

# The Santa Fe Voter

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President, Jody Larson  
982-0776

Membership Chair, Jane Gaziano,  
989-8353

Voters Service Chair, Anne McLaughlin  
995-9655

## **PICNIC!! PICNIC!! PICNIC!! at Salvador Perez Park**

Here is the opportunity to introduce your friends, neighbors, and family to the League of Women Voters. Bring them to the – MEMBERSHIP PICNIC on **Saturday, July 21, 11:45 AM – 1:30 PM.**

We will talk about current studies, voter service activities and other things the League does in the community. Mostly though, this is an opportunity to meet and visit with other Leaguers.

Special guest – Anne McLaughlin, Open Space and Trails Coordinator for the City of Santa Fe and League Board member, who will speak about city projects underway and those coming up.

The place is Salvador Perez (Train) Park - 601 Alta Vista just east of St. Francis Drive. The parking is very convenient and the picnic area is just across from the pool. Our visibility may help us register a few voters, too.

**Bring your favorite picnic potluck.** Do let us know what it is so we can keep track. The League will furnish drinks, plates, etc.

Call the office to sign up. 982-9766

## **LWV RECEPTION AT THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION**

Here is a second opportunity for prospective members to be introduced to the League.

To commemorate the 87<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County is hosting a reception in honor of all our elected women officials and their active participation in government. Meet and greet them; thank them for their public service. Come celebrate women's suffrage! We need more great members like you. Help the League by inviting a friend.

Tuesday, August 28, 5:00 – 6:30 PM – Governor's Mansion - One Mansion Drive

This is an invitation-only event for League members and guests.

RSVPs must be to the office by Friday, August 17 - 982-9766. Space is limited - reserve now.

**CALL JANE at 989-8353 or email [jeg7@aol.com](mailto:jeg7@aol.com) with names of those you wish invited.**

**"BREAKFAST WITH A LEADER" SERIES RESUMES – Details inside.**

## 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

Greetings! As I write, it is the longest day of the year. It’s all downhill from here, according to a friend of mine who gets gloomier as the days grow shorter. But in League, we are just ramping up for a new year full of rewarding and challenging activities. Our new Membership Chair, Jane Gaziano, aims to keep our League energies going through the otherwise lazy days of summer: she and her committee have planned a lovely picnic for July and are working on other events for our benefit.

Earlier in June, our calendar-planning meeting was intense! Many thanks to all the members who came and filled our room almost to overflowing, both physically and with many terrific ideas. These include topics for unit meetings and general meetings, and other events and activities for members; target dates for voter registration drives, voter guides and forums, and other products and services for voters; and ideas for approaches to our work – the “hows” as well as the “whats.” I think we will have many opportunities for members to gain from and contribute to our program in the coming year.

So relax and enjoy our hiatus from regular meetings, but look at this Voter for other events, such as the picnic in July, and be prepared to attend many informative and important meetings and other functions once September comes. We will review important voting-rights legislation, and be able to register (or re-register) as Voter Registration Agents. We will come to consensus on a national position on immigration, and on a local position on alternative energy. We will learn more about access to our local governments, as well as about specific services offered by Santa Fe County. We will learn more about local immigration issues as well. We will hear from the LWVNM study committee on fair representation, to begin our study on this issue with the goal of adopting a position in time to

influence the next round of redistricting; this is the kind of grass-roots, representative government issue that is bedrock for League.

I look forward to seeing you during an active League year.

Jody Larson

## OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

If you would like to be a bit more active in League, but don’t want to be saddled with continuing responsibilities, have we got a deal for you! Jane has several specific tasks for Membership that can be done in your own time. Our Arrangements Chair, Margot Ladwig, needs some assistance in finding venues for specific meetings – you could just choose one or two. Voter Services Chair Anne McLaughlin always can use you to register voters or help out with a particular candidate or issue forum, and you can come as often or as few times as you wish. We have more opportunities for service, in addition to these. Call Jody (982-0776) or the League office (982-9766), or the chair of the particular committee that interests you, and sign on for a discrete task. You will be glad you did.

## FAREWELL

Best wishes to members Liz Barnes and Dot Schoech, who will be moving back to Columbia, MO, as of July 1. After 14 years in the “Land of Enchantment,” they have decided it is time to return to live in a familiar environment among some good friends. Farewell, you two, and come back to visit. For Liz and Dot’s contact information, call or e-mail Jody or the office.

