SOS) is working on a website “refresh” so that information on HB407 and SB672 is available to the public. The League will assist the SOS by developing messaging and by providing training for Voter Registration Agents (VRAs) on the new requirements.

HIGH SCHOOL VOTER REGISTRATION

The new Voter Services High School Registration Chairs-Randi Lowenthal and Anne Culp-will meet in July with Sharon Starkey, the outgoing chair, to be trained on high school registration procedures so that there is a smooth transition of responsibilities.

Malina Brannen, a 2019 graduate of The MASTERS Program Early College Charter School and LWVSC member, registering a fellow student to vote.

HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS PROJECT

Randi and Anne will also oversee the High School Civic Project that has identified two charter high schools as pilot sites. The project started in April 2019 with students becoming VRAs. The eight student VRA’s registered 39 students to vote by the end of the school year.

WEBSITE REDESIGN

Voter Services is redesigning its page on the League’s website. The redesign will include new services and links to important events and legislation that affect VRAs and the voting public.
League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County

Action and Advocacy Report

June

**Mid-town campus project:** Daniel Hernandez is the lead planner, hired as a contractor. There is an RFP for master plan development and infrastructure, biddable by mid-June.

- Mid-town and Link: Master planning is in process on development and infrastructure. RFPs will be analyzed after June.
- The city may want to acquire St. Michaels Drive (Rte. 466, currently state highway and county road) and make it a city street. There are continuing negotiations with the state on state-owned parcels in the area.
- There is a new tenant – the NM Department of Cultural Affairs is in Benildus Hall to assess the art, labs, etc. The Santa Fe Art Institute will stay on campus and will have summer programs. People will come and stay on campus.
- There are new projects for the Garson Studio.

**City**

- Budget hearings continue, but there are no agendas or details listed on the website.
- Results from the mayor’s committees have been distributed to city departments.
- The sustainability plan is being done in Public Works.
- All city staff will get raises.
- The city has hired a new asset manager, who will start in July.

**Census:** The county has hired a contractor, Krista Kelley, to assist with the county’s Complete Count Committee and other census-related activities.

**Immigration:** Kyra Ochoa and Alexis Porter will coordinate city efforts though it has been decided that Santa Fe won’t be a stopping off place for new immigrants; rather, the city and the Community Foundation will coordinate cash donations.

**County Health Policy and Planning:** Dawn Abriel reported that CHRISTUS is working on a new community needs assessment. The health status results are not good: low birthweight, youth depression, overdose deaths in the city, alcohol, domestic violence, elder abuse, obesity and homelessness are all up. Flu shots are down.

**SFC Detention Center:** The Detention Center has instituted a policy of no drugs in the jail for drug addicts. Many of the community providers are alarmed. The A & A committee asked that Dawn Abriel and Judy Williams make a recommendation to the board for action about medically assisted treatment if we have a position that will allow it.

**The SLDC hard rock mining ordinance will go to the BCC sometime in May.** The sand and gravel owners object to the entire process and all the DCI requirements. Jody Larson and Chris Furlanetto met with Robert Griego and Jacob Stock of the Planning Department. The BCC did not vote on Chapter 11, Developments of Countywide Impact, ostensibly because there are too many new people. They need two hearings, but the issue is on hold.

**July**

- The committee has written a letter about the Midtown Campus Project, asking for a meeting so that we can understand where the project is.
- We plan on improving the LWVSFC website page for Action & Advocacy to include a Hot Topics sidebar and notices of upcoming city and county meetings.
- The matrix is in the middle of its annual revision.
- The committee would like to have one or more public forums on affordable housing in the neighborhoods where supported services housing may be built.
MAIL-IN MEMBERSHIP FORM
(Print out this form and follow the instructions at the bottom for mailing.)

