

The Santa Fe Voter

Published by the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County

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November, 2007

President, Jody Larson
982-0776

Membership Chair, Jane Gaziano,
989-8353

Voters Service Chair, Anne McLaughlin
995-9655

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER - Unit Topic: Local Immigration Study – Bilingual Education

12 Unit MeetingEl Castillo Meeting Room..... 7:00 PM
14 Unit MeetingUnitarian Church, Galisteo and Barcelona.....11:45 AM
14 Board MeetingLeague office..... 4:00 PM
15DEADLINE FOR ORDERING POINSETTIAS! (SEE INSIDE)
17 Unit MeetingECIA Clubhouse Living Room.....10:00 AM
17 LWVNM Board MeetingSocorroNoon – 5:00 PM
20 Book Club.....League office.....Noon – brown bag

DECEMBER – No Units

8 LWV-ABC Lobbying WorkshopAlbuquerque.....Call office for time and place
* * * **11 Holiday Luncheon****Ortiz Room, Hilton Hotel****11:45 AM** * * *
12 Board MeetingLeague office..... 4:00 PM
18 Book Club.....League office.....Noon – brown bag

Gala Holiday Luncheon!

Be sure to join us on Tuesday, December 11, in the Ortiz Room of the Hilton Hotel downtown.

Free Parking!

Our program will be highly interesting and informative.

You can shop our silent auction, pick up your Member Handbook – and collect your poinsettias!

The menu offers a choice of roast turkey or wild mushroom ravioli

with salad, delicious sides and rolls, and luscious carrot cake.

\$18.00

Please call the League office, 982-9766, by noon Thursday, December 6, to make your reservation.

No shows will be billed

MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy."

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Congratulations to League members Carol Johnson and MaryEllen Gonzales! On Sunday, October 7, they were honored at the NAACP's Soul Food Banquet for their many and fine contributions to local education efforts, together with Frank Montano. The food was delicious, the party was festive, and the honors and acceptances were truly memorable. Both of these women have long supported and improved education in our district, with no thought of reward, but because it was the right thing to do. It is wonderful to see their efforts recognized and celebrated.

The night before, the Farmer's Market Alliance held a festive banquet on its 40th anniversary, honoring its founding families of farmers and the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County, which helped greatly to start and sustain the Market. We were presented with a beautiful plaque, which you may see if you drop by the office.

Other recent League activities have included a meeting with visitors from the republic of Azerbaijan, on the Caspian Sea. One elected and several appointed government officials came to Santa Fe to learn about principles and practices of good government. In addition to meeting with local, state, and national officials, they visited with us to learn how we, as a non-governmental organization, function within the political environment. Azerbaijan has been an independent republic since 1991, with the fall of the Soviet Union. Thanks to Marianne Hale for her insightful contributions to this meeting.

Our board has formed an Executive Committee, or Ex Com, as allowed by our bylaws. It is empowered to act for the board in emergency situations arising between its meetings, and includes the president, yours truly; two officers, Betty Kersting and Donna

Reynolds; and two directors, Michael Hoyt and Jane Gaziano. Many thanks to these board members for going the extra mile.

I hope you will enjoy a new addition to our VOTER articles, a brief recap of the board's actions at its most recent meeting. Other local Leagues have featured such a column, and we thought we would give it a try. Please let us know what you think. And remember that our board meetings are open to all members. We post meeting times and locations in the calendar, so do drop in whenever you can.

I hope you will enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday. I know I will count among my blessings this fine organization, which has contributed to good government at local, state, and national levels for 87 years. Cheers to all of you, who help to make it work!

Jody Larson

POINSETTIAS FOR SALE

Santa Maria El Mirador, a home for developmentally disabled in Alcalde, has a greenhouse where they grow poinsettias to sell for the holidays. The Santa Fe LWV will take orders until **November 15th**. The plants will be delivered by mid December. Please call the office or Becky Frenkel to place your order.

4" pots, 3-4 blossoms \$10

6 1/2" pots, 5-7 blossoms \$15

11 1/2" pots, 3 plants that branch out to 24" \$30

All available in either red or white blossoms with a choice of a red, green, gold or white foil cover for the pot.