**Thursday, August 16, 8:00-9:00AM**  
**Café Dominic**  
**COME AND HAVE**  
**“BREAKFAST WITH A LEADER”**  
**SANTA FE POLICE CHIEF ERIC JOHNSON**

It's back by popular demand. The series that began with SFPS Superintendent Dr. Leslie Carpenter will resume this year. We will start off with Santa Fe Police Chief, Eric Johnson. Besides providing his personal and professional background, he will speak to his role as “leader” of the Santa Fe Police Department. As time allows, there will be an opportunity for questions and conversation.

We will meet from 8:00 – 9:00 am at Café Dominic, 320 S. Guadalupe. You will be able to order anything from just coffee to a complete breakfast. Please allow time before 8:00 for ordering. No reservation is required. Hope to see you there.

**BOOK CLUB**

Book club meets the third Tuesday of the month at the League office at 7:00 PM. No meeting is scheduled for July. Contact Jane with suggestions for future selections or questions – 989-8353. Rides can be arranged if needed.

**August 21 – *The Bookseller of Kabul*** by Asne Seierstad. Portrait of a man, who through three decades and successive repressive regimes, heroically braved persecution to bring books to the people of Kabul. A revelation of the plight of Afghan women and a window into the surprising realities of daily life in today's Afghanistan.

**September 18 – *The Business of Books: How the International Conglomerates Took Over Publishing and Changed the Way We Read*** by Andre Schiffrin. The descendant of a distinguished publishing family, Schiffrin writes about his experience in the publishing industry and what determines the books that get published and promoted these days. Check local availability of this book in advance. It may have to be ordered.

**LWVSFC ADVOCATES FOR CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

In response to articles about Santa Fe's low high school completion rate, the SFPS Board held a study session on June 12 to put forth “the facts” behind the figures that were published by the New Mexican. After accounting for students who were retained, incarcerated, transferred, and relocated, and those who received their GEDs, the actual figure of concern is 80 ninth graders who didn't make it to graduation day. This brings the dropout rate to 24% from the 54% originally published. Also explained was the difference between cohort rate – number of 9<sup>th</sup> graders who graduated, with a comparison of enrollment lists - and event rate – the number of students on graduation day, not accounting for the change in the actual population over time.

During a public forum, on behalf of the LWVSFC, a statement was read to acknowledge our concern and interest in improving the completion rate of high school students. Our position in “support of career-technical education as being an important component of an educational system that should meet the needs and interests of all students” was relayed. Where various factors contribute to the low completion rate, a one-size fits all solution won't work. Our position also encourages the SFPS to consider the value of relevancy and of equal access to opportunities.

The last legislative session appropriated over \$200,000 for a feasibility study for the creation of a regional vocational center. In July when the funds are appropriated a committee will be formed to begin their work. – Jane Gaziano

## **OBSERVING YOUR GOVERNMENT IN ACTION: PROTECTING YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW**

Where open records and meetings was the initial focus of the LWVUS Looking for Sunshine: Protecting Your Right to Know initiative, the emphasis is being shifted to the promotion of government transparency and accountability in the post 9/11 age. A new publication has been created to aid Leagues in the development of observer corps – Observing Your Government in Action: Protecting Your Right to Know.

As part of this effort a LWVUS conference call, funded by the Herb Block Foundation, was set up to familiarize Leagues with this effort and provide an opportunity for interesting discussion and to ask questions of staff. It was great to interact with other Leagues from around the country in this way.

An analogy to gardening was used to guide the discussion of observer corps. Should we have a garden? Yes, the League has credibility on issues. We are respected and trusted as government watchdogs and educators working between the government and the public. We have the expertise and experience to produce a great crop - a crop like no other group can. Before we plant, however, we must know the land. With limited resources, it is important to know our community and members and set appropriate priorities and be selective of what we take on. It is important to determine what issues will engage us and allow for the most impact.

Why become a gardener? As with sunshine for the garden, being an observer can encourage personal and League growth. As well as a benefit to the community, you will be in the know. Many observers in Leagues around the county have gone on to become government officials or been recognized for their expertise. Flexibility is the key to accommodating members' time and scheduling constraints. Gardeners can pair up to share responsibilities or use available media sources as alternatives to in-person monitoring. Of utmost in gardening of course is the harvest. Once collected, the information gathered must be shared. The LWVUS has thought of this too and provides guides

to aid in this. Suggestions and templates for recording and reporting are given to make the job easy and fun.

