


The VOTER


League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
Web Site: www.lwvglc.org
February 2014





IT'S A CELEBRATION
94th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters
February 15, 2014, 3:00-5:00 p.m., Picacho Hills Country Club

Food Meet Members Conversation	RSVP: Roberta Gran Tel: 373-8490, Email: robertagran@q.com	Informal Setting Silent Auction \$10 Cost
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CALENDAR

February 3 (Monday) - Board Meeting, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., City Hall Room 2007

February 4 (Tuesday) - Las Cruces Public School Bond Election. Voting by Precincts (see web site www.lwvglc.org for details). Call LCPS about election questions (527-5811) and Bureau of Elections for voting information (647-4728).

February 8 (Saturday) - Affordable Housing, Joint Presentation by AAUW and LWVGLC, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Good Samaritan Social Center, Main Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida. **Public invited to attend.** (see p. 10)

February 10 (Monday) - Deadline for making reservations for Celebration - 94th Anniversary League of Women Voters, RSVP: Roberta Gran, Tel: 373-8490, Email: robertagran@q.com

February 12 (Wednesday) - Town of Mesilla Candidates Forum, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Mesilla Community Center, 2251 Calle de Santiago. (see p. 10)



February 15 (Saturday) - Celebration - 94th Anniversary League of Women Voters, 3-5 p.m., Picacho Hills Country Club. Silent Re-gift Auction. \$10 RSVP: Roberta Gran, Tel: 373-8490, Email: robertagran@q.com. **Friends and family are invited.**

February 20 (Thursday) - Third Thursday Book Club, *The Signal and the Noise: Why So Many Predications Fail - Some Don't* by Nate Silver, 2- 4 p.m., Home of Roberta Gran, Tel: 373-8490.

February 21 (Friday) - Private Screening of "The Last White Knight" followed by discussion with Paul Saltzman, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m., DACC, East Mesa Campus (see p. 10)

March 4 (Tuesday) - Town of Mesilla Election, Mesilla Town Hall.



Happy Valentine's Day

Notable Dates in February

14 - Valentine's Day and
14 - 94th Anniversary of League of Women Voters
15 - Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) Birthday

Save the Date

April 19 - LWVGLC Annual Meeting
June 6-10 - LWVUS Convention, Dallas

The VOTER

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The League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

P.O. Box 8322
Las Cruces, NM 88006-8322
(575) 524-VOTE (8683)
Web Site: www.lwvglc.org

President - Erika Graf-Webster

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

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

Quality of Life (Happiness)
Joy Goldbaum - 527-8620

Study/Action COMMITTEES

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

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

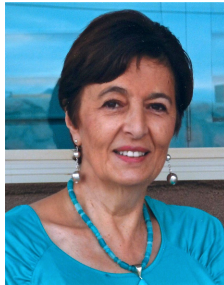
**Mental Health Services
in Doña Ana County**
Becky Beckett - 522-8171

Metropolitan Court
Marjorie Burr - 522-2528

ACTION COMMITTEE
Barbara Goedecke - 522-0323

Web Master
Dale Yeo - 405-7580

Newsletter Editor
Bonnie Burn - 526-0013
burnb@comcast.net

*President's Message*

2014 is well on its way, and, as usual, there is a flurry of League activity in January and February.

We held our Program Planning Meeting on January 13 (see pp. 4-6 for the details). I am very grateful to all of you who attended. Your input to the operation of our League is very

important and very much appreciated. We reviewed our own ongoing studies and committees, as well as the LWVUS positions and any proposed new LWVUS studies. While we, as a local League, did not propose new studies to the national League, we did concur with the LWVOH proposal that a study of non-partisan primaries be initiated by LWVUS. In addition, we have received notices from two other state Leagues that are requesting concurrence on their proposals: the LWVMA is asking LWVUS to re-look at the LWVUS position on campaign finance in light of the recent Supreme Court decisions; the LWVNJ is requesting that the LWVUS concur with its new position on human trafficking. LWVGLC agrees with both of these requests and will notify LWVUS to that effect.

