

The VOTER

League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
Web Site: www.lwvglc.org
December 2013



Legislative Breakfast

Saturday, December 7, 2013

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Good Samaritan Social Center

Creative Arts Room

3011 Buena Vida Circle

League members and guests have an opportunity to discuss legislative issues with members of the Doña Ana delegation at the League Annual Legislative Breakfast. In 2014, the legislators meet in a 30-day session that begins at noon on January 21 and ends on February 20 at noon. Although short sessions usually convene to act only on budget matters, it is anticipated that the Governor's Call may raise other issues and that legislators may sponsor bills in response to the Governor's action on behavioral health and the Secretary of Education's actions on teacher evaluation and standardized testing.

The League at the state and local levels will be monitoring the legislature very closely. State and local League Legislative Action Alert Committees will be calling on members to contact their local legislators when votes are scheduled in committees and chambers. Local members will again have an opportunity to attend League Day at the Legislature scheduled on January 27-28.

**To make democracy work in New Mexico,
join us for breakfast and a lively discussion!**

RSVP by December 2
Ruth Benjamins
Tel: 527-0204, Email: benjpa@q.com

CALENDAR

December 2 (Monday)

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Board Meeting, City Hall Room 2007

December 2 (Monday)

Deadline for making reservations

Legislative Breakfast

RSVP: Ruth Benjamins

Tel: 527-0204, Email: benjpa@q.com

December 7 (Saturday)

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Legislative Breakfast

RSVP: Ruth Benjamins

Tel: 527-0204, Email: benjpa@q.com

December 19 (Thursday)

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Third Thursday Book Club

Marjorie Burr - 522-2528

Book Selections

One World School House

by Salman Khan

and

Reign of Error by Diane Ravitch

Notable Dates in November:

28 - Thanksgiving and Hanukkah

Save the Date

January 27-28, 2014 - League Day at
the Legislature - Santa Fe

The VOTER

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The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

P.O. Box 8322
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Vice President & Program
Roberta Gran

Secretary - Christina Little

Treasurer - Ruth Benjamins

Director, Membership
Johnnie Aldrich

Co-Director, Voter Services
Gracia Class
Gwen Hanson

Nominating Committee
Chair: Marjorie Burr
Elected Member: Sue Cain

STUDY GROUPS

Affordable Housing
Vicki Simons -522-4813
Christina Little-373-1882

Education
Jane Asche - 532-8087
Sue Cain - 647-8250

Voting Impediments
Roberta Gran - 373-8490
Johnnie Aldrich - 522-1544

**Mental Health Services
in Doña Ana County**
Becky Beckett - 522-8171
Mickey Curtis - 532-5655

Metropolitan Court
Marjorie Burr - 522-2528

ACTION COMMITTEE
Barbara Goedecke - 522-0323

Web Master
Dale Yeo - 405-7580

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Bonnie Burn - 526-0013
burnb@comcast.net

*President's Message*

One of my favorite sayings is "time flies, whether you're having fun or not," and that is certainly the case again this year. Here we are in the Holiday season already! (Wasn't it just the middle of summer about a week ago?)

As noted in the Board Highlights (see p. 3), the League held a **retreat** on November 6 that resulted in a number of good ideas for new ways to get our members more involved with our League activities and increase the visibility of the League in the community. Although it is hard to devote a four hour block of time to such an endeavor, we had both individual and board members present who created stimulating discussions about a variety of membership and operational issues. Our numerous flip charts have been organized into a report that the Board will consider at its December 2 meeting. Thereafter, information will be shared with all of you.

Members of the **Voter Services** Committee received many kudos for their work during the recent Las Cruces Municipal Election. Our **Education Committee** has been very active recently. The possibility of a community forum dealing with education issues has been a long-time goal of this committee. As a result of recent meetings with education professionals, KRWG TV (NMSU's PBS station) has become interested in this issue, and has offered to hold a televised community forum. Plans are underway for a one-hour segment on the KRWG program, Issues & Answers. When final arrangements are made, we will be advertising it and asking you to participate in the audience. Leaguers always have good questions that give reliable information to the public. See pages 8–11 for further details about the work of our Education Committee.