NATIONAL IMMIGRATION CONSENSUS FOLLOW-UP

Following our stimulating and productive Immigration Consensus general meeting on October 23, our Immigration Study Committee members are working hard to compile our responses into one document for submission to LWVUS. Our responses will thus contribute to the League's national position on immigration.

If you were unable to attend the general meeting, it may not be too late for your views to be included in our response. Please call the office for a form and directions on how to fill it out and submit it for inclusion. Your voice counts!

WANTED: ITEMS FOR SILENT AUCTION AT HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Please bring a few treasures for our silent auction when you come to the holiday luncheon on December 11 at the Hilton. Better yet, drop them off at the office, or call the office to arrange for pick up, so that we may prepare the bidding materials ahead of time.

GIFT SUGGESTIONS FOR ESPERANZA SHELTER

Once again, we will collect donations for the Esperanza Shelter at our holiday luncheon on December 11. The shelter has requested unwrapped items; however, you may include wrapping paper or festive sacks as part of your gift. Especially appreciated items:

- *New pillows, blankets, towels and twin sheets
- *Santa Fe Trails bus passes
- *Gift cards for Wal-Mart, Target, gasoline, groceries
- *Blank books for journal writing
- *Inspirational fiction or nonfiction books

Many thanks for your generosity

MOVING AWAY

Peggy Hemmendinger, one of the earliest members of the Santa Fe League, having joined in the 1950's, is moving to Manhattan, Kansas with her husband of 60 years, Arthur Hemmendinger. Peggy's historical knowledge of the Santa Fe and Los Alamos area in addition to her long League background will be missed. It was always a pleasure to have Peggy attend one of our meetings. Her new address is:

Margaret R. Hemmendinger
2121 Meadowlark Road, Unit 130
Manhattan, KS 66502

BILINGUAL EDUCATION IN SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

**What is bilingual education and how is it
presented by the Santa Fe Public Schools?**

**Plan to attend one of the November unit
meetings to learn more about programs for non-
English speaking students.**

The first New Mexico State Constitution was written in 1911 the year before statehood, in 1912. Included in the first constitution were provisions for maintaining a bilingual citizenry.

Article XII, Section 8 of the current New Mexico Constitution provides for training of teachers "so that they may become proficient in both the English and Spanish languages, to qualify them to teach Spanish-speaking pupils and students in the public schools and educational institutions of the state, and shall provide proper means and methods to facilitate the teaching of the English language ...". Article XII, Section 10, provides that "Children of Spanish descent in the state of New Mexico shall never be denied the right and privilege of admission and attendance in the public schools...". Starting in 1941 state law required that Spanish be taught in all public schools. Since then several laws have been passed in support of bilingual, multicultural education programs.

Bilingual education focuses on English language learners. An English language learner is a student who comes from a home where a language other than English is spoken, and who needs language support services in order to succeed in school. For many students, the process of learning literacy and a new language simultaneously is simply an overwhelming task, so bilingual programs began as a way to help such students.

Title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, passed in 1968, mandated bilingual education in order to give immigrants access to education in their first language. There were additional laws passed by Congress refining the practices for English language learners but the major change was in 2001 with the No Child Left Behind requirements. This law offers no support for native language learning, but rather emphasizes accountability in English.

The following information is taken from the Research Center of edweek.org. [English-Language Learners](#).

The large increase in the numbers of language minority students since the 1900's poses unique challenges for our schools. Achievement data suggests that English-language learners (ELL) lag behind their peers. The provisions in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 has put new requirements on schools to develop English language proficiency standards and tests. ELL students may take the tests in their native language for the first three years they are in U.S. schools and then unless they have a special waiver, their proficiency will be measured using English language tests. Local districts and states are accountable for ensuring that ELL students meet goals, so it is important to determine the best ways of educating students.

There are four different methods for teaching English to non-English speaking students:

- English immersion: Instruction is entirely in English. Teachers strive to deliver lessons in simplified English so students learn English and academic subjects.
- English as a second language: Similar to immersion, but may include some support to the student in their native language.