The City of Las Cruces held a day-long retreat attended by both City Council members (including League member Olga Pedroza) and City employees. Like our own retreat, it was a brainstorming session to determine interests and priorities for the city. Sue Cain and I attended as observers. The results of the retreat will be compiled into a report that will certainly be of interest to League members since it will propose the programs to be funded by the city.

On Saturday, February 8, AAUW has invited our League to make a presentation on our Affordable Housing study. Affordable Housing Committee members Vicki Simons, Jane Carter and Christina Little will be the presenters. We have designated this event as a "Joint AAUW and LWVGLC Meeting", and we hope that many of our members attend. It will be held at Good Samaritan Social Center, in the Main Auditorium, starting at 10 a.m.

In January, we formed a Members and Leaders Development (MLD) committee, led by our Vice President, Roberta Gran. The initial focus of this committee is to define the particulars for an annual League award, the "Making Democracy Work" award, to be given to an individual in the greater Las Cruces area. The purpose of this award is to create greater visibility of the League in the community, and to recognize community leaders who are champions of democracy.

League Day at Legislature is occurring this year on January 27-28 in Santa Fe. This event enables our local and state Leagues to interact with our legislators during the current legislative session and to let

(Continued on page 3)

Board Highlights - January 6, 2014 - Christina Little, Secretary

The next Board meeting will be held on February 3, 2014, 1:30 pm, Room 2007 of City Hall. This is the meeting when the League Board will start preparing for the Annual Meeting which will be held on April 19, 2014. Bylaws, Budget and Nominating Committees will be formed, and a Board member will be appointed to the Nominating Committee.

The Board made the following decisions:

- The League will utilize its resources (website, advertisements in newspapers, and press releases) to publicize the February 4, 2014, Las Cruces Public Schools Bond Issue Election.
- The LWVGLC Affordable Housing Committee will be presenting its study at the AAUW monthly meeting on Saturday, February 8, 10 a.m. at the Good Samaritan Auditorium. All League members are invited.
- The time of the Saturday, February 15, Social Event will be 3-5 pm at Picacho Hills Country Club. The cost will be \$10 for League members and guests. There will be a “Re-Gifting Silent Auction.”
- Roberta Gran has been appointed Chair of the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Program. Her first and only task is to plan for a Making Democracy Work Award that will be presented in the future. Johnnie Aldrich and Gracia Class agreed to serve on the committee. All League members are invited to join the group. Contact Roberta at 373-8490 or by email at robertagran@q.com.

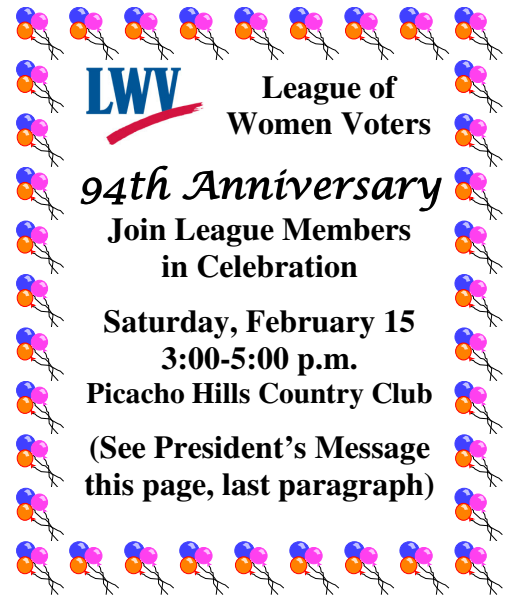
President’s Message *(Continued from page 2)*

them know our priorities with regard to state programs. It also provides a great opportunity for members of all the New Mexico Leagues to get together, discuss League issues and get to know each other better. It’s a fun time.