Please plan to attend our **Legislative Breakfast** scheduled for December 7, 9:00-11:00 a.m. All our local legislators have been invited. Depending upon the results of the vote in Albuquerque on an anti-choice initiative, this might be a lively topic of discussion. Other items that may be addressed in the upcoming Legislative Session include marriage equality and the crisis in behavioral health services in NM. There is lots to talk about with our legislators.

As many of you know, I have been absent for a few weeks dealing with the adventure of a full knee replacement. (I wouldn't recommend this procedure as a "fun vacation.") I'm happy to say that the recovery is progressing well, and I'm really happy to be back involved with our League activities.

Finally, on behalf of the League, I wish you, your family and your friends the very best for the Holidays.

Erika

Board Highlights - November 4, 2013 - Christina Little, Secretary

- The next board meeting will be held on Monday, December 2, 2013, 1:30 pm at Las Cruces City Hall in Room 2007. All League members are invited to attend the meeting for as little or as much time as schedules permit.
- *Mark you calendars:* A very special celebration of the League's 94th Anniversary is planned for Saturday, February 15, 2014 from 2 to 5 pm at Picacho Hills Country Club. The League traditionally celebrates its birthday in February, and this social event will give us all a chance to gather together, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, and get to know each other better.
- The Voter Services Committee was congratulated on the excellent work it had done prior to the November 5 Las Cruces Municipal Election.
- All League committees are functioning well. The Affordable Housing Committee remains ready to respond to action within the community. The Voting Impediments Committee is close to finishing the research portion of its work. The Quality of Life Committee is meeting with local officials and has developed a plan for future activities. The Education Committee is especially active. Please see article on pp. 8-11 in the VOTER for details.

Legislative Action Committee Reconfigured
Barbara Goedecke - gbarb@zianet.com

During the 2013 NM Legislative Session some members volunteered to participate in a telephone tree that was developed by the League's Education Committee to respond to action alerts about education bills. As the session ended, some of the members of the tree were interested in responding to issues other than education. As a result we are proposing to expand our alerts to include not only education but other issues suggested by the LWVNM Legislative Action Committee. These issues would include water, voter suppression, and health care to name a few. We also are proposing to eliminate telephone calls and send alerts only by email.

The state legislature will be starting its 30-day session beginning January 21. If you are interested in receiving email action alerts on those issues that will be considered during the legislative session, please reply to Barbara Goedecke. If you are willing to telephone your senator or representative regarding any action alert you receive, please include that information as well.



Membership Directory Update

New Members

Bonnie Votaw
8920 N. Valley Dr. Las Cruces, 88007
Tel: (575) 523-0886
Email: blvotaw43@gmail.com

Kurt Anderson
5493 Clavel, Las Cruces 88007
Tel: (575) 523-1317
Email: kurt@nmsu.edu

Friends of the League

- John Ameriks, M.D.
- Anonymous
- Robert Buggert
- Sharon Burbano
- Reed R. Burn
- Joseph P. Camunez, D.D.S.
- Dental Associates PA,
- David Sudimack, D.D.S.
- Donald Dresp
- Edward Jones - Connie Lee
- Roberta Gran
- Nancy & Ken Hall
- Win Jacobs
- Keller Williams Realty, Laura Szalay
- Al Kissling
- Pat Kratz
- Marlene Lavettes
- Lilley & O'Connell Law Offices
- Louise P. Lockhart
- Barbara Myers
- Jean Ossorio
- Clifford Pelton
- Nancy Phillips
- Kathryn Schultz
- Shirley Soules
- Marie Sutter-Sinden
- Sunspot Solar Energy
- Donna Tate
- Williams Design Group, Inc.
- Zia Engineering & Environment Consultants

Thank You

Celebrate Human Rights Day - Azadeh Osanloo, Ph.D., Guest Speaker
Bonnie Burn, Reporting

Human Rights Day was celebrated on Friday, November 15. Members of the Church Women United (CWU) invited guest speaker, Dr. Azadeh Osanloo, to make a presentation that addressed poverty and education inequity in Southern New Mexico. Poverty, its problems and solutions, is a focus of attention for CWU and is a hot button issue for our community.