- Transitional bilingual education: Instruction for some subjects is in the students' native language but a certain amount of each day is spent on developing English skills.
- Two-way bilingual education: Instruction is given in two languages to students, usually in the same classroom, with the goal of the students' becoming proficient in both languages.

The programs and outcomes for the Santa Fe Public Schools are:

- Dual Language Immersion: All students will be bilingual and biliterate in English and the home/2nd language.
- Maintenance: English Language Learner students will become bilingual and biliterate in English and home language.
- Enrichment: All Fluent English Proficient (FEP) and English native speakers will become fluent in the home/2nd language.
- Heritage Language: All students will become bilingual and biliterate in English and the Heritage language.
- Transitional: English Language Learner students will become proficient in English.

Come to the November units to learn how are these programs being implemented and what are the outcomes. See you then.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS – OCTOBER 10, 2007

DONNA REYNOLDS, SECRETARY

At its regular monthly board meeting held at the League's office on October 10th, the LWV-SFC Board of Directors:

- Received a report from Treasurer Gerry Sarconi noting \$860.00 in contributions from LWV-SFC members;
- Announced that the League is seeking an office manager to help with administrative duties;
- Approved a Holiday Luncheon at the Hilton with a speaker addressing the

Governor's Universal Health Care proposal;

- Declined an offer by the Santa Fe Water Association to co-sponsor a forum with county commission candidates and instead will agree to provide staffing support with the help of League volunteers;
- Agreed to hold a forum or forums for the candidates for municipal offices and ballot issues to be voted on in the March 4 election;
- Agreed to publish a Voter Guide for the municipal elections with information on the candidates and ballot issues;
- Accepted a decision by the County Services Study Committee to postpone the study temporarily and re-evaluate the scope of the study; and
- Announced that the National LWV Convention will take place in Portland, Oregon on June 13-17.

The next Board Meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on November 14, 2007, in the League office. Board meetings are open to all members.

BROWN BAG BOOK CLUB

Book club now meets the third Tuesday of the month at noon for a brown bag lunch and discussion at the League office, 1472 St. Francis Drive. Bring selection suggestions.

November 20th – *The Language of God* by Francis S. Collins. Dr. Collins, head of the Human Genome Project, challenges readers to find a unity of knowledge that encompasses both faith and reason. Such harmony should be worldwide as well.

December 18th – *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson: A former climber builds schools in rural villages in Pakistan and Afghanistan. This has gotten rave reviews.

Call the office for a ride if you need one - 982-9766.

?? IS ENOUGH BEING DONE TO STOP DWI ??

DWI, a top concern of our members, was our topic for the September Unit meetings. Our speakers were Santa Fe County DWI Chief Rebecca Beardsley, New Mexico Department of Public Safety (DPS) Lt. Eric Garcia, and Peter Olson, the DPS Public Information Officer.

DWI Law enforcement efforts statewide have been greatly increased since 2006, resulting in reduced DWI offenses. Our laws are among the toughest in the nation. We learned that over 12,000 calls have been received on the #DWI alert line since its implementation in January 2006, resulting in 330 direct contacts and 140 arrests. During the 100 Days of Summer campaign, DPS staffed 111 checkpoints and 153 saturation patrols; Santa Fe County had 47 saturation patrols and 90 checkpoints, resulting in 153 arrests.

The Santa Fe County DWI unit, which is part of the Health department, includes many programs to help offenders recover, and monitors the courts for compliance to ensure no one slips through the cracks. One area of major emphasis is to change the culture of drinking in our community, by working with school children at all levels, and helping them learn to make good decisions.

All who attended these units were gratified to learn of the variety of DWI programs and their effectiveness. **Be sure to enter the DWI-Halt number in your cell phone for use on the road: 877-394-4258. Or just hit #DWI (#394).**

Unit meetings give League members the opportunity to meet and discuss with experts an area of particular concern. We hope to see you at a November Unit.