Our League meeting in February is a social event in honor of the birthday, February 14, 1920, of the League of Women Voters. This 94th anniversary will be celebrated on Saturday, February 15. We will gather at the Picacho Hills Country Club at 3 p.m. for fun and conversation, some good snacks and maybe a little imbibing of beverages. Got some Christmas presents that you don’t know what to do with? Bring them for a (Regifting) Silent Auction!

Happy Valentine’s Day to all!

Erika



LWV League of Women Voters

94th Anniversary

Join League Members in Celebration

**Saturday, February 15
3:00-5:00 p.m.**

Picacho Hills Country Club

(See President’s Message this page, last paragraph)

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 Lavetts
- 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

Look Back - Program for Study and Action, 2014-2015

Reported by Bonnie Burn

League members met on Monday, January 13, to make recommendations for GLC's local Program for Study and Action, 2014-2015, to be adopted by members at Annual Meeting scheduled for April 19, 2014.

First, reports from the active standing and current study committees were heard.

- **Affordable Housing:** Christina Little and Jane Carter reported that this committee is active as opportunities arise. AAUW and LWVGLC are sponsoring a program, An Affordable Housing Update, on Saturday, February 8, 2014, 10:00 a.m., Good Samaritan Social Center, Main Auditorium.

Recommendation: The committee will undertake activities as they arise, and, at this time, does not expect to amend its current position.

- **Education Committee:** Sue Cain, on behalf of Jane Asche, co chair, presented a report. This standing committee has been active as the need arose; however, since September it has been holding regular monthly meetings. Issues being followed are standardized testing, teacher evaluations, and common core state standards. Articles published in The VOTER have kept members informed of the committee's activities.

Recommendation: The committee will undertake activities as they arise, and, at this time, does not expect to amend its current position.

- **Voting Impediments:** Roberta Gran reported that the committee work is completed. The committee asked that the study be extended into 2014-2015 so that the final phase of the study, reaching consensus, will occur in the next few months, and a position developed.

Recommendation: Extend the study for one-year, 2014-2015, to complete the final report and consensus phase of the study.

- **Quality of Life (Happiness)** Gwen Hanson, on behalf of Joy Goldbaum, reported that the literature search and interviews have been completed. The committee is asking for a one year extension to write up a final report and reach consensus by Annual Meeting, 2015.

Recommendation: Extend the study for one-year, 2014-2015 to complete the final report and consensus phase of the study.

Second, **current existing positions** were reviewed (source: Membership Directory, pp. 20-35).

- Election Procedure: In light of the national focus on voter suppression, it was recommended that the Election Procedures Committee, formerly titled Election Procedure/Voter Turnout Committee, be reactivated and become a permanent standing committee. Volunteers to chair and become members will be sought. When activated the committee will develop a scope of work.

Third, recommendation for **new studies:** There were no recommendations for new studies. Members present felt that the League's two current studies, Voter Impediment and Quality of Life (Happiness), and activities on the study/action committees, Affordable Housing and Education, were sufficient for the 2014-2015 League year.

LWVGLC Retreat Strategic Plan

Members reviewed **GLC's Retreat Strategic Planning for 2014 - Short-Term** document and agreed that there were two actions that could begin immediately:

- Personalize a telephone poll that would help identify each member's interests in

(Continued on page 5)

Program for Study and Action *(Continued from page 4)*

order to make our League more welcoming and how to increase membership participation. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to make these calls. The polling survey is already developed.

- Initiate "Talk Abouts," informal member get-togethers to discuss an issue of interest. Roberta Gran volunteered to hold the first one at her home at a time to be established.
- Develop a "buddy" system that would pair an experienced member with a new member. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to indicate their interest in becoming a buddy.

Strategic Planning, 2014 - Long Term document was distributed to members for their information and action at a later date.

LWVUS Program for Study and Action:

The final segment of the meeting was devoted to discussing the national program to facilitate adoption at LWVUS Convention, June 6-10, Dallas, Texas.