Consider signing up. We can keep our officials on their toes and see that the League's mission is fulfilled. Exposure can bring in more gardeners. Among like minded people, you will be a League ambassador. I will see to it that you are armed with membership brochures, just in case.

Previous to my joining the League, there was an active observer corp. With a new guide and LWVUS support, we again can develop this important League activity and watch the garden grow. -Jane Gaziano

## **HOPE YOU'RE SAVING UP! YOUR CAST-OFFS ARE NEEDED TO BE OUR TREASURE**

Besides an increase in rent on our office and more of our dues going to national this year, the anticipated reduction of Per Member Payment going to LWVNM was not approved at state convention. In case you don't know, we only keep \$6.70 of your dues. This sale will be one of several fund raising efforts you can expect to see this year.

When cleaning your closets and garage this summer, **please** set aside a box or two marked "**LWV SALE.**" This fall, tentatively Sunday, September 23rd, we will be holding our third Annual Sale and hope it will be even more successful with greater advanced notice. League member Carolyn Sigstedt Stevenson, owner of the Mission Café, has generously offered us storage space and a location to hold our sale. This means we can take larger items than in the past.

If you would be willing to serve on the sale committee, your help will be appreciated. We will need help sorting and marking items, and working the day of the sale. If you have a question or holding on to your donation becomes a hardship, call Jane at 989-8353 or email [jeg7@aol.com](mailto:jeg7@aol.com) and an effort will be made to help with the handling of your contribution.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST AND RETURNING MEMBERS

We hope to see you at our Membership picnic or the Governor's Mansion and other future meetings and events.

Gretchen Kirkpatrick  
1205 Bishop Lodge Road  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
989-7881

Marianne O'Shaughnessy  
924 Canyon Road #5  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
989-8967

Virginia Vigil  
P.O. Box 4502  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
474-9399

Mary Wahl  
112 Vigil Lane  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
995-0154

Judith Williams  
13 Ute Circle  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
989-9486

Santa Feans who joined by contacting the LWVUS:

Kathryn Hasted  
2820 Plaza Rojo  
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Jean Malcolm  
250 E. Alameda #626  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Eula Lee West  
26 Calle Cal  
Santa Fe, NM 87508

For email addresses, contact the office.

After four years of valuable service, Elizabeth Rhine-Eglehoff is passing the torch of Membership Data Manager to our other computer guru and webmaster, Gayle Rust. Thanks to them and other committee member, Alyson Earney-Gillman, for their support of the League. We could always use more help, especially during the fall membership campaign and with the special membership events coming up – hint, hint !!!!

Membership questions? Call Jane Gaziano – 989-8353

### IMMIGRATION – A HOT TOPIC AT LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

In October and November, we will participate in unit meetings and a general meeting on immigration, one of the most pervasive and controversial topics in the political arena today at any level of government.

In October, Becky Frenkel and her local study committee will follow up on the presentations from last March with another set of units on how immigration affects us here in Santa Fe County. Feedback from all of us has indicated that this is one of the top subjects of interest for our membership. Also in October, Becky will host a general meeting with a speaker who will give us a broader view of immigration as a national topic. And in November, we will participate in consensus on a national League position on immigration.

**It is not too late to join the local Immigration Study Committee!** Contact Becky Frenkel, 984-2520, or [reesefrenkel@earthlink.net](mailto:reesefrenkel@earthlink.net), for a chance to work with this committee as it ramps up again in July. Many hands make light work, and you will have an opportunity to understand this issue in depth.

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**ALISON STACEY SANDERS**

We note with sadness the passing of one of our founding members, Alison Sanders, who died in May at age 81. Alison moved to Santa Fe in 1948, and was known as an environmentalist and animal lover as well as a League member. She served as president of our local League and of the state League as well. Former Santa Fe Representative Max Coll was quoted in the New Mexican about her: "Alison gained the trust and respect of a large number of legislators and especially me."

In addition to her expertise and advocacy in environmental issues, Alison worked on the state's election code with Hoyt Clifton of the Secretary of State's Election Bureau and former state Senator Gladys Hansen of Las Cruces. She lobbied for the State Personnel Act, which established a merit system for most state employees, replacing the decades-old patronage system. Alison was well known for her wry and exuberant sense of humor, and was a proud and feisty member of the Lolitas, a group of League lobbyists who gaily adopted the acronym after being nicknamed "little old ladies in tennis shoes" by former state Senator Aubrey Dunn. She produced and performed in (and recruited her daughter for) the League's Follies, which satirized local and state politics. She raised and showed Irish wolfhounds, becoming a volunteer at the Santa Fe Animal Shelter as well as a member of its board.