COURTYARD SALE A SUCCESS

Thanks to all members who contributed items for the sale. We made just over \$750. A special note of appreciation to the crew of sorters, pricers, and sale day helpers – Margot Ladwig, Nancy Plettenberg, Marian Graves, Liz Hinds, Nancy Florsheim, Becky Frenkel, and Jody Larson. Special special thanks to Carolyn Stephenson for generously providing a wonderful storage space and use of the Mission Café courtyard for the sale.

Jane Gaziano

VOTERS SERVICE

We held a voter registration drive at the Santa Fe Farmers' Market on Saturday, October 13, 2007. Much fun was had by all. If you are interested in helping with future registration drives, call me at 995-9655.

Work has begun on the Voters Guide and organizing public forums for the 2008 Municipal Elections. We met on October 15th to draft questions for City Council candidates to address. The Board will be asked to review, revise and approve the final language before we send them to the candidates for response.

I am looking for a volunteer to organize a voter registration drive at the two malls during the Christmas shopping season. If you are interested in helping with this or any other project related to the upcoming elections, please contact me (995-9655).
Anne McLaughlin

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS.

Adam Berg
HC69 Box 50A
Rociada, NM 87742
ssberg@kitcarson.net 505-425-6680

Kathryn H. Cogswell*
2543 Camino San Patricio
Santa Fe, NM 87505
424-4749

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fuquasuz@hotmail.com
986-2818

Mary Jane Gilchrist
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mjgilchrist@bigfoot.com
982-9751

Sharon King
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424-8060

Rebecca Wurzberger
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Santa Fe, NM 87505
982-6351

Corrections:

Ami Jaeger
5 Asta Terrace SF 08
Lydia Zepeda Jennings
2568 Camino San Patricio SF 05

**Member joining by way of LWVUS*

Report from Alternative Energy Committee:

The alternative energy committee has begun to prepare for its presentations at the January unit meetings. This will be the second of two presentations on alternative energy.

The first presentation, made last April, dealt with wind and solar energy. The January presentations will deal with biomass energy, geothermal energy (expanded to include heat pumps of all sorts), and conservation. The consensus questions presented at the January meetings will be designed to develop local League positions on what local governments should do about conserving energy and using alternative energy.

Neva Van Peski

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING: VOTER-RELATED LEGISLATION

On September 25, Mr. Daniel Ivey-Soto, Director of the Bureau of Elections for New Mexico in the Secretary of State’s Office, spoke at our general meeting about recent changes in New Mexico election laws.

Mr. Ivey-Soto updated us on changes to the voter registration forms, which will now be only one page instead of the multi-part format we have had to deal with the past few years. The forms will include a receipt for the voter. Mr. Ivey-Soto also described features for identity requirements and security, including information on the form itself to invoke the Privacy Act.

In addition, posters containing information regarding identity requirements *must* be posted in

every polling place from now on, to help educate poll workers, to inform voters of their rights, and to support activists in monitoring polls on election day.

Mr. Ivey-Soto answered many questions from members He told us that the vast number of provisional ballots are indeed being counted, after the proper procedures are followed. And he informed us that 80% of the resources being used for elections are expended on the minority of voters – those who vote in person. The State is investigating options to make elections more effective and efficient, perhaps including voteing centers like those for early voting, where any voter can show up and vote, without regard to precinct.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DEADLINE

If you have not done so, *renew quickly or this will be your last Voter.*

Your support of the League will encourage informed and active participation in government, increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy. Thank you to all members who have renewed their memberships and welcome to our new members. Distribution of the 2007-2008 Membership Handbook will begin at the December luncheon.

– Jane Gaziano, Membership Chair

TAKE ACTION: Join the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County NOW!

To join LWVSFC, send dues of \$45 for an individual membership and \$30 for each additional person in a household. Students are \$20. Please make checks made payable to LWVSFC and send to 1472 St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505.

Dues and contributions to the general fund are not tax deductible. Tax deductible donations should be made payable to LWV Education Fund.

Membership questions? Call Jane Gaziano 989-8353.

Clip here and mail

Name _____ 2nd Member _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____ Email _____