Dr. Osanloo promotes the concept that through civic education that incorporates a strong human rights components, students are prepared to live in a diverse, cross-cultural, global world. She describes New Mexico as a "jewel in the crown." It has a rich, diverse culture that is multiracial, ethnic, and multilingual with English and Spanish recognized in the state constitution. Women make up 50% of the population, and 50% of the population identify themselves as religious. There are 19 pueblos and three reservations.

New Mexico is not without serious problems. The median income is \$43,700. While the U.S. poverty rate is 16%, New Mexico's is 20% and Doña Ana County's is 28%, the second highest county in the state. Ten percent of people nationally and 14% in New Mexico live in extreme poverty (\$11,641). High school graduation rates range between 60.3% (2008) and 63% (2011), and Hispanic (35%), Native American (37%) and African American (41%) students do not graduate from high school. In teen pregnancies, New Mexico ranks third in the nation after Mississippi and Arkansas.

There is no test to become a global citizen, and currently there is no nationally sanctioned requirement for human rights education in public schools. There is a great need, however, to teach children critical thinking skills that incorporate understanding, respect, and gender equality so that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, and

a sense of dignity for all nations, indigenous peoples and racial, national, ethnic, religious and linguistic groups is developed.

Dr. Osanloo described positive thinking as looking at what is currently working and what is available rather than focusing on what is missing. This kind of thinking affirms and builds on the significant work that is already ongoing. Deficit perspective focuses on what is missing in the culture and behavior of an underprivileged group. Oppressed people are blamed for their own oppression---if only they weren't so lazy and other stereotypic language. Poverty is reduced to individual inadequacies or to the individual's household or neighborhood. This perception persists even though research shows that people living in poverty have the same hopes and aspirations as middle and upper class people.

There were exercises given to raise multicultural awareness. Conducting a community audit was among them. Race, poverty and education are human rights issue. As individuals, what can each of us do? As a community, what can we do? Why must we do it? All good questions to start a dialogue.

(Note: Azadeh Osanloo, Ph.D., Stan Fulton Endowed Chair for the Improvement of Border and Rural Schools, NMSU. This event was held in the First Christian Church, 1809 El Paseo Rd., November 15, 2013, 10:00-11:30 a.m.)

*"The humanity of all
Americans is diminished
when any group is denied
rights granted to others."*

— Julian Bond

Exploring Equity, Community, & Hope in New Mexico A Series of Three Community-Based Events

Sponsored by Azadeh f. Osanloo, Ph.D.,
Stan Fulton Endowed Chair for the Improvement of Border and Rural Schools
College of Education, New Mexico State University

This gathering of three parts is intended to support the development of new relationships and networks within Southern NM, particularly between educators and the community in order to share current experiences and collaborate in support of the success of all students.

Part 1: An Evening discussing Civil Rights, Activities & Community

Friday, February 21, 2014
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Doña Ana Community College Auditorium
East Mesa Campus

Event: *The Last White Knight*
Private screening and discussion by
Paul Saltzman
Academy Award Nominated Documentarian
for *Prom Night in Mississippi*

Part 2: Juntos! Working Together, Working as One

Sunday, March 22, 2014
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(Light lunch and snacks provided)
Doña Ana Community College Auditorium
East Mesa Campus

Event

(1) Discuss creating community, university,
and education agency partnership
(2) *Stolen Education*
Private screening and discussion
by
Dr. Enrique Aleman,
Assistant Vice President for Student Equity &
Diversity at the University of Utah and
Co-Founder & Co-Director,
Adelante Partnership

Part 3: Hope Required When Growing Roses in Concrete

Saturday, May 17, 2014
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
(Snacks provided)
New Mexico State University
Center for the Arts - East University Ave.
Las Cruces Campus

**Event: Hope Required
When Growing Roses in Concrete**
by
Dr. Jeff Duncan-Andrade
Associate Professor and
Director, Educational Equity
San Francisco State University

SAVE THE DATE

Additional details will be forthcoming
as the scheduled dates draw near.