- **Agriculture Position Update:** A study to update the current position was adopted at the 2012 Convention. The Study Committee is moving toward consensus that hopefully will be completed in time for delegates to adopt an updated position at LWVUS 2014 Convention, June 6-10, 2014 in Dallas.
- **Campaign Finance and Constitutional Amendment:** Those present voiced strong opposition to the refusal by LWVUS to support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would overturn the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in

Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission. A paper produced by the LWVUS Campaign Finance Task Force convened after the U.S. Supreme Court reached its decision gave seven reasons why a constitutional amendment was not a viable path to regulation of campaign finance. The attendees were in favor of submitting a resolution to LWVUS for consideration by the delegates at the LWVUS 2014 Convention. After GLC's Planning Meeting was over, President Graf-Webster received notice that LWV of Massachusetts (LWVMA) is recommending that LWVUS review and update its existing position on campaign finance. Based on the comments made by the attendees at the Planning Meeting, we will support the LWVMA recommendation.

- **"Alternatives to Partisan Primaries"** is suggested by the Ohio Leagues (Cuyahoga Area, Cleveland Area, and Shaker Heights) as a new study for the national League.
Scope of Work: We [Ohio] propose a national study to explore state, county, or local primary election provisions to determine the kinds of primaries that have the best chance to increase voter participation and provide competitive general elections. The study would concentrate on publicly administered primaries but would also consider effects of party-conducted nominating processes and look at how independent and minor-party voters' interests are considered in primaries.

- GLC members at this Planning Meeting voted in favor of supporting Ohio's request for a new study.
- After the planning meeting, GLC received an email request from the League of Women Voters of New Jersey for local Leagues to support having LWVUS adopt by concurrence LWVNJ's newly adopted position on **Human Trafficking**. LWVGLC will support this request.

PROGRAM FOR STUDY AND ACTION - SUMMARY
**League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces - 2014-15**
Recommended Program:

- **Voting Impediments Study** approve the requested one year extension that would allow the committee to complete its work by Annual Meeting, April 2015.
- **Study of Quality of Life (Happiness)** approve the requested one year extension that would allow the committee to complete its work by Annual Meeting, April 2015.

Non-Recommended Program: None

**Democracy is not a
spectator's sport**

**League of Women Voters
of the United States - 2014-16**
Recommended Program:

- GLC supports a new study: "**Alternatives to Partisan Primaries**" suggested by the Ohio Leagues (Cuyahoga Area, Cleveland Area, and Shaker Heights) as a new study for the national League.
- GLC supports review and update of LWVUS existing position on **Campaign Finance** that is recommended by LWV of Massachusetts (LWVMA).
- GLC supports adoption by concurrence the LWV of New Jersey (LWVNJ) position on **Human Trafficking**.

Non-Recommended Program: None.


League News



The 2014 NM legislative session began on January 21 and ends on February 20. In anticipation of advocacy that the League will be doing at the local and state levels, here are some reminders about how the League takes action.

LWV Non-partisanship Claim

The League of Women Voters is often accused of **NOT** being non-partisan, often because we undertake advocacy based on the positions we have reached through study and consensus or concurrence of our members. The public often perceives our advocacy as supporting one party or the other based on which party has proposed legislation for which we are advocating.

Well, the League of Women Voters is non-partisan. It does not endorse or support any political party or candidate.

In 1920, when it was formed by the leaders of the Women's Suffrage Movement, its

purpose then and now was to educate the newly enfranchised women of America about the electoral process and the various issues facing the three levels of government: national, state, and local.

In order to carry out its mission of informing and encouraging active participation in government, increasing understanding of major public policy issues, and influencing public policy through education and advocacy, the League was organized into two distinct corporations, 501(c)3 and 501(c)4.

One is involved in the education of its members and the public about the process of elections and about the issues. We call this

(Continued on page 7)



League News



Non-Partisanship *(Continued from page 6)*

Voter Services, and this effort is recognized by the IRS as non-partisan and receives a 501(c)3 designation. Our efforts to influence public policy through education and advocacy are funded by a separate corporation that received a 501(c)4 designation from the IRS.