Although ill, Alison continued to attend League meetings through this past Spring, when she attended a general meeting to hear Chief District Judge Martha Vasquez. She also came to hear LWVUS President (and New Mexico citizen) Mary Wilson last year.

We have been honored by her affiliation with our organization, and by her family's including the League of Women Voters of Santa Fe County as one of two organizations for donations in her memory. Those of us fortunate enough to have known her will miss Alison very much.

**CONDOLENCES**

Our heartfelt condolences go out to member and Board member Carol Johnson, whose mother passed away recently. We are so sorry for this loss.

**NATIONAL IMMIGRATION STUDY  
MATERIALS AVAILABLE NOW**

At the web site for the League of Women Voters of the US ([www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)), you can read or download eight essays on immigration, written by members of the national study committee. Use the "For Members Only" section: you will need to log in, which requires an easy registration procedure the first time, but after that is easily done with your e-mail address and password.

These articles are concise and very informative, and cover economic impacts, enforcement issues, and many other subjects. An overview includes data on immigration for the recent and distant past. With a small investment of time, you can become well-informed on this critical topic, and better prepared to participate in our consensus meetings in November.

For a hard copy (or a pdf file) of any of these essays, call Jody (982-0776) or the League office (982-9766), or e-mail Jody at [dtlars@aol.com](mailto:dtlars@aol.com).

The current issue of the National Voter contains immigration study materials. Immigration Study Briefs #1 and #2 are included on pages 11 and 12.

## LWVNM CONVENTION REPORT

The Las Cruces League of Women Voters hosted the 2007 LWVNM State Convention on May 18-20. A reception was held at the Staybridge Suites on Friday evening to welcome League members from around the state. Jody Larson and Jane Gaziano represented the Santa Fe League.

Christina Little was the convention chair. Many thanks to her, her husband William, and all who helped make this day and one-half outstanding. About 36 delegates, coming from all four Leagues and a delegate representing the Members-At-Large, along with other non-voting guests and observers, were welcomed by Bill Mattiace, Mayor of Las Cruces.

The first morning's Plenary Session included presentations by committees on recommendations for changes to the bylaws, nominations, the proposed budget and program changes and new studies. After a delightful box lunch, Carolie Mullan, LWVUS board member and chair of the national immigration study spoke on "Identifying Values Associated with Immigration." Rather than focusing on problems and solutions, an examination of values is another way to guide the debate on this often contentious issue. Mullan also provided an overview of the process being followed by LWVUS in their national study and what will be involved at the local level in arriving at consensus.

Before veering off in various directions to explore Las Cruces, delegates had an opportunity to ask questions for clarification on issues coming up for a vote on Sunday. The day ended with a banquet at Picacho Country Club and an entertaining program, "Harry and His Mother" presented by League members, recounting the exchange of letters between the Tennessee state legislator who cast the deciding ballot for ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment and his mother, who convinced him to do so, in 1920.

The Sunday morning Plenary Session began with approval of two bylaws changes and the voting down of the Boards recommendation to lower the LWVNM Per Member Payment. The vote supported the interest in promoting the LWVNM's visibility and positions. The LWVNM and our budget will both need to be adjusted accordingly.

Directions to the Board included developing a mini-grant program to redirect some funds back to local leagues. Position changes including repeal of the death penalty, sustainability, health care, and drug policy were approved as well as new studies on water supply and demand and fair representation. A review of the education and public school finance positions will also be conducted.

Convention goers elected new officers and directors and a nominating committee for 2007-2009. They include: President-Kathy Campbell, Vice-President-Linda Moscarella, Secretary-Bonnie Burn, and Treasurer-Diane Alpert. Five Directors-Dick Mason, Cheryl Haaker, Johnnie Aldrich, Jane Gaziano, and Lora Lucero were also elected. (Additional Directors may be appointed by the president and approved by the Board.) The nominating committee will be chaired by Marnie Leverett with Jan Bray and Rebecca Shankland.

Shelley Shepard did a great job running the silent auction of donated items that brought in over \$1000.

-Jane Gaziano