The League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces and other
community organizations will be
collaborating with Dr. Osanloo
on this project.

THE ROLE OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO IN THE ECONOMY

Sponsored by the
Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and
New Mexico State University

Win Jacobs, Observer

I attended this conference held on October 18, 2013, at Corbett Center, NMSU. Given our League's long involvement with community issues, there seemed promise of food for thought leading to action. Nor was I disappointed!

Going in to the conference, I was painfully aware of some stark statistics: 37% of the county's residents aged 16-60 lack a high school diploma. Over 25% of the county's total population live below the federal poverty limit. Conference presenters added more.

Tom Siems, an Assistant Vice President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas shared these items: in Las Cruces, the non-farm unemployment rate *decreased* to 8.3% in July 2013 and remained there in August. No one gave figures for farm employment, but we all know that agriculture is both an important employer and the guardian of the green in our beloved valley. The current drought is severe and expected to persist for who knows how long? Between 2011 and 2012, the state saw a 12% increase in land prices. Further, Mr. Siems described the dichotomy of "fortunately and unfortunately" characterizing our national economy: fortunately it's improving and unfortunately it's too slow. Seventy-five percent of the jobs lost since the beginning of the "great recession" have been regained, but unemployment stands at 7.3%; inflation remains at 1.3%--both sluggish. He concluded by noting that the Eleventh Federal Reserve Bank District (that's us) is well ahead of the country and the world, and that it is southeastern New Mexico's energy industry that is driving our improving status.

Mark Wynne, a Vice-President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, presented his take

on the global economy. Our low inflation rate is nothing to envy—Japan's is even lower than ours and considered stagnant. His most memorable comment: "We must engage not in tariff wars but rather education to the level of existing jobs." In short, the interrelationship of global, national, and regional economic strengths and weaknesses was well and truly explicated throughout the morning.

Jerry Pacheco is the Executive Director of the International Business Accelerator and has been involved in border development for 20 years. He zeroed in on Southern New Mexico's economic future.

He surprised his audience with this factoid: Israel is New Mexico's biggest importer. The follow-up: why not Mexico? Twenty years ago, Mexico had developed the assembly factor (maquiladoras) but not the components-for-production factor. El Paso was ready to move on the component market; New Mexico wasn't. But now New Mexico is ready and should move aggressively to "re-home" the manufacturers of components, who are discovering they need to be closer to the assemblers. Southern New Mexico has three ports of entry, and good roads for two-way transit to and from the maquiladoras. Infrastructure and opportunity, in other words, are in place. Can we provide a workforce educated to the level of the jobs? For example, truck drivers who dependably show up for work, are able to read traffic signs and can operate the computers by which home offices track their travels? Or site managers who can analyze and execute operations? And so on up the economic ladder! In light of some of our educational statistics, these questions remain open. Challenges unmet can so easily turn to opportunity lost!

Dr. Jim Peach, Regents Professor of Economics at NMSU, as the luncheon speaker, brought it all home. Southern New Mexico will fare well or poorly, generally, in

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Southern New Mexico Economy *(Continued from page 6)*

direct proportion to the world and its parts; specifically, as we develop an educated work force, one that has mastered both the how and the why of things technical and philosophical.

Observer's conclusion: LWV is well known for its longstanding and substantive commitment to quality education for all. How can we now assist the community in strengthening our educational infrastructure and results? Economic developers, as well as professional educators are eager for our answers. As never before, the time to act is now!

Organ Mountain/Desert Peaks Monument Still Viable - Dale Yeo, Reporting

I attended a reception with Michael Brune, Executive Director, Sierra Club, on November 10.

Members from various community groups were there to support the Organ Mountains/Desert Peaks Monument (OMDPM) Initiative. These included Environment America and New Mexico, Friends of the OMDPM, and OMDPM Action Team, the Southwest Environmental Center, the Institute for Community Engagement, and the Sierra Club, as well as some elected officials.

There seemed to be an air of optimism that a designation as a national monument could actually happen soon and the groups could go on to working on clean energy.