The voter services designation allows us to regularly inform people about how to register, where and when to vote and about any recent additional requirements for voting. In

order to understand issues, our members study and research them for as long as two years, in the case of national and state positions, and for at least one year for local positions.

Finally, as Dick Mason, Vice President and [Legislative] Action Co-Chair, LWVNM, says, "To advocate for or against candidates and parties is political; to advocate for public policy issues is not."

[Source: LWV of Lynchburg, VA, Letter to State Delegate Kathy Byron who refused to participate in a League sponsored candidates forum.]

How the League of Women Voters of New Mexico Takes [Legislative] Action

[Editor's Note: The information provided below highlights a policy adopted by LWVNM at its Board meeting in Albuquerque on January 4, 2014. Space limitations preclude including the whole policy.]

[Legislative] action is always based on a national, state, or local position and on League principles. Positions are based on member study and consensus. We have many positions and many opportunities to act, so LWVNM Board determines when it is appropriate to take action on state legislation and statewide ballot measures. Our advocacy efforts include writing letters to media and legislators, press releases, hosting issues forums and other events such as speaking at hearings and public meetings, adding our voice to coalitions working on ballot measure campaigns and sending Action Alerts to our members.

Legislative Priorities: The LWVNM Board sets Action priorities for each legislative session and throughout the year as needed. The core issues of the League include ethics and transparency in government, public finances, health, education, natural resources, civil rights, redistricting, elections, referendums, voting rights, campaign finance reform, gun safety, and reproductive choices.

Requests for Action: Requests to support or oppose action on issues come from a variety of sources such as local Leagues, individual League members, authors of bills and other organizations that are working on particular issues may request the League's endorsement. The whole LWVNM Board votes on whether to join coalitions, and all agreements contain the caveat that we only work on issues that are covered by and in line with our position statements and League Principles (see pp. 8-9). Requests are first sent to the President and Co-Chairs, Action Committee, for consideration. Requests are considered on the basis of League positions and previous League action in a particular area. The Action Committee analyzes bills and ballot measures and recommends League action. Committee members watch legislation and draft fact sheets, letters and testimony in their areas of expertise. Program Chairs may add their comments and recommendations, including information about previous League action on similar measures.

Analysis and Decision-Making: Action taken is reported to the Board and those members who sign up for the Action email distributions list. Factors considered in determining action to be taken include:

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League News



How To Take Action *(Continued from page 7)*

- The likelihood of passage of legislation and whether it is worth our energy and time.
 - Who else is working on it and whether we might want to be in a coalition with that organization.
 - What our overall goals are and whether the League can take an effective role.
 - Whether we want to make a statement of principle on an issue or give pros and cons on a fact sheet.
 - What strategies are best for informing voters of our positions and values.
- For more information:
- League of Women Voters of New Mexico Positions on www.lwvnm.org.
 - League of Women Voters *Impact on Issues*, (LWVUS statements of positions and priorities)
 - League of Women Voters of the United States, *League Basics*

League of Women Voters of the United States - Principles

As we consider Program for Study and Action at the local and national levels of League, the principles used to guide decisions are presented below.

Where Do the Principles Come From?

The Principles are "concepts of government" to which the League subscribes. They are a descendant of the Platform which served from 1942 to 1956 as the national repository for "principles supported and positions taken by the League as a whole in fields of government to which it has given sustained attention." Since then, the Principles have served two functions according to the LWVUS Bylaws:

1. Authorization for adoption of national, state, and local program (Article XII)
2. A basis for taking action at the national, state, and local levels (Article XII).

The appropriate Board authorizes action to implement the Principles once it determines that member understanding and agreement do exist and that action is appropriate. As with other action, when there are ramifications beyond a League's own government jurisdiction, that League should consult other Leagues affected.