☐ New Member  ☐ Renewal

Please check box of the membership you wish to start or renew:

☐ Individual membership: $60
☐ Household membership: $100 (two family members living at the same address)
☐ Student membership: $30 (students 16-23 years old and currently enrolled in an accredited institution)

Member Information:

Name (first and last):

Address: (include zip code)

________________________________________________________

Phone:________________________ Email:________________________

Please include information about the second household member here, if appropriate:

Name (first and last):________________________________________

Phone:________________________ Email:________________________

Donation - I would also like to donate:

☐ $25  ☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $150  ☐ $200  ☐ $250  ☐ $500  ☐ other $___________

Make check for dues and donation payable to “LWVSFC” and mail the check with this form to the address below:
LWVSFC
P.O. Box 31547
Santa Fe, NM 87594-1547

Thank you for joining! As soon as we receive your membership registration form and payment, we will send you a confirmation and welcome letter by email.

The League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization. All dues and donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.
Calendar

2019

July
July 4, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
July 16, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
July 17, 12-1: “Lunch with a Leader”: Conference Room, SF New Mexican, 202 E. Marcy St.
July 18, 10:30-12, Nonfiction Book Club
July 20, 11–3: LWVNMF Board Meeting, ABQ
July 25, 5:30-7: League Libations

August
August 1, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
August 20, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
August 22, 5:30-7: League Libations

September
September 5, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
September 11, 11:30-1: General Meeting, NM Census
September 17, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
September (TBA): Public Forum: SF Water Plan
September 21, 11-3: LWVNMF Board meeting, SF
September 26, 5:30-7: League Libations

October
October 2-7: Candidate Forums: Local Elections, TBA
October 3, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
October 8, Early Voting starts: Local Elections
October 15, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
October 17, 10:30-12:30: Nonfiction Book Club
October 24, 5:30-7: League Libations

November
November 5, Election Day – Local Elections
November 7, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
November 13, 11:30-1 General Meeting: Redistricting
November 16, 11 - 3: LWVNMF Board meeting
November 19, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
November 21, 10-12: LWVNMF Legislative Session Prep Meeting, location TBD

December
December 5, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
December 7, 10-12: LWVNMF Citizen Advocacy Workshop, location TBD
December 13, 11:30-1: Holiday Luncheon (Hotel SF)
December 17, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting

Please note: Events in blue are only tentatively scheduled at this time. Check later for the final dates, times and locations of those events. LWVNMF and other organization functions in italics.

2020

January
January 2, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
January 9, 11:30-1: Legislative Preview, Hotel SF
January 15, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
January 18, 11-3: LWVNMF Board Meeting, ABQ
January 21, Legislative Session – Opening Day
January 23, 5:30-7: League Libations
January 28, 10-12: Unit Meeting: Program Planning

February
February 6, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
February 12, 5:30-7:30: LWVNMF Legislative Reception
February 13, LWVNMF League Day at the Legislature
February 18, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
February 20, Legislative Session - Closing Day
February 27, 5:30-7: League Libations

March
March 5, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
March 11, 11:30-1: General Meeting: Women in Politics; TBA
March 17, 10-11:30: LWVSFC Board Meeting
March 19, 10:30-11:30: Nonfiction Book Club
March 21, 11-3: LWVNMF Board meeting, SF
March 24: Tour of Local Jail: TBA
March 26, 5:30-7: League Libations

April
April 2, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
April 21, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
April 23, 5:30-7: League Libations
April 27-30: Candidate Forums: Primary Election: TBA

May
May 7, 12-2: Action & Advocacy Committee
May 13, 11:00-1: Annual Meeting; TBA
May 16, LWVNMF Council, SF
May 19, 10-12: LWVSFC Board Meeting
May 28, 5-30-7: League Libations

Monthly Meetings/Events:

Action & Advocacy Committee: 1st Thursday of each month, 12-2, Rio Chama, 414 Old Santa Fe Trail
LWVSFC Board Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month, 10-12, at NM Bank & Trust, 1592 St. Michael’s Dr.
League Libations: 4th Thursday of each month, 5:30-7, Ortiz Café & Bar, Hilton Hotel