The President of Environment America, Margie Alt, and a group of members of the community hiked in the Organs on Saturday. I learned that Michelle Obama recently received an invitation to hike in the Organs, although she has not as yet accepted the invitation.

Those present in favor of the Organ Mountains/Desert Peaks Monument designation were urged to contact President Obama and legislators at both the state and national levels.

For more information about the proposed Monument go to:
<http://www.organmountains.org/>

NM Legislative Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee, October 17, 2013, Wooten Hall, NMSU, 3:00 p.m. Alamogordo Desalination Session - *Barbara Goedecke, Observer*

The urgency for water management throughout the state is growing more intense. In 2012, the entire state experienced severe to extreme drought conditions. It is clear that the State Engineer must be ready to address water shortages. To that end, the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) Water Rights Division has moved forward with implementing an Active Water Management program in its conjunctive management of ground and surface water within river basins.

The OSE identified seven priority stream systems for implementation of Active Water Resource Management. This article concerns the Lower Pecos stream but aspects of it may apply to other streams in the not too distant future.

In 2012, the Little Bear Fire destroyed Bonito Lake in the Sacramento Mountains, a major source of water for the City of Alamogordo. Remaining are 18 deep water wells that have become quite brackish and require purification to meet clean water standards. Alamogordo is in the Lower Pecos stream. This region can no longer depend on surface water—it evaporates too quickly because of the drier climate. Well water must be treated so that it can meet clean water standards.

However, a large volume of water still remains after the desalination process.

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EDUCATION

Education Committee - Jane Asche and Sue Cain, Co-Chairs

The Committee began meeting again in August. As the new school year moved into the fall, a number of issues arose (e.g., teacher evaluation, standardized testing, and common core curriculum implementation). Three new people were added to the committee. Ruth Benjamins, new League member and retired teacher Mildred Evaskovich, and Sadie Valverde joined Bonnie Burn, Barbara Goedecke, Sue, and Jane. Erika Graf-Webster and Roberta Gran are ex-officio members.

Two information meetings were held:

1. State Senator John Arthur Smith met with Jane and Bonnie on Monday, October 14, when he came to Las Cruces to attend the interim meeting of the NM Legislative Drought Subcommittee chaired by State Senator Joseph Cervantes. Our topics for discussion included funding for early childhood education wherein he is supportive of finding a recurring funding allocation in the General Fund budget but does not support using the Land Grant Endowment Fund. He also is supportive of certification through a community college program for employees who provide child care for ages 0-3 years.
2. State Senator William Soules met with the Education Committee after the Afternoon Social that was held on Monday, November 11. The goal was to learn about education legislation that may be proposed during the 2014 NM Legislative Session. At this time, individuals await

the release of the Governor's Call. It is speculated that legislation about a constitutional amendment to raise minimum wage, legalize gay marriage, and prevent last-minute tax legislation may reappear. (For details about Senator Soules presentation at the Afternoon Social see p. 9, Look Back.)

3. Two "mini studies" are underway that may add new components to the current education position: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and For-Profit Virtual Online Charter Schools. If the research proves sufficient, they will be brought to Program Planning Meeting for Study and Action that, if approved by the Board, will be voted on by members at Annual Meeting.
4. A League observer attended a working session of the LCPS School Board where the latest information about teacher evaluations mandated by the Public Education Department was considered. Teachers are concerned that 50% of the evaluation will be based on student progress demonstrated by results of standardized tests. Additionally, the amount of leave time that teachers can take has been reduced (possibly violating contracts). A new teacher's group, PASS (People Against the Standardization of Students) composed of parents, teachers, and students, are concerned about the rise of high-stakes standardized testing and its marginalization of students and educators. The League's education position allows us to support this effort.
5. League members participated in a Rally, Take Back Our Schools, organized by the National Education Association (NEA), Las Cruces Chapter, to support teachers' concerns about the amount of standardized testing required of our students that leaves little time for teaching beyond "teaching to the test."