The National Board suggests that any action on the Principles be taken in conjunction with current League positions to which they apply and on which member agreement and understanding are known to exist. The Principles are rather broad when standing alone, so it is necessary to exercise caution when considering using them as a basis for action. Furthermore, since 1974 most of the Principles have been an integral part of the national program.

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League Principles *(Continued from page 8)*

The League of Women Voters believes:

- in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States and that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance between the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.
- that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.
- that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.
- that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.
- that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.
- that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

Making Democracy Work

UPDATE

**Southern New Mexico/El Paso
Joint Land Use Study**

Senator Martin Heinrich's office staff offered the following update about this project that was last reported in the January 2014 issue of *The VOTER*.

The study's draft of the existing conditions report should be posted "any day now" under the Maps and Reports tab of <http://snmepjointlanduse.com>. There is also a survey on this website designed to capture public opinion on topics like understanding economic impact, renewable energy development, water, noise, supporting military families, and improved quality of life: [http://snmepjointlanduse.com/contact us](http://snmepjointlanduse.com/contact-us).

It should be noted that, according to the senator's office, public meetings have been held in rural communities to compensate for possible lack of electronic access.

**Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks
Conservation Act**

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Senator Tom Udall and Senator Martin Heinrich toured the Doña Ana County lands that are proposed for national monument status. Additionally, a "Listening Session" was held at the Ramada Inn, beginning at 3 p.m., January 25. A capacity crowd was present and included a number of members of the Greater Las Cruces League. The initiative involves 496,777 acres of BLM land that includes: the Organ, Doña Ana, Portillo, Robledo and Uvas mountains; Broad Canyon; Sleeping Lady Hills; 5,000 archeologically and culturally significant sites, petroglyphs and pictographs. The U.S. Antiquities Act of 1906 allows the U.S. president to unilaterally set aside key historic, prehistoric and scientific landmarks.

CALENDAR INFORMATION

SCHOOL BOND & MILL LEVY February 4, 2014

Las Cruces Public Schools

Election has two ballot issues

1. \$65 million school bond issue
2. Three mill public school building levy

NO TAX RATE INCREASE

VOTING BY

CONSOLIDATED PRECINCTS

Election Information: Jo Galvan, 427-5811

Voting Information: Bureau of Elections
647-7428

Ballot Information: www.lwvglc.org



League of Women Voters
of Greater Las Cruces

CANDIDATES FORUM *Town of Mesilla*

Wednesday, February 12, 2014
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Mesilla Community Center
2251 Calle de Santiago

Elected Positions: Mayor
Trustee (2 positions)

Early Voting: February 12-28
Election Day: March 4
Voting at Mesilla Town Hall

Affordable Housing Update

Sponsored by
AAUW and LWVGLC

Saturday, February 8, 2014, 10 a.m.
Good Samaritan Social Center
Main Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle

AAUW, League members and the public are invited to a presentation by the LWVGLC Affordable Housing Committee. There is NO Cost. Reservations are NOT required.

The presentation will have three major components:

1. The need for affordable housing locally.
2. Information about local housing providers.
3. Outstanding issues and controversies that concern the committee.

Check out the League website, www.lwvglc.org (Program Tab) for the study paper prepared by the committee in 2012 and the adopted position.

Exploring Equity, Community & Hope in New Mexico

The First in a Series of Three Community-Based Events

Private Screening of **THE LAST WHITE KNIGHT: Is Reconciliation Possible?**
Followed by discussion with **PAUL SALTZMAN**

Friday, February 21, 2014, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., DACC Auditorium, East Mesa Campus

Sponsored by Azadeh Osanloo, Ph.D., Stan Fulton Endowed Chair for the Improvement of Border and Rural Schools, College of Education, NMSU

LEAGUE OBSERVER REPORTS

The League's Observer Corps can enable greater coverage and information gathering, provide early warning of upcoming issues of concern, increase League's visibility, and assist in networking with other groups. We appreciate the reports that are submitted by Observers. Following the League practice of publishing nonpartisan, objective reports, the information submitted may be edited for content and brevity.

Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) Board Meeting, January 21, 2014, 6:30 p.m. - *Mildred Evaskovich, Observer*

All Board members were present. The very large attendance was likely due to the public input presentations on the agenda.

- A person representing parents, teachers, and students of Desert Hills gave a very impassioned plea for the board to address what they feel is colossal failure of leadership in their school.
- A former educator and a parent, spoke against the plethora of standardized testing. He is organizing a group called Opt-Out, and announced a schedule of Opt-Out 'parties.'

The NM Alliance for School Based Health Care Centers sponsors centers that are paid for by the New Mexico Department of Health. There are 80 centers in New Mexico, which have had 2,253 visits by students. One half of these visits were concerning mental health, indicating the worth of this program.

Superintendent Rounds announced that the naming of the second early college high school will be "Arrowhead Park Medical Academy." Board member Maria Flores commented that "medical" was too narrow. The name should be Health Care Services or some broader science term. No action was taken on her suggestion.

A comprehensive annual report was given concerning the Aerospace Equation, that is partnered with DACC and NMSU. The main goals of the program, whose budget is \$1,180,873, is to promote interest in STEM learning and career readiness options. Listing all the achievements and goals reached exemplified the program's success.

The resolutions to be presented to the state Board of Education stating the need and reason for more local school district control, were again discussed at length and unanimously approved. These regard local determination of alternate demonstrated competency and teacher evaluation.

South Central Solid Waste Authority 9 (SCSWA) Board Meeting, January 16, 2014, 9:00 a.m. - *Sue Schmutz, Observer*

County Commissioner Wayne Hancock, Chair, and City Councilor Olga Pedroza, Vice-Chair, were selected for 2014.

Director Patrick Peck reported both waste receipts and daily recycling numbers are running high. The Board received the YTD Financial Status report and passed a resolution approving mid-year adjustments to the 2013-14 budget.

OSHA has requested modifications to truck-traffic control, and these changes are being made. The contract for general cleanup by inmates will be dropped. Board members suggested that Mr. Peck look at other sources of laborers such as veterans and other populations who may need help in developing a work history.

A new truck will be purchased for the Sunland Park recycling and garbage pickup while the original truck will be kept for spare parts.

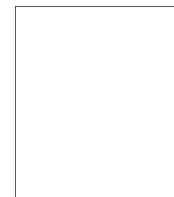
Another exciting project being investigated is regional tire shredding and recycling covering from El Paso and Las Cruces to Tucson. Obtaining a shredder that could be

(Continued on page 12)

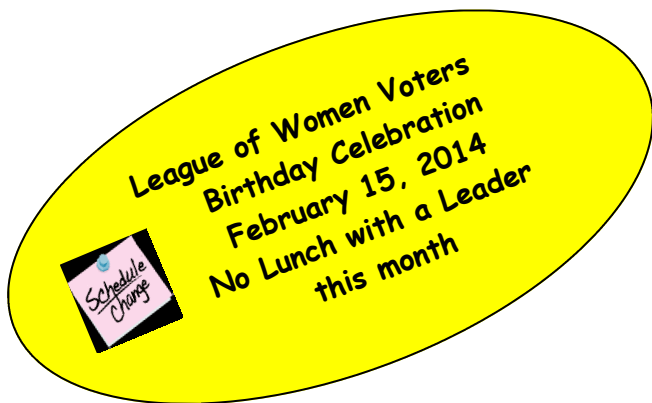


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FIRST CLASS



February 2014
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moved around the region allows a more efficient use of expensive equipment. Employees are mapping tire pile locations. Northern Mexico currently has a tire recycling facility, and Mr. Peck expects to use its expertise as he pursues this subject.

The last bit of good news is from the Anthony facility: It now takes in 300-400 ton per month of solid waste. When it opened it was taking in 30 ton per /month!

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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

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