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Education Committee Report *(Continued from page 8)*

The rally took place in the LCPS Administrative Building's parking lot on November 20. (Note: New Mexico has adopted the Discovery Test which means additional education money must be spent on purchasing the test. The MAP Test (Measurement of Achievement Progress) has been discontinued.)

Common Core Curriculum Standards: There has been much discussion at Education Committee meetings about the common core curriculum standards that are being implemented by LCPS. Recent media documents allege that ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) was involved in developing the standards and legislation passed by states that adopted them. ALEC is a 501(c)(3) American organization composed of state legislators, businesses and foundations that produces model policies for state legislatures. ALEC is sometimes described as a collaboration between multinational corporations and conservative state legislators. It drafts legislation that members can customize for communities and introduce for debate in their own state legislatures. (See The VOTER, June 2013, p. 4, "Community Learns About ALEC," concerning League efforts to bring ALEC to the awareness of our local community.)

The legislative action telephone tree developed during the 2013 legislative session is being reconfigured to advocate not only for issues related to education but also other issues the League is following (see p. 3).

Look Back - Education New Mexico: The Broken Promise

William P. Soules, Ph.D., Senator, State of New Mexico, November 11, 2013
Bonnie Burn, Reporting

The constitution of the State of New Mexico establishes and maintains a public education system for all children in the state. At one point in time, 50% of the state budget was allocated to funding public education according to Senator Soules. Over the years, the allocation percentage has decreased. Although ranking 50th among the 50 United States, public education in 2013 was funded at 43% of a \$6 billion General Fund budget.

It is a myth that there is no money available for education. In good economic times, a tax cut for individuals earning \$100,000 and above was enacted. This money is gone and will not be recovered for the education budget. A downturn in the economy in 2008 created an additional decrease in revenues for education. There are about 300 tax exemptions on the books that should be re-evaluated for relevance. During the 2013 legislative session, a last minute tax cut for corporations was passed as the session ended. The impacts of decreased funding are felt in increased classroom size, additional teacher stress, and blame placed on the education system when students do not excel.

Affluent children are doing well in public education; it is children living in poverty in the U.S. and the world who are not excelling. In New Mexico, the value added educational model does not have a socio-economic component (poverty) in its evaluation of student achievement. Taking the issue of poverty into consideration

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EDUCATION

Look Back *(Continued from page 9)*

may mitigate the harsh judgment of achievement for these students. School readiness tests reveal deficiencies in sensory development for children living in poverty and assess them at about two years behind their cohort. In 19 states, 15% of entering students live in poverty. Perhaps a war on poverty needs to be declared.

Another factor impacting public education funding is the move to privatization both in the nonprofit and for profit charter schools. Business and special interests viewed the \$2.8 billion education industry as a new profit center for their exploitation. Virtual online schools use computers, eliminate salaries for teachers and administrators, have no need for school buildings or tax money to support operations. In some cases there is very little or no contact between teacher and student. Virtual online education becomes a school district in and of itself.

In NM, K12Inc. petitioned the Public Education Commission (PEC) to open a virtual online charter school (grades K-12) in Farmington. Although PEC rejected the request, Secretary of Education-designate Hanna Skandera overrode the denial, and K12Inc.is moving forward in Farmington. Stanford University's Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO) in recent studies showed that virtual online schools did not do better than charter schools in traditional district schools, and often students performed more poorly.

Charter schools, as originally envisioned, were to be

collaborative or laboratory schools but eventually defaulted to become a school choice that gave parents an option to move children from poorly functioning public schools. Expected school size was 300-350 students. In New Mexico, charter schools are funded through the public education general fund. They may be chartered either through PEC or through a local school district.

Senator Soules concluded his presentation by suggesting "what we need to do to fix the situation."

1. Support the public education system and the teachers who come to work every day. Society is failing our students, and demonizing teachers is not a solution.
2. Invest money in education by paying teachers a market-valued salary. Finland is often cited as the best model of education in the world. Individuals who choose education as a career must first pass a rigorous test to become a teacher. The government pays for the teacher's college education, and the teacher receives a respected salary so that teaching is a sought after profession.
3. Change the current NM constitutional amendment that makes the Secretary of Education a political appointee of the Governor.
4. Fund early childhood education so that all children have a better chance of success in school.

Technology Meets Professional Development for Educators - Reported by Bonnie Burn

At the invitation of Kathy Adams, Teacher and Instructional Specialist, Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS), Sue Cain and Bonnie Burn, members of the League's Education Committee, visited the LCPS Professional Development Center at 505 S. Main Street, Loretta Plaza. Sue and Bonnie embarked on this "go/see tour" to reconnoiter the center and recommend the

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Technology *(Continued from page 10)*

tour to the remainder of the members of the Education Committee and other League members. Our recommendation is a resounding "yes."

Professional development is a continuing process in the career of teachers and, up until now, it has been handled in a variety of ways. The dedicated Professional Development Center institutes a centralized system that allows presentations at the center that can be distributed to dedicated professional development rooms in 12 schools with the expectation that all schools will have this capability. A special local building fund allowed LCPS to invest about \$340,000 in Apple computers, LG television capabilities, and Steelcase electronics and furniture that enables learning in a state-of-the-art, comfortable technological setting. Apple tablets and iPhones can be used to interact with the system. A dual television screen capability allows interchanges of a variety of configurations to exhibit documents or engage in discussions or conversations from schools to the center or vice-versa.

The center was made possible because organizations leasing this space moved out of this wing of the Loretta Plaza that is owned by LCPS. Initiation of JUMP (Joint Ungraded Multi-age Primary Program) was the driving force in establishing the Center. Having no home of its own, one large meeting room has been configured to enable JUMP teachers to hold group discussions, intimate small conversations, and large screen television interaction. Huddle boards, Promethean electronic work surfaces, and connectivity for computer equipment allow teachers to evaluate test scores to monitor progress of the K-2 students in reading and math. Advances or setbacks are visible and adjustments for each child involved with the program can be made.

Additionally, a variety of rooms (small and large) are available for teachers at elementary, middle, and high schools. Rooms are reserved by engaging a tablet located outside of the room entry door, and a reservation calendar is displayed on flat screen TVs installed in several places throughout the building. High-backed Steelcase furniture provides privacy for small groups (e.g., Superintendent Rounds and NMSU Regent Michael Cheney were viewing and participating in a meeting taking place in Santa Fe). Cozy chair and table arrangements allow computer connectivity and discussions in a small setting.

In Summer 2012, the center was used for a major event, the training of 1,700 teachers about the common core curriculum standards. The Center houses other offices and facilities including an educational store from which teaching materials can be purchased; new teacher and mentor offices for elementary and secondary school; and offices for the Information Technology Operations. A large work room is under construction that will allow teachers to prepare a number of teaching aides for their classrooms.

Ms. Adams was especially accommodating to Sue and me, and encouraged us to have other League members tour whenever a convenient time for all can be arranged. It is worth the trip!

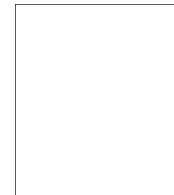
Good Read

The Manufactured Crisis:
Myths, Frauds, and the Attack
on America's Public Schools
By David C. Berliner &
Bruce J. Biddle



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FIRST CLASS



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Science, Technology, Committee *(Continued from page 7)*

During the October meeting of the Interim Science and Technology Committee, City Manager Matt McNeile reported that Alamogordo is asking for an additional \$200,000 in funding to establish an ion exchange facility that would turn this volume of water into a marketable product and reduce the amount of wastewater remaining. Some funding can come from the Bureau of Reclamation, but the state is being asked to chip in as well. Without a dependable water source, Holloman AFB might have to relocate, removing a valuable economic resource from the state.

Membership Application

After November 1—\$30 for Individual; \$15 for each additional household member
Annually: \$60 Individual; \$30 Second Household; \$30 Students

Name: _____

2nd Household: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Contributions:

_____ **League of Women Voters Education Fund (Tax Deductible)**

_____ **Contribute to the League (Not tax deductible)**

Make checks payable to LWV of Greater Las Cruces., and mail to P.O. Box 8322, Las Cruces, NM 88006